



Chain Link

Published by the Crochet Guild of America • Volume 15 Number 2 • March 2006

A "Thank You" and "Welcome" At the Same Time...

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Nancy Brown for her time and tenure as the CGOA president. It takes a great willingness to step up and volunteer what little free time someone has and help meet the goals of the CGOA. We have certainly grown as an organization under her leadership, and for that, I thank her.

I would also like to say "Welcome" to the incoming CGOA president. I look forward to seeing the unique style one brings to a new role and new ideas brought to the board. We are in the midst of a change in the industry. Many young people are picking up crochet and many that learned as a child are going back to it. The next president of our

organization will have a great task ahead of them to bring crochet to the next generation and continue to grow the CGOA.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite other members of our organization to get involved with the CGOA. There are multitudes of opportunities for volunteers to participate in our association. Simply go to www.crochet.org and access the "Members Only" section and fill out the Volunteer Information Sheet.

Regards,
Andrea Lyn Van Benschoten
Editor, Chain Link

Moderator's Message

*From the desk of Freddie Schuh
Moderator, COGA Chat Group*

This is a great time for CGOA as we continue to grow and thrive. The CGOA Membership Message Board on Yahoo Groups has gained such popularity that we have added two more moderators. One is Lois Pauley and the other is Sandy Scofield. Lois is currently taking care of the file folders at our site in the way of posting new information and deleting old information. Sandy is acting as discussion moderator and assisting members with particular issues as they arise. It is always more fun for everyone if the work is spread out among many instead of a few doing it all. Please make sure to thank Lois and Sandy for volunteering their time.

I know that there are other individuals that volunteer their time to help make CGOA a place for all crocheters to meet, learn and promote crochet. If you haven't done so, please, make sure to fill out your information and what you do in the way of volunteering. Not just to toot your own horn, so that others will be able know who to go to for information and assistance. Just click on the "Database" link on the menu to the left and then on "Volunteer Database." We are always looking for more helpers to make the work load light and more time for crochet fun. If you'd like to help, just email one of our moderators at the CGOA Membership Message Board.

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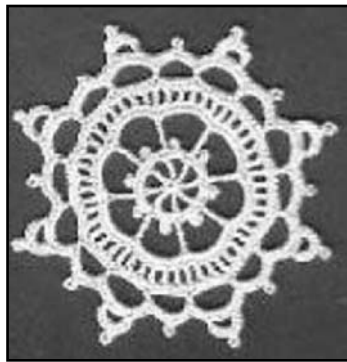
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Heritage Crochet: a Book Review

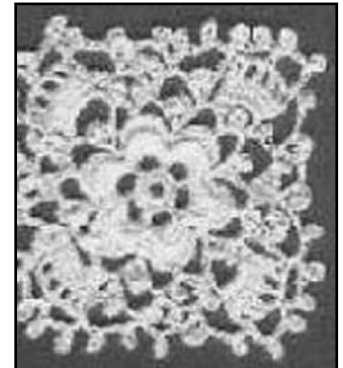
By Joan F Silverston

Mary Konior's 1987 book, *Heritage Crochet: An Analysis* belongs on your bookshelf with Lis Palaudan's *Crochet: History and Technique*, and Annie Louise Potter's *A Living Mystery: The International Art & History of Crochet*. It is not so large or comprehensive as Palaudan, nor as lavishly illustrated as Potter, but it is a detailed history and analysis of crochet in nineteenth century Ireland and England. The presentation of a good selection of actual patterns, some arranged chronologically and in their original form, others derived from actual antique crocheted items, distinguishes this book.



