

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES THAT DEAL
SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE TOPIC OF LACE MAKING BOBBINS,
BOTH ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL, SPANGLES, BEADS AND
MAKING LACE BOBBINS.**

This annotated bibliography has been collected with a view to aid the study of bobbins in the published literature. The spangles, beads and lacemaking equipment are secondary to the bobbin literature but have been annotated as they are an interesting adjunct to the bobbin and someone might be interested in the books and articles that I have found.

It has been collected with the help of a number of friends who have good access to the appropriate literature and who have a similar interest in bobbins. My grateful thanks to them for putting me on the trail of a number of publications. Strictly speaking a bibliography is a *complete* list of all publications dealing with a topic but this list is but a beginning. I am hoping that some readers will be interested enough to inform me of any other sources of which I am unaware, and will be able to fill in the blanks that occur in this list of references. I will happily take on the responsibility to keep the list up to date and offer it for publication in the Lace journals as it progresses.

Of the many “hundreds” (?) of lacemaking books there are very few that cover the subject of lace bobbins in any meaningful way. A couple of pages is the most, a couple of paragraphs is par for the course, and for the most part the sparse comments add nothing to the available information on bobbins contained in the main books, booklets pamphlets and articles that are reviewed below.

I do suspect that there may be gems of information about bobbins in some of the older lacemaking books. I recall one such instance when I visited an antiquarian bookseller and was scanning a *very* expensive book on lacemaking. They had gone to a great deal of trouble, going down to their stacks to obtain it for me, and I did indeed find a few paragraphs on bobbins. I desperately tried to remember the information that I read and the title of the book etc., so that I could write it all down when I got to the car. (I was too embarrassed to write it all down in front of the shop owner!) I apologized for not being able to afford the book and forthwith

the owner engaged me in deep conversation for some while, which resulted in me leaving the shop having forgotten the book title and author and only a sketch of the contents! I do remember references to waisted bobbins and to “Tin” decoration. (Almost certainly tinsel) Any ideas as to what book it might have been?

Annotated Bibliography.

BOBBINS HISTORICAL

Bellerby, Denys. 1976 **Lace Making Bobbins**. **Lace**. (The Magazine and Newsletter of the Lace Guild. [UK])

A Series of 9 Articles. References that are known by me are listed below.) It seems a reasonable supposition that articles number 1-4 were published in 1976.) Titles of the articles are.

Number 1. **“Lace Making Bobbins”** Jan/Feb 1976. A very brief overview.

Number 2. **“Lace Making Bobbins”** April/May 1976 A description of the various types of bobbins.

Number 3 **“Lace Making Bobbins”** (undated) but probably July/August 1976. Inscriptions

Number 4 **“Lace Making Bobbins” Love and Romance**. (Undated) but probably Oct/Nov. 1976. Love and romantic inscriptions.

Number 5 **“Lace Making Bobbins” “Murder most Foul”**. 5 January 1977 Issue number 5. Hanging inscriptions.

Number 6 **“Secret Messages”** Issue number 6. 6 April 1977. Cryptic inscriptions.

Number 7 [un-numbered] **“Bobbin Care”**. August 1977. Advice on care of the bobbins.

Number 8. [un-numbered] **“Pierced and Hollow bobbins”** October 1977 Church Window, baby bobbins etc..

Number 9 **“Lace bobbins”** Issue number 10. April 1978. Honiton bobbins including some very nice line drawings of decorations.

This is an excellent series of articles. Some of them are very brief but they provide a useful overview of the topic of lace bobbins. Number 9 has some excellent illustrations of Honiton bobbin decorations.

Bullock, Alice-May. **Lace and Lace Making**. B. T. Baysford Ltd. London. 1981.

There are two chapters that are of special interest to the bobbin historian. Bobbins and Inscribed Bobbins. There is a brief historical introduction and a short description on the making of bobbins. Her descriptions of bobbins are good and quite a large number of bobbin "Types" are described. The illustrations are black and white photographs and are reasonably good; they illustrate most types of bobbins found. The inscribed bobbins are similarly well treated. There are fewer photographs and they are of somewhat less quality than those in the previous chapter.

