



Blackwork Journey Blog

November 2013

Yesterday's
Shopping
The Army & Navy Stores Catalogue
1907

Antique books & fabrics



Introduced by Alison Adburgham

*Free style v counted
thread*

New charts and

'Techniques'

Blackwork Journey Techniques
Embroidery and Quilting TQ0015

Blackwork Journey Techniques
Creating a line drawing out of a photograph

Blackwork Journey Blog - November 2013

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Preparing for winter is always a rather special time for me. The summer clothes are washed, mended and stowed away and the winter clothes are pulled out of drawers and cupboards, examined and hung up ready for the frosty mornings and the endless rain. Whilst I don't like the bad weather it is a wonderful excuse to sit in a warm room and stitch quietly or to re-examine books and patterns and decide what to work on over the coming months!

So feeling in the right frame of mind for a "sort out" I went through all my craft books deciding which ones to keep and which ones to recycle.

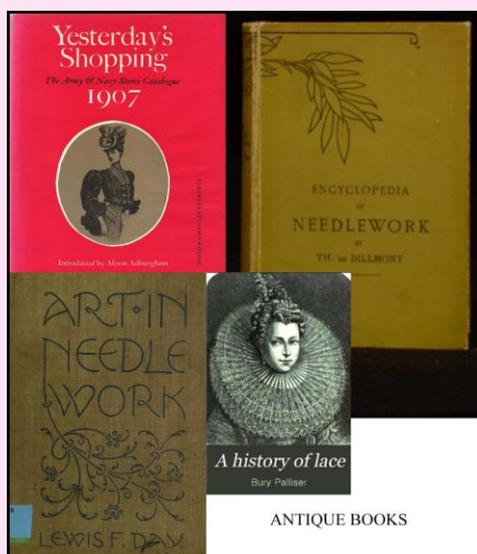
Amongst them was a copy of "Yesterday's Shopping" The 1907 Army and Navy Stores Catalogue which I hadn't looked at for years, but oh, what a treasure it is! It covers every aspect of life you could possibly imagine in great detail. Everything to create the perfect home was included, from buttons to brass bedsteads, from mourning clothes to the latest fashions!

The needlework books listed for sale were:

"A History of Lace" by Mrs Palliser - Price 42/0 shillings

"Art in Needlework" by L.Day - Price 5/0 shillings (Available on-line at www.openlibrary.org)

"Embroidery" by W.G.P.Townsend Price 3/6 and "Encyclopaedia of Needlework" by T Dillmont - Price 3/0 shillings



I have copies of these books in my library, but of all these books it was the Therese De Dillmont book that I found most useful when I was studying embroidery many years ago and looking back though the different chapters and illustrations now I realise how thorough she was in her explanations.

Blackwork Journey Blog - November 2013

An on-line version of the "Encyclopaedia of Needlework" is available through www.gutenberg.org as an e-book.

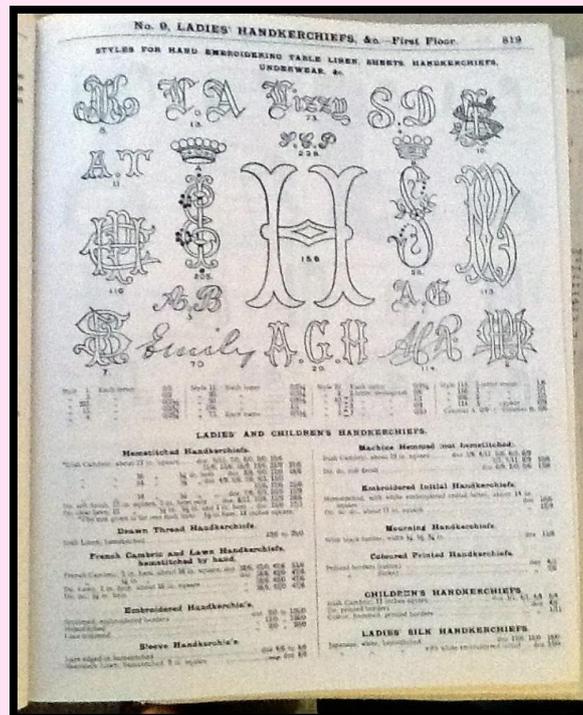
The Catalogue had an extensive haberdashery section with fully equipped sewing boxes and needle cases. An everyday box called "The Ladies Housewife" contained:

- 3 packets, needles
- 2 cards sewing thread
- 2 cards silk,
- 2 dozen pearl buttons
- 2 dozen linen buttons
- 2 dozen hooks and eyes
- 2 dozen safety pins
- black and white pins
- scissors
- penknife
- 2 bodkins
- button hook

All packed into a box 5 x 4 x 2 inches deep!

