



Blackwork Journey Blog

July 2012

Dunlop
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Lancashire
candles Blog
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Journey

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Following on from last month's theme of lettering, I have found a fascinating website called www.wordle.net which allows you to enter your own words and create patterns.

The colour, layout, font and language can be changed to suit individual requirements.



An example of Wordle –there are many different arrangements to experiment with!

I thought this could be a very useful site when planning unusual samplers or charts, but in fact it is just great fun to experiment with different styles and colours!

Good lighting

On a more serious note, as an embroiderer, good lighting is considered essential (see "Techniques Part 1: Lighting and Lenses") but I was intrigued when I went to an exhibition where I encountered the most unusual form of lighting in the form of a Flash-stool or Candle Block which was designed for lace making, but could equally have been used for embroidery.



Small lamps and lenses

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Lighting equipment is always an important consideration in lacemaking. In warmer weather it could be done at an open door or window, or even outdoors, but at night and during winter it was done by the light of candles. To concentrate the candlelight, glass globes filled with water were placed into a special stool around the candle to act as condensers or lenses. By positioning the lace pillows around the stool so that the candlelight fell in a concentrated beam on to each, three or four lacemakers could comfortably work by the light of one single candle.

When I consider the standard of lighting and magnification we take for granted today, it made me realise how far we have moved on!



Candle light!

The Cotton Industry

Following on the theme of progress and manufacturing, I live in the north of England where the cotton industry had its roots. The scenery has changed considerably in the thirty years I have lived in the area and most factory chimneys have been demolished but many mills remain although they have now been converted into apartments or multi-occupancy units.



Maple Mill, Oldham, Lancashire

Mills and factory chimneys were commonplace and the narrow terraced houses which housed the mill workers are still a feature of the area. I was delighted to find a booklet about one of the old mills which I have included here. I have since given the booklet to one of the mill owner's family for their archives!

The United Kingdom Cotton Industry



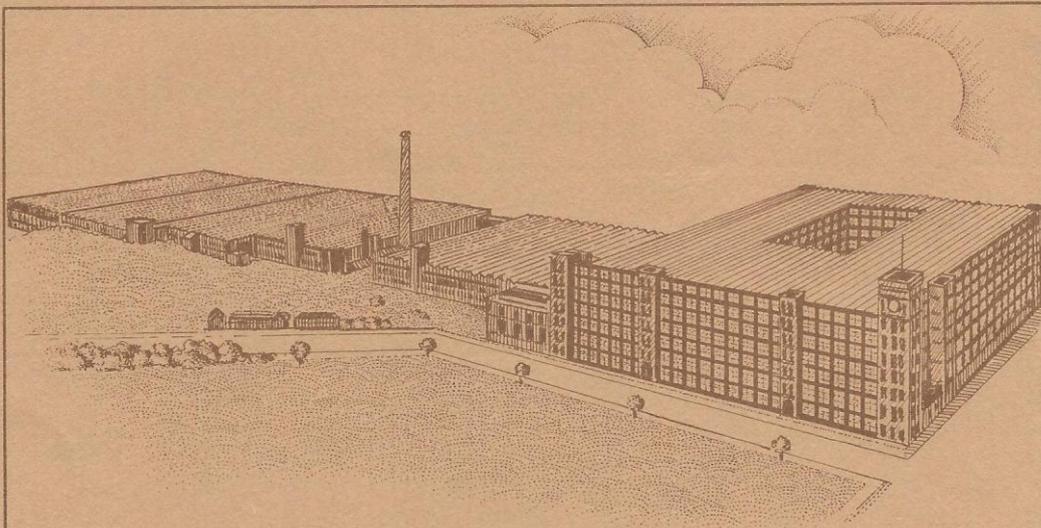
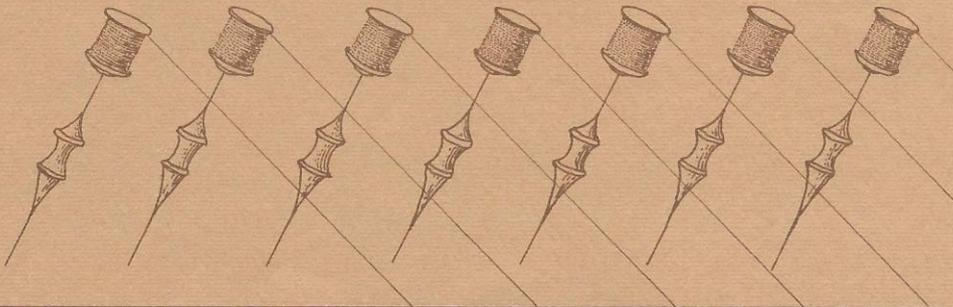
All our products are handmade from genuine textile mill relics
of the United Kingdom.