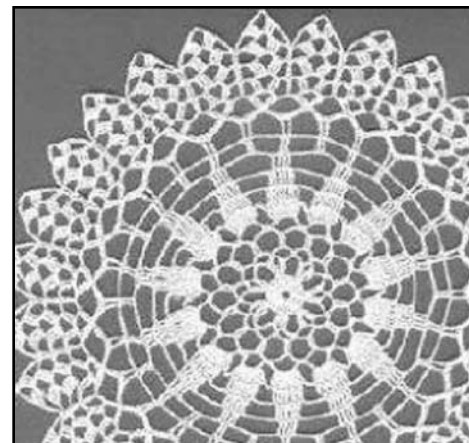
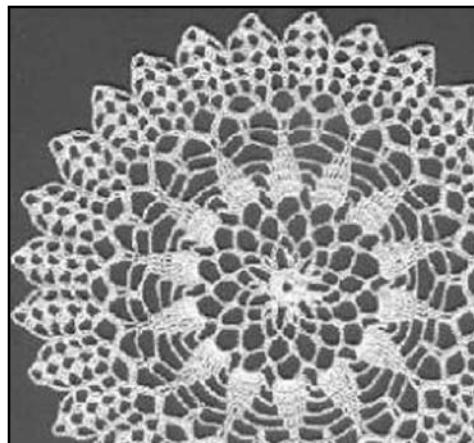
Beginning with a history of crochet, Konior discusses the development of technique and designs. She says the treble (double) showed up at the end of the 18th century, a crucial development, because with only chain, slip, and single stitches our art would not have evolved as excitingly as it has. She talks about early crochet as an imitation of various laces, such as maltese, reticella, Hebedo, and torchon. These imitation laces were followed by the development of motifs "natural" to crochet, such as the pinwheel. The illustration (left) shows a reticella motif.

One chapter discusses the emergence of two types of Irish crochet lace, guipure and bebe. Both are based on motifs joined into an overall design. Guipure joins the separate motifs with chains, usually ornamented with picots and Clones knots. Bebe lace surrounds a motif with a frame of ornamented chains and joins the enhanced motifs at the edges. The illustration (right) shows a bebe lace rose and crown motif.



Early advertisements illustrate a chapter discussing the development of threads and hooks. The chapter on publications has covers of early crochet magazines. These illustrations, photos of samplers, the list of publications, and the bibliography are very valuable to those of us who love digging for knowledge. The long but partial list of Mlle Riego's works especially cries for further investigation.

The chapter on evolving styles of pattern writing has complete unedited patterns from 1850 into the early 20th century. Working these patterns is a challenge, because even when they are clearly written, the terminology is subject to interpretation. The pattern for the "Small Doyley" uses "long" stitches. Konior suggests long may be double treble (our treble). I tried it that way, but had to add chains to prevent cupping. So I tried it again with doubles. The results appear below.



Konior says that patterns using symbols appeared early in the 20th century, but faded from use because of initial unpopularity. Many of us who now prefer symbol patterns also hesitated.

The second section of the book, "Technical Analysis", describes old techniques and presents the patterns for several old pieces of crochet. The patterns use a variant of continental style symbols and are quite clear as long as you can tell the difference between the symbols for single crochet and half double. I made the bebe lace and reticella motifs from diagrams in this section.

Mary Konior has written several other books, and collaborated with Louisa Calder on *Creative Crochet*, 1979. Her *Crochet Lace: An Illustrated Guide to Making Lace Fabrics*, 1991, describes and provides patterns for crocheted cottage shawls. She has also written on tating and knitting, including *Tatting with Visual Patterns*, 1992 and *Knitting and Crochet with One Hand*, 1986. You can find used editions of *Heritage Crochet* at prices ranging from \$15 to \$200 dollars.

Editor's Note: Joan F Silverston has been crocheting for more than 50 years and is an expert in thread crochet. You can check out her website at: www.nbswinc.com.

A Day in the Life.... or, Time Management For Crafters

by Kathy North, CGOA Member

Like many of you, my life is filled with busy-ness (and business). Today I marveled on the unique position I am in: wife, mother, cat owner, library employee, crocheter, knitter, teacher, pattern designer, website caretaker, and custom-order filler. Frequently I am asked how I find time to do it all (if I could stay awake later it would help!) Crocheting and knitting have been part of my daily routine since college days. The fingers are well-exercised (even if the rest of the body isn't) and I've found that time management skills used in the workday world have transferred to my crafting life. In moments between working, cooking, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping and family life, every spare minute is spent in crochet or knitting-related activities. Moving between the Monday-Friday business world and the weekend yarn-industry world calls for efficient use of time. Take, for example, the past few months' experiences which began with a single order for a Christmas stocking:

One day this summer, an order for one hand-knit Christmas stocking came in. The satisfied customer asked if another could be made, then another. Other customers began placing orders and by mid-October orders for 15 stockings had been received. A self-imposed cutoff deadline was necessary as panic set in and I wondered if I could finish them by Christmas (as of this writing the last stocking is in the works and all orders will be filled by Thanksgiving.) As each stocking was completed and put onto the blocking board, the next was started. Other custom orders were sandwiched in—cotton chenille washcloths, a ripple baby blanket, two pair of red wool mittens, a felted wine bag for a shop model, scarves, new hat designs, class projects. In the case of the washcloths,

I crocheted all six in one evening, then ran them through the prewash cycle while eating breakfast so they could be set out on the blocking board to dry while I was away at work. The cloths were ready for delivery to the customer the next day.

Early Saturday mornings afforded good daylight to do the finishing bead and sequin work on the stockings, before I headed out to the yarn shop to teach classes. When the call for a sweater repair job came in, I was able to complete it at the shop while waiting for students to arrive for class. Recently a new venture was offered with the opportunity to sell finished items on a website, so future projects requiring good use of time management skills will include hats, ponchos, a special order for a Harry Potter scarf and gift items for a workplace Christmas shop. Charity work is not forgotten—hats for military troops, baby items for hospitals, pads for shelter animals—all are produced as oddments of time allow. Now and then the question is asked: do you have a pattern for (fill in the blank)? which inspires a new design and pattern. Anticipation of the next project spurs me on to keep creating on schedule. The rewards justify the hours spent: a sense of accomplishment, the ever-expanding photo collection of finished projects, positive comments and smiles from customers, a high volume of hits on the website, and best of all....cash and checks!

Try using your own time-management skills to spend part of each day crocheting, knitting or crafting—you'll be amazed at how much you can accomplish (especially if, unlike me, you can stay awake late!)

Membership information

Crochet Guild of America is a not-for-profit, member organization. National membership includes a subscription to *Crochet!* magazine with a *Chain Link* insert. Annual dues are \$35 (U.S.), \$42 (Canada & Mexico), \$50 (all other international addresses) and \$100 (corporate). Dues may be paid by check or money order in U.S. funds only, payable to Crochet Guild of America. Mailing address: CGOA, P.O. Box 3388, Zanesville, OH 43702-3388. Phone: (877) 852-9190. Address corrections: Send your mailing label with corrections clearly marked to the address above. Copyright information: All items submitted to *Chain Link* become the property of CGOA. *Chain Link* is copyrighted by the Crochet Guild of America. All rights reserved. Except where other copyright notice is given. Please write for permission to reprint articles.

For members only

CGOA now has an "official" message board for members only. It is at www.yahoogle.com and the name of it is CGOA-Membership Message Board. This will be a place to meet between conferences, get support for starting a chapter in your area and discuss issues that will affect CGOA as a whole. Make sure that you include your CGOA ID# and the name you registered with. We have some exciting things planned so don't miss out, sign up today!

New Correspondence Course Offered!

The Education Committee is pleased to announce the addition of another Correspondence Course to our benefits list for CGOA members-only! "Increasing and Decreasing Tote," taught by Ellen Gormley, teaches Correspondent students how to increase and decrease within a project while creating a tulip-shaped tote bag. Please sign up at our website: www.crochet.org/courses/incdec.html; Ellen is anxious to share her skills!

Looking for a CGOA chapter in your area? Check out the complete chapter listing at www.crochet.org/chapter.html

Alamo Rows Crochet Guild Hosts Annual Knit Out Crochet Too Event

by Carol Ventura

The Alamo Rows Crochet Guild of San Antonio hosted our Annual Knit-Out Crochet Too Event at the Central Library in San Antonio, TX on Saturday, September 17 from 9 am - 2 pm.

This event was a great success!!! We estimate that we had around 60 interested people that wanted to learn to Crochet and/or Knit. There were areas set up to teach both crocheting and knitting as well as an area for the kids to learn.

Once they were comfortable with what they had learned, we had an area where they could learn to make a crocheted flower, a knitted hacky sack or a chain bracelet with beads for the kids.