This is a very useful reference; it also has a good chapter on lacemaking equipment.

Caulton. Geoff. **Suffolk Lace**. Lace Number 26 April 1982. p 26/16

An article describing the discovery of Flemish lace bobbins in Eye and the making of Suffolk Lace in that area. Illustrated with a photograph.

Cowper and Newton Museum. Olney. Bucks. **A Catalogue of Pillow Lace Bobbins**. (UNPUBLISHED). A fascinating document that catalogues the combined bobbin collection of Francis Baker, Arthur Knight and Tom Huetson. It is illustrated with rather small photographs. The accompanying text is quite interesting. The catalogue uses a very good typology of bobbins.

Freeman, Charles. **Pillow Lace in the East Midlands**. Borough of Luton Museum an Art Gallery. 1958 Reprinted 1980.

An excellent booklet. Its main feature is an attempt to classify bobbins into classes and it seems to work well. There are three photographic plates, some of

which have the same source as Bullocks book (Luton Museum!)
Both inscribed bobbins and the lace making equipment are well covered.

Glyn Miss E.F. **Downton Lace Industry**. Wiltshire. Salisbury and Wiltshire Museum. Pamphlet (now out of print) First published 1977. Reprint 1961.

A valuable booklet on Downton lace. Not strong on the bobbins but some photos (that have not come out well on my photocopy) and most interesting line drawings of the decoration found on some Downton bobbins, as a front page,

Groves Sylvia. *The History of Needlework Tools and Accessories*. Country Life Books. Hamlyn Publishing Group. Feltham 1966. Reprinted 1961.

A reasonable chapter on Bobbin Lace. Deals with Bobbins and accessories briefly. It is an excellent history book, but I would not buy it for the bobbin section alone.

Hopewell, Jeffrey. **Pillow Lace and Bobbins**. Shire Publications. Princes Risborough. 1975. Reprinted 1994.

One of the valuable "Shire" publications that tackles "obscure" interests in a brief but informative manner. Lace is covered sparsely but bobbins are well covered. The reader should be aware of some possible inaccuracies. The only publication that makes any attempt at looking at the topic of Continental lace bobbins. Good illustrations.

Huetson, T. L. **Lace and Lace Bobbins. A history and Collectors Guide**. David and Charles. Newton Abbot. 1973.

A book that attempts to cover the topic of lace and lace bobbins in some detail. I can not comment on the "lace" content but the bobbin content is well done. It is particularly strong in the area of inscribed bobbins.

Johnson Mary. **Catalogue of Antique Lace Bobbins**. Cobwebs 80 Attimore Rd. Welwyn Garden City. Herts. AL8 6LP

Very nice line drawings of all the major types of bobbins with some dating.

Levey Santana. 1983. Lace a History. Victoria and Albert Museum. London.

Included here, as it is the definitive book on Lace History. It contains nothing about lace bobbins.

Luton Museum Service. The Little Bobbin Book. Luton Museum and Art Gallery. Wardown Park Luton LU2 7HA.

A short, but well illustrated (line drawings) of the main types of lace bobbins. Useful to the casually interested and wont break the bank!

Morris. Carole England's Oldest Bobbin? Lace. Number 49 January 1988

Carole makes a good case for the oldest bobbin. Line drawing of the bobbin.

Morris. Carole (?) To those who Wait!!! Lace number 49. January 1988.

A translation of a cryptic bobbin. Most interesting. *I have not seen the original query*

Morris Carole. A Shepherds Gift. Lace Number 58 Spring 1990.

A description of a very special bobbin that Carole found in the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge. Fascinating.

Nottingham. Pamela. Keeping the Record Straight. Lace Number 77 January 1995 p31/77.

A short article with good photographs discussing the difference between South Bucks bobbins and Thumpers.

Palliser Mrs Bury. 1901. History of Lace. Re print 1984. Cover Publications NY.

This is an important history. Criticized my some as being inaccurate on some

things. Deals with bobbins only in footnotes. Brief, but some interesting information.