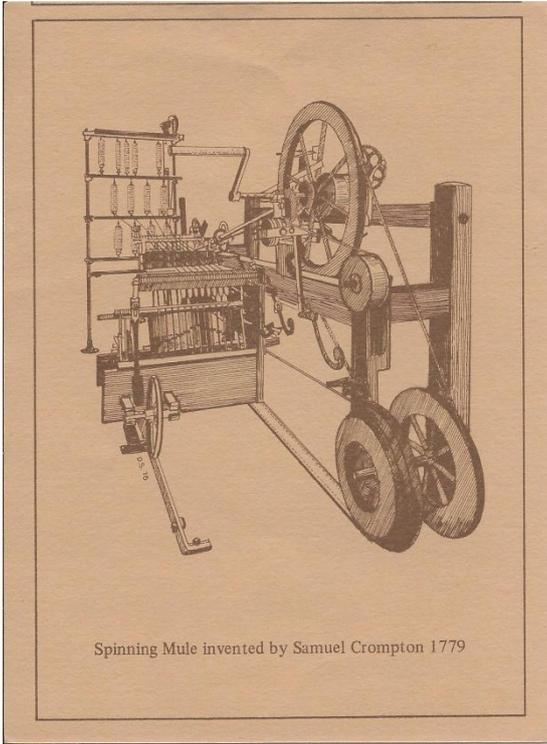
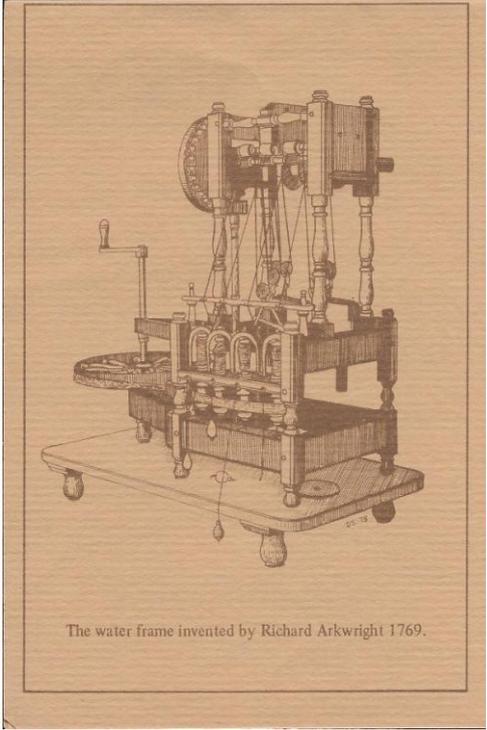
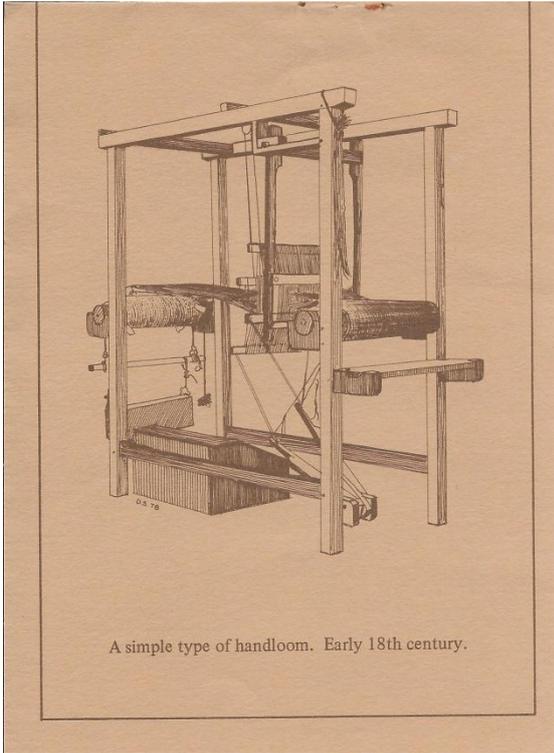
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The making of cotton yarns began in Lancashire in the mid 16th century as a cottage industry. It became a commercial enterprise with the advent of power in the second half of the 18th Century when mills of various types and sizes sprang up and within a few years cotton was the main business of Lancashire; employing at its peak, during the 1920's over 250,000 people within excess of 60 million spindles in operation.

Rochdale, in 1927, boasted of the fact that it had the largest cotton mill in the world, under one roof, namely Dunlop Cotton Mills Ltd. with a total floor area of 1,500,000 square feet and employing over 3,000 people.