We also set up a table of resource material and had many crochet and knit items that were made by members of our crochet guild for everyone to see and feel. We also had two teenage girls walking around the library showing off our wears. They had a lot of fun doing this, and they also stopped long enough to learn to crochet. They found it to be contagious.

Thanks so much for everyone that helped make this event a great success as well as those who showed up to learn.

It was great to see such a great turnout.

Thanks,
Lynne Sawyers, Alamo Rows Crochet Guild



Crocheted Book Ends

By: Anna A. Horn

When contemplating which books to purchase as a newbie crocheter, one may think, "there are so many leaflets and books out there; which ones are for me?" As a 'seasoned pro' of leaflet and book browsing over the past year, I can honestly say that the following are good additions (or perusals if one already has them) to a crocheter's library:

- 200 Crochet Blocs for Blankets, Throws, and Afghans by Jan Eaton
- 101 Crochet Squares (American School of Needlework #107488) by Jean Leinhauser
- 99 Granny Squares to Crochet (Leisure Arts Leaflet #3078)
- 63 Easy-to-Crochet Pattern Stitches Combine to Make an Heirloom Afghan (Leisure Arts Leaflet# 555) by Darla Sims
- Contest Favorites Afghan Squares (Leisure Arts Leaflet #2986)
- Crocheted Sweaters: Simple Stitches, Great Designs by Susan Huxley
- The Crochet Stitch Bible by Betty Barnden

Keep in mind that this is in no way comprehensive, but it's definitely a good place to start if one is looking for helpful books/leaflets on the basics, and not so basics of crochet.

Editor's Note: Anna A. Horn is a second year graduate student residing in Bremerton, Washington. Her current project of interest is an afghan crocheted out of Plymouth Encore yarn. When not crocheting, she works at her local library and spoils her brother's basset hound.

Chapter Happenings!

Lil Troopers: Taking care of those who take care of us

Sandy Scofield and her husband in DeMotte, Indiana have created a great group called "Lil Troopers." This group crochets, knits and sews for the newborns of Military families at Fort Knox, KY and Travis Air Force Base in CA. They also provide gift items for children, preemie and teens in the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital in CA.

The idea came from Sandy's husband after participating on the varsity football staff at Oak Ridge HS in El Dorado Hills, CA for several years. Many of their players joined the military and he felt these young men that were taking care of us deserved support from civilians in the area.

If anyone is interestd in helping "Lil Troopers," please

visit their website at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lil_troopers/.



Hats Sandy made for the 2005 holiday season.

Is your local CGOA chapter doing something special? We would love to highlight it in the next newsletter! See details on page 5.

Toronto Hookups Crochet Guild, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

By Rose Langley

Although a group small in numbers, we have strength in our skills and ideas. Toronto Hookups has grown from less than ten members to over fifty members who range from novices to designers from all over Ontario.

We have classes to share our skills during our meetings. From Tunisian crochet to afghan joining, from Kool-Aid dying to designing sweaters, we have had various members explain and teach their specialty. We occasionally have visitors from yarn companies or stores come to our meeting to discuss their products and some meetings members work on their own projects. We have a "Show and Share" table to share our accomplishments and generate new ideas.

Our official charity is Warming Families. Each member makes one 8" square for each meeting they attend and hands it to our charity coordinator, Dalcyce Newby, who takes them for assembly and distribution to various shelters.

During the Creative Sewing and Needlework Festival, we have a booth that highlights our projects, as well as a table set up to teach people who come through our booth that are interested in learning or joining our group. We organize a Fashion Show at the Fall Creative Sewing and Needle-

work Festival to showcase and inspire other crafters. This will year was our third year participating in this annual event.

For the first time this past Spring, two of our members - Violet and Rose Langley, independently organized a retreat at the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre, Ancaster, Ontario, which included both members and non-members. This weekend included lodging, meals, classes and a Sunday service. The classes were Cro-Quilting by Sherri Bondy - which is designing quilts using crochet squares and half squares; Entrelac basic stitches by Kerry Johnson; and Tunisian Crochet stitches, beading and color inlay by Julia Bryant (picture attached). The Canterbury Hills Conference Centre is situated in a Carolinian forest setting just down the road from two waterfalls and civilization, but far enough away that you can hear real silence at night. In the mornings, the Canada geese wake you, not the cars. Our evening guests included deer, raccoons and rabbits. It was a truly inspiring weekend and will be the launching pad for future retreats to be organized by Toronto Hookups Crochet Guild.

