

Survey of Medieval Needlework

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The topic of needlework is so big that any one class isn't going to be able to do it justice. The bibliographies in this handout are a starting point for your continued research into this fascinating art form. If you have any feedback/questions/concerns or find something you think I might enjoy, please contact me (email above). --RdA

Scope: Pretty much anything you can do with fingers, needle, hook, or other tools, *once* a thread already formed, so Spinning, Dyeing and Felting are not covered. Fabric making (weaving, knitting, etc.) and construction techniques covered but not patterns of garments.

Different stages of needlework:

Thread ⇒ weaving ⇒ fabric ⇒ sewing ⇒
embellishment

How is needlework used?

- Garb: sewing garments, ornamenting hems, cuffs, other decorative panels and motifs
- Ecclesiastic (church): copes, albs, chasubles, mitres, etc.
- Household Linens: sheets, curtains, bed hangings, tapestries, pillowcases, runners, more.
- Household furnishings: rugs, table carpets.
- Regalia: favors, wallhangings, banners, funeral cloths, etc.
- Personal items: book covers, boxes, purses/pouches, other small personal items.
- Heraldic: clothing/regalia, wallhangings, banners, funeral cloths, etc.

Where to find needlework information?

- Archaeology
- Art history
- Cultural history
- Art (two and three dimensions)
- Illuminated manuscripts

Types of thread used in historical needlework:

- Linen
- Silk (Soie d'Alger is the silk equivalent to DMC floss, Soie Platte is flat silk)
- Wool (crewel, Persian, and tapestry weights)
- Cotton (floss, perle cotton) [cotton floss is the "substitute" for silk]
- Metals (silver & gold)

Types of fabrics used in historical needlework:

- Linen:
- Silk
- Wool
- Cotton
- Velvet
- Other (hemp)

Geographical areas/cultures to ponder:

- Greek/Byzantine/Roman
- Anglo-Saxon England/England (post-1066)
- Ireland/Scotland/Wales
- Spain (early/late)/Portugal
- France/Germany/Italy
- Netherlands
- Eastern Europe/Russia
- China/Japan/Mongol/Steppes
- Iceland/Scandinavia (Norse/late)
- Middle Eastern

Tools and accessories:

- Looms (warp-weighted, standing, inkle, strap)
- Tablet (card) weaving cards
- Shuttles
- Needles (embroidery and knitting)
- Hooks
- Scissors
- Bobbins
- Pillows
- Hoops
- Frames/stands/stretchers
- Thimbles
- Pincushions
- Boxes/baskets
- Bodkins
- Needlecase
- Spools/Winders
- Tape measures
- Beeswax
- Pins

BASIC JOINERY (HANDSEWING)

How medieval garments were put together (this is construction as opposed to patterns).

Burnham, Dorothy K. Cut My Cote. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 1997.

Crowfoot, Elisabeth, Frances Pritchard and Kay Staniland. Textiles and Clothing c.1150-1450. London: HMSO, 1992.

Jones, Heather Rose (writing as Tangwystyl verch Morgant Glasvryn). "Archeological Sewing" West Kingdom Spring Collegium class, 2001. [online at: www.virtue.to/guest_authors/archaeological_sewing.html]
Fabulous analysis of sewing stitches from antiquity through middle ages.

Mohr, Lisa. (writing as Countess Elisabeth de Rossignol) Handsewing, lthra class notes, 2003.

Panye, Blanche. The History of Costume: From Ancient Mesopotamia Through the Twentieth Century. Harpercollins College Div, 1992. ISBN 0060471417.

Taxidermy Reference Photos, "Sewing the Baseball Stitch"
[online at: <http://www.taxidermyreference.com/Stitches.html>]

CROCHET

Crochet is loops which can be made without reference to where the last loop was made.

"The most rigorous (if concise) discussion of the historic evidence that I have seen is by Lis Paludan in her book "Crochet: History and Technique" (Interweave Press, 1995, p.10) where she notes that an extensive examination of lace on European church vestments fails to turn up any examples of crochet before the late 19th century -- the time when the technique first appears in popular handicraft literature as well. I highly recommend Paludan's book on the topic -- she goes into a fair amount of detail on various different thread techniques that can be mistaken for crochet on superficial examination, as well as techniques that are related to it structurally. .---Heather Rose Jones (writing as Tangwystyl verch Morgant Glasvryn), <http://www.ku.edu/~medieval/melcher/19991001.med/msg00231.html>

Paludan, Lis. Crochet: History and Technique. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave Press, 1995.

