



Minnesota Lace Society

July 2017, Newsletter

Meeting: Monday July 10, 2017 at 6:45 pm
Location: St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. St. Paul, MN
Programs: Summer Get-Together – Bring Project to Work On

Meeting

There will not be a regular meeting.

Bring a project to work on, while you chat with other members.

Volunteer Opportunity

MLS still needs volunteers for demoing at the State Fair.

We will be there Friday, Sept 1st & Saturday Sept 2nd. We need to fill in slots from 9am to 9pm. Each slot is 3 hours long.

As a bonus for making lace and interacting with people, you get a free ticket into the fair.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pam to see what slots are still open.

In honor of an enthusiastic lace maker who has passed away, a lace guild is offering a lovely heart pattern and bobbin lace challenge.

<https://lenkas.com/laceheartart/>

Mark Myers, aka Tat Man, former IOLI web master, is carefully downsizing his lace related collection. Follow him at <https://www.facebook.com/TatmanBobbin/> if you are interested in adding to your lace library! You likely need a Facebook account to be able to follow the links.

Information for your calendar:

Bobbin Lace Class with Kelly Marshall

Kelly has scheduled a 6 session class for the fall. She can take 8 students.

Classes will meet on Saturdays from 2:30 - 4pm, cost is \$87.

Sept 9, 23, 30 and Oct 14, 21 and 28.

She has a few shows scheduled that break up the weeks so please note that they are not consecutive weeks.

We will cover beginning and intermediate bobbin lace making. The class will be a mix of new and experienced lace makers working on a variety of projects. No previous experience is necessary, and she has all the materials you will need to get started. Let her know if you have a specific project in mind. Please send a check to the address below to reserve a spot and let her know if you have any questions.

Kelly Marshall
Custom Woven Interiors
1500 Jackson St NE Box 195
Minneapolis, MN 55413
612-788-7800

Lois Markus Exhibit

The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts has replied to our inquiry on the Lois Markus lace collection. Lynn and Nancy followed-up by repeating our group's offer to arrange for lace demonstrators, assist with publicity at our web site and at IOLI's site, or other suggestions they have. If they respond, we will offer updates at the next meeting.

The director says:

The exhibit is titled Lace: Works of Adornment and will feature many of the pieces from the Lois Markus Lace Collection, as well as pieces/lace making equipment donated by a few others (including other members of the Minnesota Lace Society). We are very excited about it!

The exhibit will run from Thursday, July 13 through Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Twin Cities Tatters

Meets one Sat. per month in Spring Lake Park. Contact Michelle Vitt at vitt@minnehahaacademy.net to get on the emailing list. Anyone interested in tatting is welcome!

If there is anything that you are interested in or have questions about that would be a good program, let Rhonda.

If you are involved with anything that is lace related, such as demoing, teaching, mentoring, etc, let Anne know and she will put it in the newsletter. Let everyone know what you are doing to promote these wonderful crafts.

If there are websites with free patterns for the type of lace that you like, please let Anne know so that she can look at these sites to get patterns for this newsletter.

Making Lace with Vermeer



The Lacemaker (detail)

Johannes Vermeer

c. 1669–1671

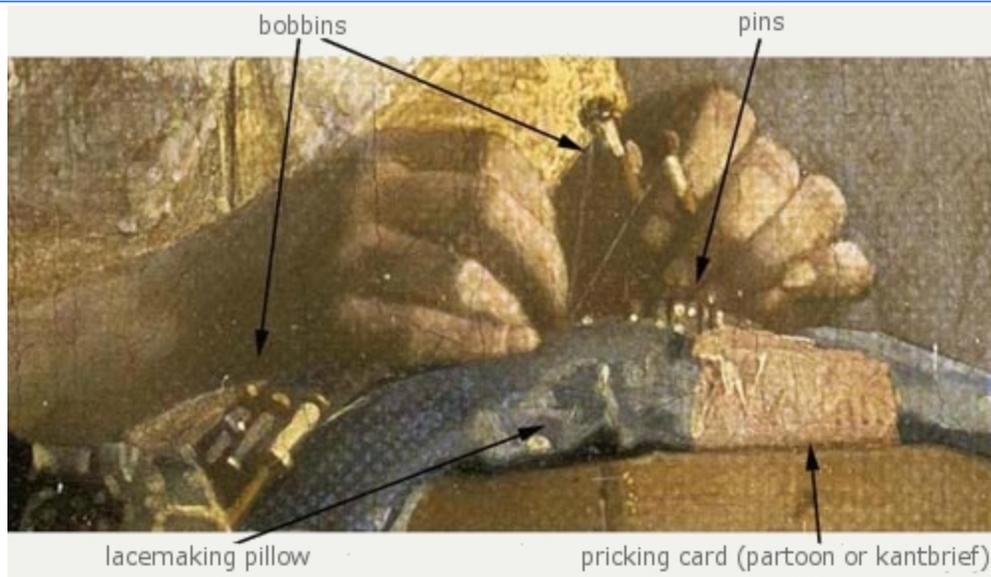
Oil on canvas on panel, 24.5 x 21 cm.