Having seen members join who have never used a pattern, it is a proud moment for everyone when a member walks in with a finished project - whether it's their first or fiftieth.

As you can see, we are growing our numbers a few at a time, but all who crochet or would like to learn are welcome within our numbers. More information about our group can be found at www.torontohookups.org



The Goals of CGOA

-  To promote the art and skill of crochet
-  To preserve historical projects
-  To promote future crochet design and ideas
-  To strive towards excellence in all facets of crochet

Holiday Gifts

Many of us work feverishly to create hand-made gifts for those we care about during the holiday season. This was a topic of discussion during late November on the CGOA Yahoo discussion group. Here are a few items some of our members made.

Who I am: Patrice Walker

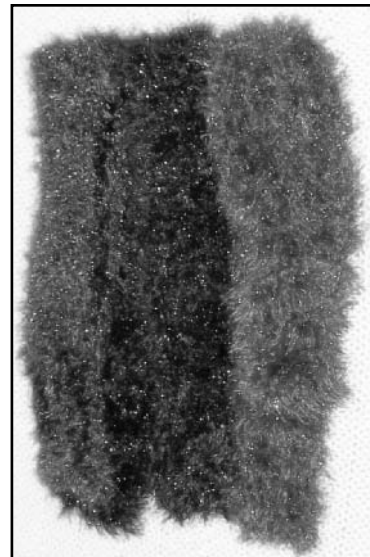
Where I live: Washington, DC

Local CGOA Chapter: Ebenezer Crochet Guild

My Crochet Blog: Yarn Over, Pull Through: The Heart and Soul of Crochet at <http://yarnoverpullthrough.typepad.com>

Scarves were for: Female friends

Description of scarves: Crocheted with 2 skeins of Bernat Disco, using large hook (about an N) with a foundation row of about 8 to 10 stitches.



SACHET BAG

By Rose Mary Erusba

While I've been crocheting scarves and afghans for several years with worsted and sport-weight yarns, I took a crocheted lace class this fall. It has inspired me to try more and more things with "thread"! This Sachet Bag was made for my sister. It will be her hostess gift on Thanksgiving Day.

The bag was adapted from a free (!) Coats & Clark pattern called "Little Bag." It finished at 4 inches tall, the base having a 2 1/2 inch diameter. The bag itself was done with 40 weight crochet cotton using a Size 8 hook. The cording I made for this bag is a little different. I used a technique described for Romanian Point Lace. It was easy to do ... once I got it started! And it looks beautiful (if I do say so myself.)



Great Sites for Free Patterns!

www.crochetpatterncentral.com

<http://freecrochetpatterns.lionbrand.com>

www.crochetnmore.com

<http://crochet.about.com>

www.freepatterns.com

Chain Link Staff

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Andrea Lyn Van Benschoten: Editor

Anna A. Horn: Assistant Editor

Michelle Carton: Assistant Editor

Chain Link is published six times a year and is a benefit included in CGOA membership. All submissions for Chain Link should be sent to newsletter@crochet.org.

Tapestry Crochet Ambassador Visits Portugal

by Carol Ventura

The best way to travel is to stay with a friend and let them show you around! Last winter I did just that when I visited my Portuguese friend, Isabel. She brought me to many interesting places. Of course, wherever we went I was always on crochet alert. Crochet is popular in Portugal. I found lots of beautiful filet crochet altar coverings in large and small churches - each uniquely incorporating motifs that included crosses, words, flowers, birds, and hearts. Crocheted hats and scarves were also in fashion - on young and old alike. Since most people crochet in the privacy of their homes, it was not easy to find them, but I did spot a few. One woman was happily conversing with a friend in a park while crocheting a black wool hat. Another was crocheting a border around a tablecloth while keeping an eye on an historic neighborhood chapel. I even found a crochet enthusiast in a high school in Lisbon that specializes in the arts. Helena Estanqueiro, one of the fiber teachers, was very excited to learn about tapestry crochet, so I am confident that she will teach it to her students. Although my *More Tapestry Crochet* book is in English, Portuguese crocheters had no problem understanding the graphs and pictures. My goal is to spread the news about this exciting art form around the world! For more about tapestry crochet, please look at www.tapestrycrochet.com

All photos by Carol Ventura, 2005



1. and 2. Filet crochet altar covers are found in many churches, including this one in the Mafra Basilica.