Pel Henk. **A Matter of Evolution or here comes the Canadians.**
Canadian Lace Maker Gazette. Vol. 11 No. 2.

Describes the “square bobbin” (as opposed to the traditional round bobbin) They have named them the Canadian Bobbin. My comment is that square bobbins have been around for a long time and the “Canadian” name could be challenged.

Pinto E. **Treen and Other Bygones.** Bell

A description of many lace bobbins and some lace equipment. The book is not specifically dealing with lace bobbins.

Shepherd Rosemary. **The Batavia Lace.** OIDFA. 1994/1

Documents the Lace and Lace Bobbins found on the wreck of the Batavia. (June 4 1629) In French and English. The pictures are not the best.

Shepherd Rosemary. **Batavia 1629.** Source unknown.

The pictures of the two bobbins found are excellent.

Springett, Christine and David. **Success to the Lace Pillow.** Privately Published. C & D Springett. Rugby. 1981.

This book is at its best when discussing the makers of the bobbins. As the result of steadfast study, a number of makers have been identified either by name or by “letter” it also treats the inscribed bobbins well. Some valuable information on the historical approach to making bobbins. Not so much as other publications on the general treatment of bobbins.

There is now a brand new edition (1997) that is an expertly produced edition, with very good photographs and enlarged textual content containing new information as the result of their research.

Stillwell Alexandra Illustrated **Dictionary of Lacemaking.** (Cassell)

Cassell Publishers Limited London 1996.

The bobbin bead and equipment references are most useful and the breadth of items covered is excellent. Being a general lace dictionary it lacks a few of the nuances but none-the-less is an excellent resource book.

Taunton, Nerylla. **Antique Needlework Tools and Embroideries.**
Antique Collectors Club. Woodbridge. 1997.

A beautifully produced book with some excellent colour pictures of bobbin which are described in the text. Not as detailed as a specialist book on bobbins, but they have certainly got their share in a broad range of needlework topics.

Watts Yvonne. **Lace in the making '82.** Lace. number 26 1982 p 26/3,4, [Lists the commemorative bobbins available the '82 exhibition.

Whitley, Gertrude. **Old-Time Tools and Toys of Needlework.** Dover Publications Inc. New York. Reprint 1971. Originally published in 1928 under the title, Tools and Toys of Stitchery. Rather flowery prose used, but a most informative chapter intitled Beautiful Bobbins. Quite good illustrations. Has some interesting glass bobbins.

Wright, Thomas **The Romance of the Lace Pillow.** H.H.Armsrtong. Olney 1919. Reprinted Ruth Bean Carlton 1982.

Quite the best book for those interested in the historical aspect of bobbins. Not strong on illustrations and when they do appear they are poor photographs, but the text is invaluable as a record of original source material.

Yallop H.J. 1992. **The History of the Honiton Lace Industry.**
University of Exeter Press.

Certainly the most scholarly text available on the history of the lace industry. Concentrates on the Honiton industry but covers the whole of England. He puts forward a contrary theory to the origins of the lace history in England. Tends to discount the Protestant refugee theory and offers the “astute English businessman” theory.

There is an excellent chapter on Honiton bobbins and their decoration.

CONTINENTAL LACE BOBBINS

(Note. I have many odd pages of text and pictures that people have sent me. Some are interesting but I have no idea how to reference them.)

Arsac Jean. **La Dentelle de Puy**. Centre de'enseignement du la Dentelle au Fuseau. (p31-33)

A short chapter on lace bobbins. Not of outstanding interest.

Barba Candido. **El Encage de Bolillos**. Biblioteca de Autres y Temas Manche Gos. 1986.

Excellent drawings of Spanish bobbins.

Chapter of a book. **Material de la Dentelliere**. P32 Short and sweet. Not of great interest.

Chapter of a book. **Les Dentelles** p 81-82.

The Queyras bobbins. Good drawings.

Danish Museum. **Kopenhagen Vold**.

Pages from their accessions register. Quite good line pictures.

Deslekam (Norway). **Bobbins from the farmgardenin Sundalew Christiansund's Museum**.

