

4-H BOBBIN LACEMAKING GUIDELINES

The following are guidelines for learning experiences in Bobbin Lacemaking.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS:

Learn the names for the tools, materials and patterns of this off-loom textile process, and learn to make your own.

Learn to make useful and decorative articles as well as to repair worn or damaged articles.

Learn to appreciate the historic and economic value of museum pieces by visiting guilds and museums.

Develop a collection of books, photos and pieces of lace.

Learn to respect the discipline of application to the art achieved by others.

Learn the historic reason for regional and national lace patterns in early economies.

Learn the social and religious uses of various classes of laces.

Learn the names of several lace stitches and patterns in several languages.

PERSONAL DISCIPLINE OF LACE MAKING:

Learn to read and use the nonverbal diagrams of lace construction.

Learn to produce clean and consistent work.

Learn to remove mistakes with grace and courtesy.

Learn the reason for uses of particular stitches in design creations.

Learn to pick and repeat patterns, turn corners and mount your production properly.

EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES: Modification of the following standards will be reasonable after review with adult leaders, recognizing the many choices available and the development of the individual.

BEGINNER: Usually 1st and 2nd year:

Begin to develop proficiency with stitches on a pillow; learn their names.

Learn to read and interpret directions in word and diagram.

Learn to pick a pattern, set the bobbins for a simple pattern, and how to repeat it.

Learn how to properly and economically purchase your findings.

Learn to make a simple, economical pillow and bobbins.

Learn to store and move your work in a clean and safe manner.

Learn to exhibit your work in a manner that established a record of your growth and achievement by:

1. Use a plastic folder sheet with a colored paper backing.
2. Secure samples, but not irrevocably cemented to mount
3. Label with name of pattern, fibers of construction, date of work and
4. Do not crowd your specimens -- too few on a page is better than too many.
5. First year four, and second year six different simple lace straight patterns, each six Inches long.

INTERMEDIATE: Usually 3rd and 4th year:

Build a more substantial pillow; one that allows turning gussets and corners and know why this process was adopted years ago.

Prepare for your record book design diagrams of several expressions.

Carve an assortment of bobbin styles and know their origins.

Display at least two more complicated lace designs each year; turning corners, etc.

Elective: Properly mount your creation on suitable textile or frame.

ADVANCED: Usually 5th year and over:

Continue to add samples to your collections; include design diagrams or worded instructions.

Be able to turn corners, make single motif appliques and/or circular doilies.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FOR ALL GROUPS:

Educational Posters

Working demonstrations in public

4-H Week Displays

Build pillows for others

LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO DEVELOP:

Do demonstration and teaching programs for other counties.

Plan and execute a program for Kettunen Center.

Establish a section of books on the subject for the county or local library.

Prepare workshops for people who need to share building tools; i.e. turning lathes.

Make a collection of woods for bobbins.

Learn to make bangle beads and how this skill to others.

Prepare a slide show (or another medium) of famous paintings and portraits showing costume uses of laces of European aristocrats (the ultimate consumer).

Prepare and give a report on the political immigrations of the French lacemakers and the political unrest that caused this persecution.

Prepare and give a report on the conditions of the lace workers and teaching schools of Great Britain before the industrial revolution.

Prepare a display showing different interpretations of the same pattern.

Prepare and display primitive and "make-do" lace makers tools.

Prepare a display showing the effect of thread size on scale.

Prepare a display showing the same pattern done in different fibers; i.e. cotton, linen, wool, silk, combinations.

Notice: Because of the nature of this off-loom process and the way it was used by many nations in Europe, a constant stream of new translations of old books are coming to the market. Antique books are rare. It is still possible to earn and be recognized as a Doctorate of Arts in Lacemaking from European universities, and many of the newer books are thesis translations of the research of these scholars.

SOURCES FOR PURCHASING EQUIPMENT:

Davidson's Old Mill Yarn Shop

109 East Elizabeth Street

Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

(517) 663-2711

LACIS

Kaethe Klot

2982 Adeline St.

Berkley, California 94703

ROBBIN AND RUSS

533 North Adams Street

McMinnville, Oregon 97128