3. This woman, wearing a crocheted hat and scarf, is crocheting a hat. She passed the wool behind her neck to create the proper tension.



4. This woman from Sobral de Monte Agraço was crocheting a border around a tablecloth while keeping her eye on the Chapel of Santo Quintino. The chapel is kept open for visitors a few hours each week.



5. Helena Estanqueiro, a weaving teacher from Escola António Arroio, really enjoyed learning how to do tapestry crochet.

The new email address for Chain Link is newsletter@crochet.org. Please submit your articles using the new email address.

Marketing to the Venue

by Linda Diak

With the holiday season comes many opportunities to present one's work to the public in a myriad of ways. From juried shows to church bazaars, opportunities abound. Too often, however, crochet artists find they leave these events feeling unappreciated and undervalued.

I have spent the past few years attending shows and observing what does and doesn't sell. Rare is the booth or table with poor workmanship, and yet at most every show there are craftspersons and artists leaving with heavy hearts instead of heavy wallets. A recent thread of conversation on the CGOA's email list gave voice to these frustrations and prompted me to give more thought as to why some items sell and others do not at various events.

The quality of craftsmanship is not the sole determining factor. I have seen many beautiful items left on the tables at the end of the day. What I have noticed, however, is that those that remain behind are often items that have either too much competition in the marketplace, i.e. a show that has booth after booth of felted hats and handbags, or items that are out of place within the context of the event. It can't always be foreseen as to what the other artists will bring to a sale, but a bit of thought and observation can have an impact on one's sales.

Events differ greatly in the audiences they seek to serve. Gearing your product to suit the event and the customer the event is marketing to can go a long way in ensuring that items will be well received. Trying to present that beautifully crocheted lace blouse from handspun silk thread to an audience of holiday bargain hunters is likely to be a disappointing experience. The same can be said for the prolific crocheter who fills her table at an upscale event with small items made from commercial patterns and widely available and inexpensive yarns. In either case, the fault lies not in the product, but in the venue in which they were presented.

Event participation is often the result of a desire to support the charity or organization that will benefit from the event. Knowing the event and how it is presented to the public will go a long way to ensuring success. Is it a private dinner and auction, with advance tickets marketed to an upscale clientele or a juried event? Unwrap that silk lace blouse and be prepared to sell it, but leave all the more commercial items at home.

On the other end of the spectrum, the church event that is marketed to the public as a bazaar - a word that in itself conjures up images of flea markets and bargains - is the ideal place to sell inexpensive items to an audience who is attending in large part to support the event and only buying what is necessary in order to do so. If one wishes to support such an event by offering items to the organization, gear those items to the expected clientele.

If the event is seen as offering a variety of inexpensive crafts, trying to sell expensive items that require hours, or days, of intense work is likely to result in disappointment. Small items that are clever and attractive and yet simple to create are going to have the most success. Crocheted jewelry, crocheted flowers that can be pinned to a hat, edgings added to commercial guest towels, warm and fuzzy baby booties are all small items that can be produced quickly and inexpensively. Patterns and kits are another excellent alternative. By putting together patterns and kits, valuable items that carry wide appeal and small price tags have been created in a relatively small amount of time. The extra time that would have been spent crocheting scarves or hats can be put into assisting the charity or organization in marketing the event, further ensuring a successful show for all concerned!

Editor's Note: Tom and Linda Diak are the owners of Grafton Fibers, proprietors of fine fibers and hand-turned crochet books. Their website is: www.graftonfibers.com.

In the Next Issue...

The Algebra of
Crochet!

www.crochet.org