Picture of ten bobbins from Norway.

Editorial. **Fuseaux Passion**. La Dentelle. Number 54. Juillet 1993 (in French Minimum text) p 27,28.

Some excellent photographs of Continental bobbins both historical and modern. The text is in French but it is merely descriptive names of the bobbins.

Editorial. **Fuseaux Passion**. La Dentelle. Number 54. Juillet 1993. (in French.)

Minimum text. Some excellent photographs of Continental Bobbins both historical and Modern. The text is the descriptive names of the bobbins.

Kant 83/3. **Terublik op het Kantklossen**.p10-15. In Dutch.

Intersting text and good photos of Belgium bobbins (mainly)

Knoff Erica. **Die Spitze**. The German Bobbin. Issue 1/97.

Reviews bobbins from six areas of Germany and former Germany. It looks as though it is reprinted and or paraphrased in the “Heartland Lace Guild” newsletter in Kentucky.

Lams Lieve. 1994. **Kant wereldwijd**. “Lace World” Lauven

In Dutch. Contains pictures of Bobbins from all over the world. Quite useful.

May Florence Lewis. 1939. **Hispanic Lace and Lace Making**. The Hispanic Society of America.

This book has a few pages here and there that talk about Spanish Lace bobbins and lace industry.

Prost Pierre. **Les Fuseaux du Queyras**. La Dentelle. Octobre 1994. (In French)

p 11-13.

A description of the bobbins from the Queyras region of France. Excellent photographs and line drawings. In French, not great deal of text, but useful comments and necessary to fully understand the photographs.

Skovaard Inge. **The Technique of Tonder Lace**. Batsford 1991. P27-29.

Excellent pages of information on Dansih bobbins. Good line drawings.

Tornehave Bodil. 1987. Danske Frehandskniplinger.

Danish Freehand Lace. Most interesting section on Bobbins. I have a photo of seven antique bobbins found in the midden tip. Most interesting.

SPANGLES AND BEADS

Boulter Bruce. Bobbins Beads and Spangles. Practical Woodworking April 1981.

Tells you how to make lace bobbins and beads for spangles. Not a bad article for the capable craftsman.

Harris Elizabeth. **A Bead Primer.** The Bead Museum Prescot USA 1987. All about how beads are made and their various types. Not exactly a do it yourself booklet but enough for anyone to experiment with.

Springett Christine and David. **Spangles and Superstitions.** C & D Springett Rugby 1987.

Most informative and most entertaining. Good illustrations.

Note: Do a search on the internet. I have found some great stuff on bead making.

BOBBIN MAKING

Barnes Richard. **Lacemakers Lamp.** The Woodturner Vol 3. August 1984 p43-45.

Plans and instructions on how to make a lamp.

Boulter Bruce. Bobbins Beads and Spangles. Practical Woodworking April 1981.

Tells you how to make lace bobbins and beads for spangles. Not a bad article for the capable craftsman.

Correspondence. **Bone Lace Bobbins (Mr. Gorton) Making Lace**

Bobbins from Bone (Ann Moyles) Bone Bobbins (Alec Baxter) Lace Vol 20 p 18.

Three letters offering advice on the preparation of bone, the turning of a bone bobbin and the choice of bone for the bobbin.

Darlow Mike. **Turning Thin Spindles. Lacemaker's bobbins demand speed and precision.** Fine Woodwork (? issue not known.)

Mikes method of producing bobbins at a commercial level. He has a few good hints and techniques to share.. Photos and diagrams.

Editorial. **Bonny Bobbins.** Woodturning No. 35 September 1995. p 30, 31.

The results of a competition to make a lace bobbin. Excellent photographs and short comment, particularly on the function of the head.

Fisher John. **Baby Bobbins.** Woodturner Vol 30 March 1995. p 50, 51.

Tells how he makes Mother in Babe bobbins by using a technique that requires turning four separate pieces of wood joined together into a block and then reversing them, inserting the baby bobbin, gluing the pieces together and re-turning them. It is not an historical method and seems a lot of work for what could be a comparatively simple project. It would allow a variety of woods to be used with interesting results. Some good photographs.

