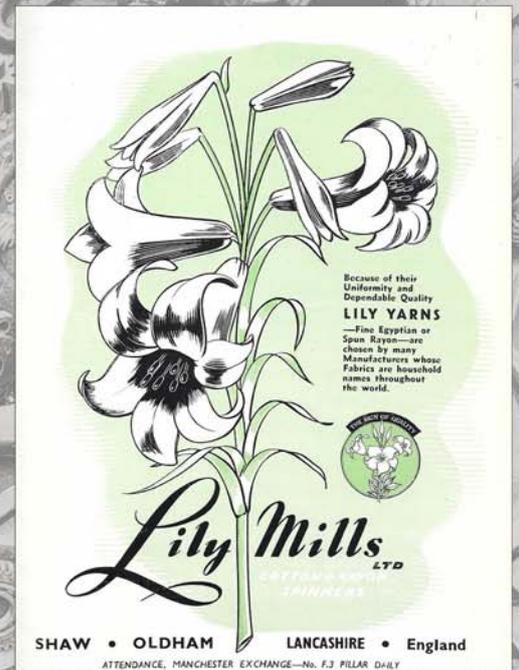




Blackwork Journey

Inspiration - Lily Mills

SP0011



Textured free style embroidery



Lily Mills, Shaw, formerly of Lancashire and now in Greater Manchester, England.

The Story of a Lancashire Mill –Elizabeth Almond



Following a building boom during the 1860s–1870s, Shaw and Crompton became major mill towns, dominated by large rectangular brick-built cotton mills.

From the Industrial Revolution until the 20th century, Crompton (as it was then mainly known) was a major centre of textile manufacture, particularly cotton spinning. During this period, it was dominated by large rectangular brick-built factories, some of which still remain today as warehouses or distribution centres.

The town has seen forty-eight separate textile factories built within its boundaries. Lilly Mills was one of them and Lancashire cotton was regarded at the time as being the best in the world.

Inspiration for Embroidery

I know Shaw and the surviving mills in the area and was fascinated by the history, the lives of the mill girls and the conditions in which they worked.

From a book on the Lancashire Textile Industry 64th Edition published in 1949 I found that Lily Mills, Ltd Shaw was a cotton and rayon spinner manufacturer, one of many that have since disappeared across Lancashire.

LILY MILLS, LTD., Shaw; 159,764 mule and 32,832 ring spindles; 40s carded Egyptian twist and D.W.; 50/120 combed Egyptian weft, twist, and D.W.; 35/50 super white hosiery carded and combed on cop and cone; also spun rayon and mixture yarns on ring tube and cone. Pay day third Wednesday, by cheque. Royal Exchange, F3, daily. TA "Lily Mills, Shaw." TN Shaw 7264. Frank Swift, general mgr.; R. Howard, salesman; P. Sunderland, sec.—See advt.

Lily Mills Ltd, Shaw, Oldham 1904 - 1969

This record is held by Oldham Local Studies & Archives

Reference: D-HIAF/F/1/8

Title: Lily Mills Ltd, Shaw, Oldham

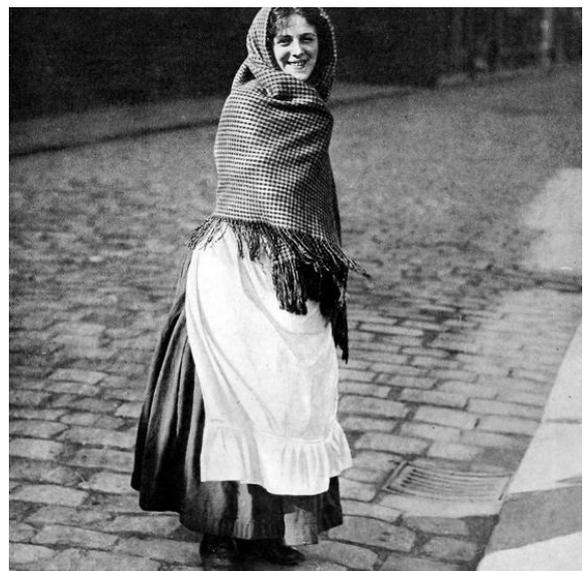
Date: 1949, 1950

Held by: Oldham Local Studies & Archives



Lily Yarns

- Fine Egyptian or Spun Rayon – are chosen by many Manufacturers whose Fabrics are household names throughout the world.