Musée du Louvre, Paris

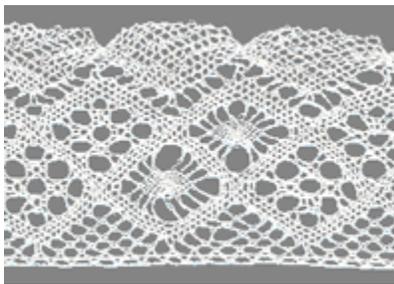
Although we cannot directly see the kind of lace the girl is making we can draw some conclusions from her tools which Vermeer has rendered with sufficient precision. The girl rests her hands on a rather flat, light-blue lacemaking pillow, nowadays called a "cookie"-pillow, owing to its round form. This kind of pillow served to make shorter pieces or stripes of lace. Another long, thick, tube-like "bolster"-pillow was frequently employed to produce yardage (long strips of lace) but does not seem to be the case in Vermeer's work.

The light brownish pricking card (*patroon* or *kantbrief*) in Vermeer's painting, is partly visible, fixed on the blue pillow. In former times it was made of parchment. Although they are obviously not visible, little holes were pricked onto his card to establish the desired pattern. Pins were inserted carefully into every hole. This preparatory phase was, and still is, very time consuming work requiring complete concentration in order to avoid any mistake that would afterwards destroy the whole work.

The little silvery pins with their globular reflections (they closely recall an optical phenomenon produced by the camera obscura called halations or disks of confusion) from the incoming light are visible quite well in Vermeer's painting even though they have been somewhat abstracted. Around these pins the threads, furnished by the bobbins, are interwoven and crossed according to the pattern. The principal movements are the "twist" and the "cross", but there are numerous other techniques.



The bobbins appear to be the common ones used during the sixteenth and seventeenth century. In the sixteenth century they may have been made of bone. Bobbin lace was commonly referred to as bone lace in that time but normally bobbins were made of wood, with the typical drop-like butt at the end for the weight to hold the threads in tension.



The Love of Lace [Click here for a more information about the history, tools and technique of lacemaking.](#)

The bobbins are always used in pairs, which Vermeer had rendered quite correctly. New pairs are added gradually as the work proceeds, so that at the end there are often hundreds of bobbins in use, which an experienced lacemaker is able to distinguish. Nowadays little colored balls help distinguish one from another. It would appear that Vermeer's young girl at the beginning of her work since she is working on the upper part of the card, with only a few visible bobbins.

The taught threads are miraculously rendered in Vermeer's painting with two hair-thin lines of light-colored paint. In order to appreciate the precision of such a passage it should be remembered that the whole painting is little more than eight inches wide (23,9 x 20,5 cm).

Bobbin Lace

There are two principal groups of bobbin lace according to their working methods: the so-called non-continuous and the continuous lace. For the non-continuous lace each motif is made separately, later sewed together. The number of bobbins to be used is different. It is usually made on the round pillow.

In the non-continuous method both the ground (or "mesh") and the pattern are made all in one from the beginning to the end, using always the same number of bobbins which means a large number of bobbins from the start.

A very common kind of lace in Vermeer's day was (and still is) the so-called Torchon-lace (from French for "towel" or "dishcloth"), sometimes also called "Beggar's lace," probably due to the relative simplicity with which it is made together with its somewhat broader appearance caused by the coarser threads. It has a linear, geometrical design rather than with flowers or leaves. This makes it suitable for beginners since there are only a few curves to be done. It is based on a rectangular grid with angles of 90 and 45 degrees. This makes it a strong fabric withstanding wear and washing better than other laces.

What Kind of Lace is Vermeer's Girl Making?

So what kind of lace may the girl in Vermeer's painting actually making? Of course, we must take to account that Vermeer most likely did not paint exactly what he saw with photographic precision. However, an educated guess would be that she is working on a rather short piece of lace, perhaps a geometric motif for non-continuous lace or a short stripe later to be attached to a piece of linen, for instance for a small tablecloth or runner or for a cushion. She is certainly not making a very complicate pattern or non-continuous lace, for which she would have far more bobbins at hand and would probably use a "Bolster" pillow.

MLS 2017/2018 Calendar of Activities & Events

	DATE	TIME	EVENT	INFO	LOCATION
JUL	Jul 10	6:45pm	Summer Get-Together		St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
AUG	Aug 14	6:45pm	Summer Get-Together	Making pony bead bobbins	St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
SEPT	Sept 1 & Sept 2	9:00 am–9:00 pm (both days)	MN State Fair	Demonstrating making lace	MN State Fair Grounds
	Sept 11	6:45pm	Monthly Meeting		St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church

Officers for 2017-2018

President: Rhonda
 Vice President: Kianna
 Treasurer: Ellen
 Secretary/Newsletter: Anne
 Demos / Website: Pam
 Education: Lynn
 Education / Programs: Nancy
 Textile Center Liaison: Anne

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