Grantham Len. **Reflections of an Amateur Wood Turner. Lace Bobbins.** Vol 3 The Woodturner August 1984. p 41,42.

Describes how he makes bobbins. Diagrams and measurements.

Hammond Charles. **Correspondence.** The Woodturner. Vol. 4. May 1985. p4

Describes an approach to preparing bone for turning bobbins.

Hudson. James, **Lace Makers Bobbin Winder.** The Woodturner. Vol 2 Issue 5. Dec 1998 P 60-64.

A good article, Well illustrated. Not too sure about historical accuracy but looks OK. Simmilar design to Ron Martins below. I thionk I will make one fom this article.

Lewis Alan. Letters. **Still Bobbin Along**. Woodturner. Vol 39 February 1996. p 5.

Taking Alan Hewit to task over comments he made in adjudicating the Bobbin competition relating to Hewits theory that the old bobbins that we see today are those that “did not work” and all the ones that did work “are warn out”!

Martin Ron. **Correspondence**. The Woodturner Vol 4 May 1985. p4
Commenting on Grantham’s’ approach to turning bobbins.

Martin Ron. **Lace Bobbin Winder**. The Woodturner. Vol.5 1986. p
12,13

Instructions how to make a winder. Very straight forward turning.

Pollington Brian . **Letters from readers**. The Woodturner Vol.5 June 1986 p 5

Responding to previous correspondence on the preparation of bone for bobbin turning. His approach is very simple.

Seiser Michael. **Mini marvels**. Woodturning Vol 30. March 1995. p 48, 49.

The basic tools and techniques for bobbin making. Describes his method. No East Midlands type bobbins illustrated, all single heads. Covers pewter inlay. A smidgen of history. Frankly I found it of little help.

Springett, David. **Turning Lace Bobbins**. Privately Published . C & D Springett. Rugby. 1995

A first class book on the making of bobbins. I would venture to say that it is not for the first time maker but even they would be helped considerably. David

reveals most of the “secrets” of the professional bobbin maker and the book has quite the best photographs of bobbins available in a single publication. Well photographed in colour. Not particularly useful to the bobbin historian. His names for bobbins are clear and well described.

Springett, David. **Best Bobbin Blueprint**. Woodturning. No. 43, June 1996. A brief article on turning wood bobbins and their design. It is insufficient for the novice bobbin maker but has good design information, particularly about the bobbin head. Lovely pictures.

Wilkie, Ian. **Turning by the Book**. Putting Words into Practice. Good Wood Working. No 52. June 1977.

Just a short article following a review of David Springetts book.. He uses an interesting approach to colouring bobbins.

Wallwin Jamie. **Making Lace Bobbins**. Woodturning # 62. P44-45.

Wood Vic. **View from Down Under. John Atkinson/ Bobbin Making Expert**. Woodturner Vol 30 March 1995. p 75-77.

Expert indeed. John is known to me and he makes beautiful bobbins. Excellent photographs of his work. Features his use of a router for cutting grooves in bobbins. Whilst not wishing to downgrade Johns achievements, I should point out that Australia has a number of excellent bobbin makers..

Williams. Judy. **Bonny Bobbins**. Woodturning # 70. (Dec 1998) P19-23. A very good article. You could make a good bobbin from this article. A bit over the top re finishing, and I don't see the need for a file to do the long neck.

Unknown Author. **Detailed instructions on how to make a Lace bobbin**. The pages are in a landscape orientation and are number 1-17. It looks to me like a self published booklet.

Anyway it is a very good introduction to the making of lace bobbins.

Note: I am always pleased to receive additions to the above bibliography. As you will see, if you give me the full reference it helps. Please send me a photocopy of the article / chapter / pictures, so that I may evaluate them for the annotation. If it is in a foreign language and you can give me a translation (a rough, contextual paraphrase will do to start with. Then if it is special value, I will hunt around for a more full translation) Then I will be very pleased indeed, but don't let that stop you from sending the item to me.

Please feel free to contact me if you think I can help you regarding bobbins, their names, their identification, their history etc.

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