Dunlop Cotton Mills Ltd. — Largest Cotton Mill in the world under one roof.
Built by Sydney Stott Esq., architect of Oldham in 1914.
Final extension completed in 1927.

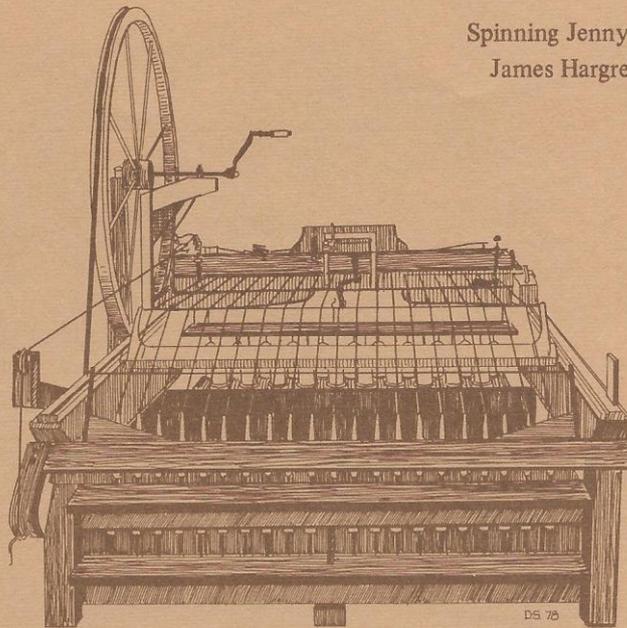


A COPY OF MILL RULES ISSUED BY A COTTON FIRM IN 1851

1. All the overseers shall be on the premises first and last.
2. Any person coming too late shall be fined as follows: for five minutes 2d: ten minutes 4d: fifteen minutes 6d. etc.
3. For any bobbins found on the floor, 1d. for each bobbin.
4. For single drawing, slubbing or roving 2d. for each single end.
5. For waste on the floor 2d.
6. For any oil wasted or spilled on the floor, 2d. each offence, besides paying for the value of the oil.
7. For any broken bobbins, they shall be paid for according to their value.
8. Any person neglecting to oil at the proper times shall be fined 2d.
9. Any person leaving his work and found talking with any of the other work-people shall be fined 2d. for each offence.
10. For every oath or insolent language 3d. for the first offence, and if repeated they will be dismissed.
11. The machinery shall be swept down every meal time.
12. All persons in our employ shall serve four week's notice before leaving, but (the proprietors) shall and will turn any person off without notice being given.
13. Any person wilfully or negligently breaking the machinery or damaging the brushes, making the waste fly, they shall pay for the same to the full value.
14. Any person hanging anything on the gas pendants shall be fined 2d.
15. The masters would recommend that all their people wash themselves every morning, but they shall wash themselves at least twice every week – Monday and Thursday morning and any not found washed will be fined 3d. for each offence.