Whilst I have never used a button hook, I do remember linen buttons! The fabrics listed in the Silks and Dress Fabrics section had fascinating names, but I can only imagine what they were imagine what they were like to work with. There is a whole section on mourning clothes with names such as Tringlette and Paramatta and Nun's veiling

The Catalogue was illustrated throughout with black and white sketches and all the goods could be shipped to the far flung outreaches of the British Empire.



From monograms to lace, this catalogue contained everything a lady could require!

MOURNING DEPARTMENT.

DRESS FABRICS.

BLACK SERGE, SAIL CLOTH, &c.

	Per yard
Estamene Serge, shrunk, 40 to 43 in. 1/2½, 1/4½, 1/8½, 1/8½	
" " " 43 to 48 in. -1/11, 2/3, 2/8, 3/0	
" " " 54 in. -3/3, 3/8, 3/11, 4/3, 4/11	
" " Heavy, 54 in. 3/2, 3/11, 4/6, 4/11	
Diagonal Cheviot, 45 in. 1/8½, 1/11	
Coating Twill, 42 to 46 in. 1/9, 2/3, 2/8	
Union, 27 in. 2/1, 2/4½, 2/7, 2/11	
Sail Cloth, pirl finish, 46 in. 0/9½	
	2/4½, 2/11

BLACK CASHMERE, MERINO, &c.

	Per yard.
Cashmere, French, 47 in. 1/11½, 2/4½, 2/7, 3/2, 3/11	
Merino " 42 to 46 in. 1/8½, 1/10, 1/11½, 2/5, 2/10, 3/4, 3/11	
Cashmere, Indian, (so-called), 46 in. 2/6, 3/3	
" Foule, 45 in. 1/8½	
Paramatta, 45 in. 4/6, 4/11	
Crape Cloth, Venetian, 44 in. 1/9½, 2/1, 2/6, 3/2	

BLACK ALPACA, MOHAIR, &c.

	Per yard.
Alpaca, plain, 29 in. 0/8, 0/10½, 1/0½	
" " 43 to 45 in. 1/6½, 1/11, 2/3	
" " 48 in. 2/9, 3/0, 3/6, 3/11	
" Fancy 44 to 46 in. 2/4½, 3/0	
" Sicilian, 54 in. 2/4, 2/11, 3/3, 4/0, 4/11	
Fancy Mohair, 44 in. 2/9, 3/0, 3/7	

BLACK VOILE, EOLIENNE, &c.

	Per yard.
Voile Wool, plain, 46 in. 1/11½, 2/2, 2/8, 3/0, 3/3	
" Plumetis, 44 in. 3/2, 3/9	
" de Soie, 46 in. 3/2, 3/9	
" Rayé, 45 in. 2/5, 2/7	
" Plumetis, 44 in. 3/11, 4/6	
Folienne, silk and Wool, 44 to 47 in. ... 2/6, 2/11, 3/3, 3/11, 4/6	
" Ondine " 47 in. 6/6	
épe de Chine, silk and wool, 47 in. 3/3, 3/6, 4/3	
repoline " " 45 " 2/4	

BLACK CRAPE (Courtauld's).

	Per yard.
Showerproof, 30 in. 3/9, 4/6	
" 42 " 5/9, 6/9, 8/6	

For Mantles	see page	743
" Gloves	"	806
" "	"	808
" Silk Neckerchiefs and Scarfs	"	809

BLACK FANCY FABRICS

Bengaline, Broche, silk and wool, 47 in., new d	
Majolique " " " 42 to 48 " "	
Crepon " " " 48 " "	
Fancy Wool " " " 44 " "	
Crepoline, Embroidered " 46 " "	

BLACK GRENADINE, BAREGE

Grenadine, plain, 45 in. 2	
" fancy, 42 to 46 in. 2	
" canvas, 46 in. 2	
" silk, plain, 46 in. 2	
Tringlette, silk and wool, 45 in. 2	
Barege, plain, 45 in. 3/1	
Guipure, silk and wool, fancy stripes, 46 in. 3/1	

BLACK SATIN CLOTH, POPLI

Satin Cloth, 44 in. 2	
Poplin Cord, 46 " 2	
Metz " 44 " 2	

BLACK VENETIAN AND AM CLOTH, VIGOGNE, &c.

Venetian Cloth, 44 in. 2	
Amazon " 49 " 2	
" " 50 " 2	
" " 54 " 2	
Vigogne (so-called) 46 in. 2	

BLACK NUNS' VEILING, &c.

Nuns' Veiling, 45 in. 2	
" cloth, 45 in. 2	
Crépe, Taffeta, 46 in. 2	
San Toy, silk and wool, 44 in. 2	

BLACK LININGS AND FOUNDA

Italian Cloth, 54 in. 1/10	
Moirette, 24 in. 1/10	
" 40 in. 1/10	
" satin stripes, 40 in. 1/10	
Moreen, 37 in. 1/4	
Linenette, 44 in. 1/4	
" 44 " light make	
Croiséelle, 40 in. 1/4	
Silkoline, 40 " 1/4	
Sateen, 30 in. 1/4	
Taffaline, 40 in. 1/4	

For Fichus, Bows, and Jabots	see
" Widows' Collars and Cuffs	see
" Jewellery	see
" Handkerchiefs	see

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO ALL MOURNING ORDERS.