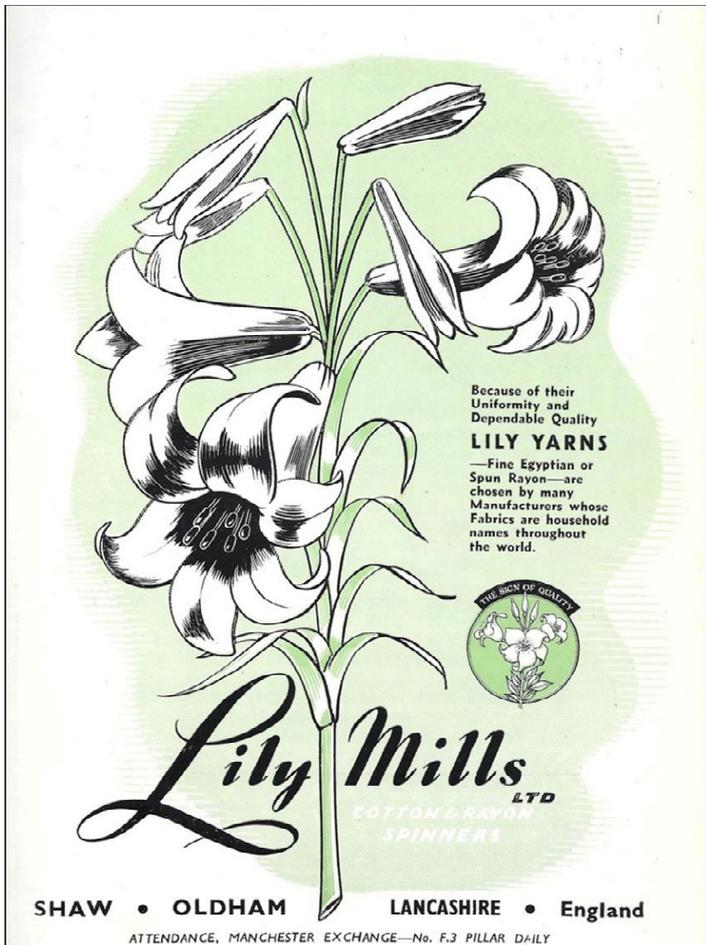
Lancashire mill girl



Lily Mills, Shaw, Lancashire – free style textured embroidery

In the same book I found an advertisement for Lily Yarns and used this as the starting point for a textured free style embroidery using a variety of specialist stitches...

The framed embroidery measures 17.50 x 13.50 inches and is worked on calico in a variety of threads ranging from matt crochet cotton to DMC floss and Cotton P rle No 5 and No 5.



Embroidered extracts from 'Lily Mills'

Stitches used:

Back stitch Back stitch whipped	Stem stitch	Wheatear stitch
Lazy daisy stitch	Mountmellik stitch	Satin stitch
Threaded back stitch	Fly stitch	Detached fly stitch
Cable chain stitch	Colonial knots	Double knot stitch
Chain stitch	Whipped chain stitch	Running stitch

Lily Mills, Shaw, 2004.

Lily (No.1)	G. Stott	Linney Lane  53°34'47"N 2°05'18"W	1904	standing	118
	Notes: Currently part of Littlewoods' Shaw National Distribution Centre who have adapted and extended the mill for offices and warehousing for their catalogue distribution operations. It's linked on four levels to Lily (No.2) mill by a massive bridge. Workers based here seldom refer to this mill as Lily or Lily 1 instead preferring to use the term 'Shaw 1'. ^[3]				
Lily (No.2)	G. Stott	Linney Lane  53°34'47"N 2°05'11"W	1918	standing	104
	Notes: Currently part of Littlewoods' Shaw National Distribution Centre who have adapted the mill for warehousing and bulk storage for their catalogue distribution operations. It's linked on four levels to Lily (No.1) mill by a massive bridge and to Newby (Elm) mill by a newer building. It's also linked on one level by another huge bridge to the company's new sorting centre built on the site of the Dee, Ash and Vale mills. The mills engine house was demolished to make way for the latter bridge. Workers based here seldom refer to this mill as Lily or Lily 2 instead preferring to use the term 'Shaw 2'				

1919 Lily Mills, Shaw, Lancashire

Part 2 – Creating a small embroidery using an HP InkJet printer

Elizabeth Almond

Using part of an advertisement for LilyMills from 1919 and an extract from a 1949 advertisement for the same mill I wanted to create a small embroidery to compliment the main Lily Mills embroidery.

Whilst I am aware of the techniques involved in transferring images onto fabric via a computer, it does require some specialist materials and a degree of confidence with computers and printers.

However, printing a photograph on to fabric can be as simple as printing a normal photograph. I have experimented using self- adhesive labels and freezer paper ironed on to fabric to stabilise the fabric before passing it through the printer to create backgrounds and designs.



Pictures ready to be altered in Adobe Photoshop CS5

Method:

Using Adobe Photoshop CS5 I adjusted the brightness and contrast. I increased the size of the black circle to emphasise the 'Sign of Quality' and arranged both pictures on an A4 paper. I cut a piece of calico the same size as an A4 sticky label and mounted the calico on the label being careful to trim off any loose strands. The PDF was then printed off in the usual way. Note: the calico 'paper' was laid face down in the paper tray.

Whilst the majority of needlewomen will continue to produce their designs in ways they are comfortable with, this is worth investigating. My main concern would be:

- how long the inks retain their colour on the fabric,
- whether it would be washable and
- any long term effect the chemicals may have on the threads and fabric.

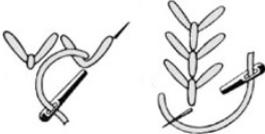
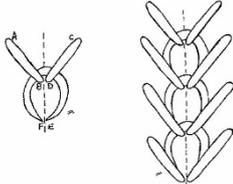
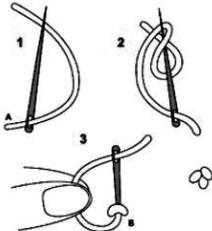
I would only use this technique for small projects rather than the family heirloom!



The two pieces were cut out and backed with medium weight iron-on interfacing to reduce fraying. Simple black back stitch hold the two pieces in place. A layer of fine wadding was tacked to the calico and the textured embroidery stitches were worked in cream Cotton P rle No 8 through the wadding.

Work in progress 1919 Lily Mills

Stitches used:

<p>Running stitch</p> 	<p>Fly stitch – can be worked as individual Stitches or in bands</p> 
<p>Wheatear stitch</p> 	<p>Colonial knots</p> 

The embroidery was then pressed and framed to match 'Lily Mills'.