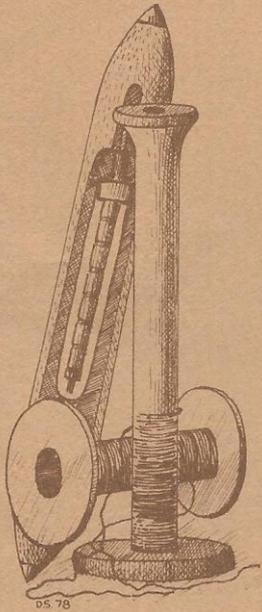


**Spinning Jenny invented by
James Hargreaves 1764**

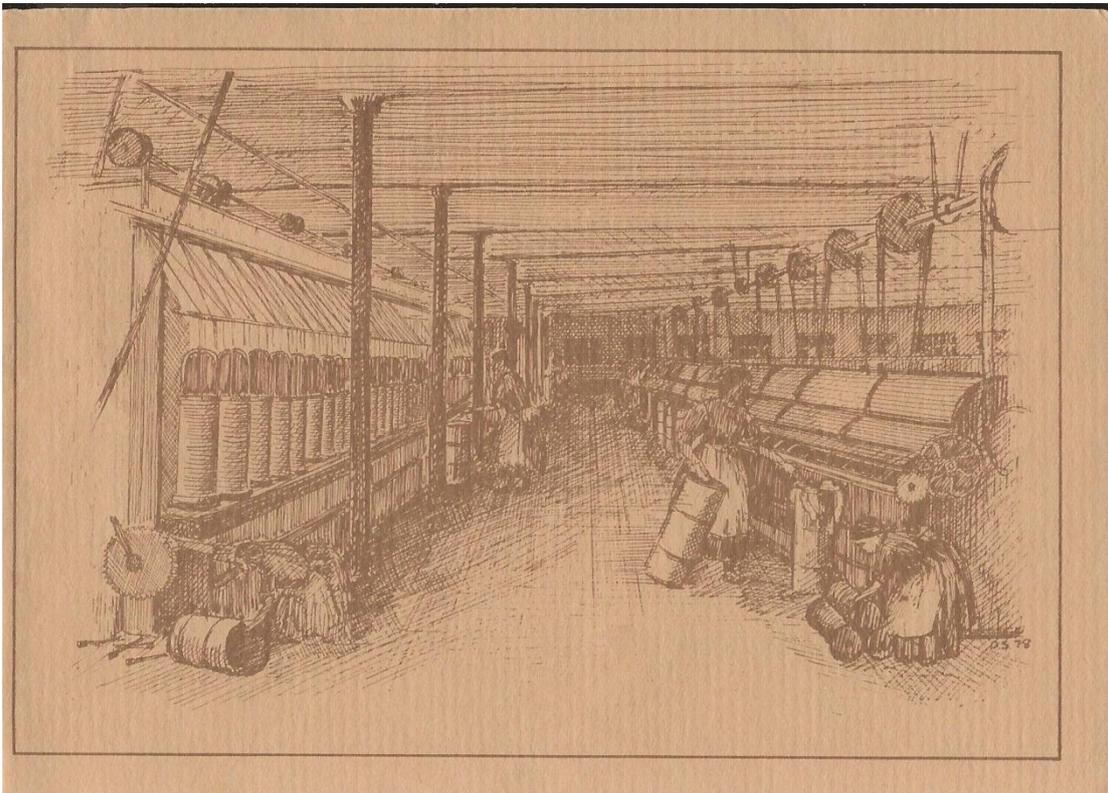
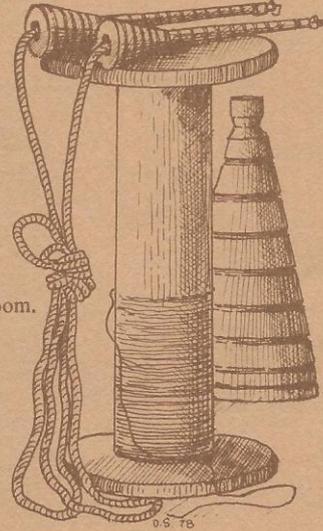


D.S. 78

THE WEAVERS ALPHABET



A is for active as a weaver must be.
 B is for boss you often see
 C is for cloth and the clothlooker too.
 D is for driving as all the tacklers do.
 E is for ends as stiff as a straw
 F is for floats as spun on as you know
 G is for grease as you put into size
 H is for healds full of eyes
 I is for ink to mark your cloth
 J is for jacket you need to take off.
 K is for kindness in the shed unknown
 L is for love a thing never shown
 M is for manager a swaggering chap
 N is for noddin on your slay cap
 O is for oil you waste in the room.
 P is for piece when it comes out of the loom.
 Q is for "Queens" as work to exist.
 R is for rope for stretching your twist.
 S is for sizing a horrible mixture of shod.
 T is for tackler who thinks he is God
 U is for unions you evermore bless
 V is for virtue you say you possess
 W is for weft your shuttles to fill
 X is for weak ale that makes you ill
 Y is for youngster to help you along
 Z is for Zion where you hope to go



To further your knowledge of the Lancashire Cotton Industry
you are welcome to visit the following museums.

Tonge Moor Textile Museum
Tonge Moor Library
Tonge Moor Road,
Bolton, Lancs.
Tel. Bolton (0204) 21394

Lewis Textile Museum
3 Exchange Street,
Blackburn, Lancs.
Tel. Blackburn (0274) 667130

We are indebted to the above and Dunlop Textiles for all assistance in compiling this booklet

YARN CRAFTS LTD., ROCHDALE, LANCs., ENGLAND



Dunlop Mill in Rochdale, Lancashire, England.

It was one of the largest mills in England, covered 1,500,000 square feet and in its heighday, employed 3,000 workers. It was representative of many mills at that period in history. I have spoken at length to the descendents of the mill owners who were involved in textile manufacture until the decline of the Lancashire cotton industry in the 1970's and I also know a number of women who worked all their lives in the mills. The stories they have to tell of life in a working mill were fascinating and reflected an era long gone.

When the mills closed they were either demolished or turned into apartments or multi-occupancy businesses and the machinery stripped out and sent to countries such as India for their own developing textile industries.

And finally,



Pink Perfection designed by Liz Almond, as shown in "Just Cross Stitch" Magazine May/June 2012.

I hope you enjoy this month's Blog. If you have any queries please contact:

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Happy stitching!

Liz