FUNERALS arranged and conducted both in Town and Country at strictly moderate Cremations, Embalming, Portrait Sculpture.

Telegrams: "Auxiliary, London." See Advt., ARMY & NAVY AUXILIARY DEPARTMENTS

Valuations of Real and Personal Property for Probate and other purposes.

Extract from 'The 1907 Army and Navy Stores Catalogue'

I do know how good the quality of some of the fabrics from this period were, because I have some samples of muslin and cotton drill which were imported into the country. These were samples designed to show the quality of the material to the potential retailers.

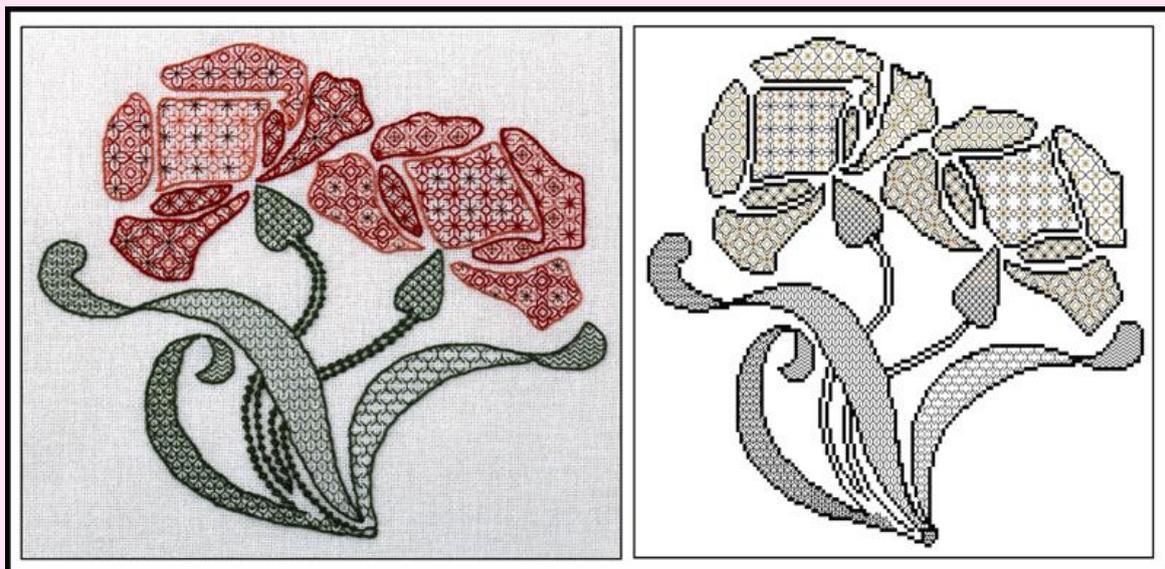


Muslin and cotton drill!

I have been tempted to use the muslin because it is so fine and soft to handle, but it is a piece of history which I will keep intact along with the books to pass on to future generations.

Free style v counted thread blackwork

I have also been busy designing and stitching some Art Nouveau designs this month. One is a free style design in colour, the other is more traditional counted thread design in a cross stitch outline. I have been asked which type of blackwork I prefer. Do I like free style blackwork where I draw the outline and then add the diaper patterns or, do I prefer the whole design to be counted?



Which method to use is down to personal choice!

Blackwork Journey Blog - November 2013

As I see it, there are advantages and disadvantages of both methods of working.

With a freestyle design, the outline is drawn directly onto the fabric and then the areas within the design are filled with stitches. I find this very easy to do and very satisfying especially if the design is curved. Stitching along the lines with a sharp pointed needle means that the shape can be followed exactly and produces a more accurate outline. I also find it quicker to stitch a piece with a drawn outline because I do not have to count every stitch, but it does require making some decisions as to where the stitches are placed. Looking at the pdf will help here because it shows the stitched example in detail.

If the whole design is counted, then the outline may not be as accurate because the lines and cross stitch follow the threads of the fabric rather than the drawn line. If the design is very geometric the traditional method is very straightforward and the pattern is easy to count. What is written on the chart is what you stitch on the fabric!

So both methods are fun to work, but with any project a little forward planning will save time and errors. Try a small drawn design, follow the outlines and add the diaper patterns and then work a traditional piece. Which one did you enjoy working most? Please let me know your thoughts.

Two new PDFs have been added to my "Techniques" section this month:



TQ0015 Embroidery and Quilting and TQ0016 Line Drawing

Happy stitching!

Liz