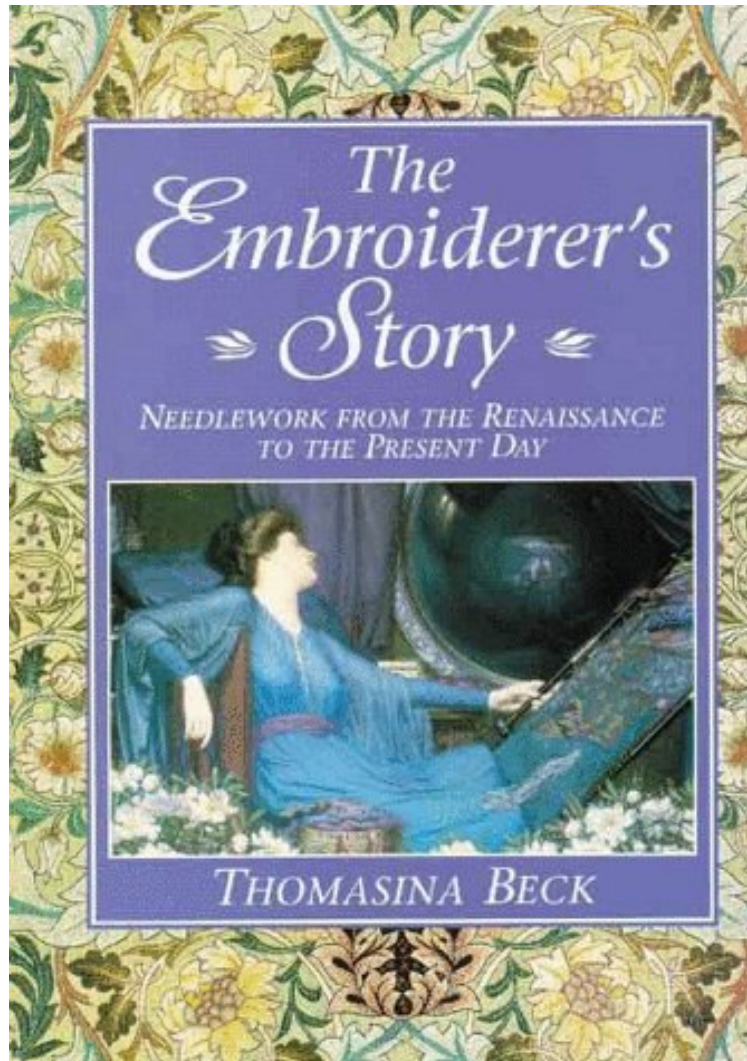


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The Embroiderer's Story: Needlework from the Renaissance to the Present Day

Thomasina Beck

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Thomasina Beck : The Embroiderer's Story: Needlework from the Renaissance to the Present Day before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Embroiderer's Story: Needlework from the Renaissance to the Present Day:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book By Vivian Lee This is a well written and well illustrated book about the history of embroidery. It is an enjoyable read, and the pictures are beautiful! There are examples of embroidery techniques popular in history, as well as pictures of paintings that show embroidery that only

exists in paintings. So much textile history is lost, and sometimes paintings and etchings are all that is left for examination. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Great Gift book for the Needleworkers in Your Life By drdebs If you are looking for a gift for a needleworker, either yourself or someone you like, consider buying this book for them. It is a beautiful walk through the history of needlecrafting from the Renaissance (mainly in England), and it has beautiful pictures and an engaging text. The reader will have a better understanding of how the needlearts effected all aspects of material culture in the periods considered. Here needlework is treated as a long continuum of women's interests and knowledge, along with the variations that made each period unique. Great for history buffs, too! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Doubly high praise for this book By Jane in Milwaukee The praise is doubled because I love needlework, I love history and I love studying the history of needlework. This book goes a giant leap beyond that and presents not just a history of needlework from Renaissance days to now but discusses the embroiderers themselves and how they have been depicted through the centuries. For example, the lady in the cover portrait is looking languidly at her beautiful artistry but there is some anguish in her eyes: the title is "I am Half-Sick of Shadows" by Sidney Meteyard (1913). The chapters follow English history: The Elizabethan Embroiderer The Stuart Embroiderer The Georgian Embroiderer Regency Interlude The Victorian Embroiderer The Twentieth-century Embroiderer I have hundreds of needlework books and dozens of history books on my favorite subject: Tudor England. My 2 all-time favorite historic figures are Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. On the very first page of the first chapter a gorgeous portrait of Arbella Stuart appears. There is a detailed discussion of how in 1600 this teenager wanted to impress her queen by making an extremely complicated "scarf or head veil of lawn cutwork flourished with silver and silk of sundry colours." Arbella was related to Elizabeth and was also Mary Stuart's niece, her father Charles being Henry Lord Darnley's little brother. Arbella was over the moon when Elizabeth wrote her note, as the author describes as "from one embroiderer to another" that she would be glad to know the technique. On the following page, we are then treated to a full-page color portrait of Elizabeth of about the same year in an exceptionally gorgeously embroidered dress with whispery gauze over puffed blackwork sleeves and a wide skirt fairly sagging with goldwork. In between, Ms. Beck takes the time to show a bw 1605 portrait of a woman whose dress has cutwork, 2 sketches of cutwork patterns from Sibmacher's Modelbuch (model book) of 1597 and 9 little detailed diagrams how to do cutwork. Later, you come to the 1598 Jane Bostocke sampler, the oldest stitch-signed and dated sampler in the English language. Then, as throughout the book, what embroidery was done, who was doing it and what they used is lovingly detailed. The inspiration behind doing this "women's work" and the drive to make their pieces the most luxurious and complicated as they could. Whole pages are covered with between 1 and 5 or 6 pictures, mostly in color. It appears that every painting showing anyone doing any needlework in the last 400 years is pictured in this book. I can't find a single page that doesn't have an illustration on it but on many of the pages, the only text is the caption of the illustrations. Thomasina Beck's expertise as an embroiderer and historian are beautifully displayed here. Being on lecture panels at the Victoria Albert Museum in London and having all those magnificent pieces of embroidery to examine and analyze are put to great use in the authorship of this book. I heartily recommend it.

Explore the rich history of the age-old art of embroidery with this exquisitely illustrated and spellbinding volume. Embroiderers from Elizabethan times to the present day are brought vividly to life through the use of a wide array of sources, including books, diaries, paintings, and of course embroideries. Inspiration, design, and the changing uses of needlework are discussed in detail. The impact of new tools and materials are described in their social context-- from the first truly sharp scissors and needles in Elizabethan times to the sewing machine and photocopier of the twentieth century. Samplers show how successive generations learned their craft, and motifs from their work and from long-lost patterns books are reproduced and adapted for modern usage.

From Booklist To re-create the lives of accomplished embroiderers about whom little is known, Beck surveys historical writings in the form of diaries, biographies, and novels. From the Renaissance to more recent periods, Beck's research yields a panorama of individual portraits that depict the girls and women responsible for much of the fine needlework pictured: elaborate samplers, bookbindings, ornate tapestries, and garments embellished with exquisite patterns. Profusely illustrated with examples of the art form that has survived throughout centuries, the book includes reproductions of pages from rare tomes and oil paintings depicting interiors and richly detailed clothing. With these images Beck offers an expansive trove of design sources for contemporary embroiderers in a solid and inspiring resource. Alice Joyce