EMBROIDERY

Historical embroidery techniques:

- Assisi work (negative imaging)
- Blackwork
- Chain stitch
- Long-armed cross-stitch
- Or nué
- Running stitch/double running
- Appliqué
- Brick stitch
- Cross-stitch
- Metal embroidery
- Plait stitch
- Split stitch (Opus Anglicanum)
- Beading
- Couching and Laidwork
- Diapering
- Needlepoint
- Quilting
- Stem stitch (outline stitch)

Arnold, Janet. Queen Elizabeth's Wardrobe Unlock'd. Quite Specific Media Group Ltd, 2001.

Bath, Viginia Churchill. Embroidery Masterworks. Henry Regnery Co.

Bennett, Elizabeth (writing as Godwin, Airmid). "A Needlemade Oriental rug of the Renaissance". In Tournaments Illuminated, 71:28-31.

Cennini. Craftsman's Handbook (Il Libro dell' Arte). Dover reprint, 1978.
Reprint of Ren. Italian manuscript. One section tells artists how to draw patterns for embroiderers.

Christie, A.G.I. English Medieval Embroidery. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1938.
THE book on opus anglicanum methods and materials with many black and white pictures (only a few color plates). Discusses both style and technique, great pictures and diagrams. Out of Print; available

through ILL, though the copy I got was so fragile I didn't feel right taking any photocopies. Large folio size tome, 16"h x 12"w x 3"d.—Rafaella.

Dawson, Barbara. Metal Thread Embroidery. London: Oxford University Press, c.1935.

Dean, Beryl. Ecclesiastical Embroidery. London: B. T. Batsford, 1989.

Don, Sarah. Traditional Embroidered Animals. NY: Sterling Publishing Co., 1990.

Historical embroidery techniques within the context of the title, that of animals. It's a general survey book-- there's a section here and there on just about every major historical embroidery technique.

Drysdale, Rosemary. The Art of Blackwork Embroidery. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975.

Epstein, Kathleen. A New Modelbook for Spanish Stitch. Austin: Curious Works Press, 1993.

Estep, Katherine. (writing as Doña Clare de Estepa). "Clare's Favorite Embroidery Books"
<http://www.planetc.com/users/derwyddon/favbooks.html>

Annotated bibliography of needlework books for SCA purposes. See her page on Assisi embroidery as well: (<http://www.planetc.com/users/derwyddon/assisi.html>)

Freeman, Margaret B. The St. Martin Embroideries. Greenwich, CT: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1968.

Discusses in detail one set of 15th c. embroideries. Excellent closeups.

Gabrielle Chasserresse de Chevreuil, "Mounting Needlework for Framing or Display", In Tournaments Illuminated, Autumn (1999) #132, 22-26.

Geddes, Elisabeth and Moyra McNeill. Blackwork Embroidery. Dover Publications, 1976.

German Renaissance Patterns for Embroidery: A Facsimile Copy of Nicholas Bassée's New Modelbuch of 1568.

Introduction by Kathleen Epstein. Austin, Texas: Curious Works Press, [1994]. ISBN 0-9633-3314-3.

Facsimile pattern book. Lots of historical patterns: Spanish work, lacis, counted satin stitch, and couched cordwork.

Gostelow, Mary. The Complete Guide to Needlework Techniques and Materials. Chartwell Books, Inc., 1982, ISBN 0890095973.

Isela di Bari says see p. 30 for an example of historical evenweave linen canvas fabric.

Gonul, Macide. 1969. "Some Turkish Embroideries in the Collection of the Topkapi Sarayi Museum in Istanbul." Pp.43-76 in Kunst Des Orients Section VI. Ponting, N. B. Harte (eds.). London: Heinemann.

Gudjonsson, E.E. 1977. Medieval Icelandic embroidery. In: Gervers, V. (ed.) Studies in textile history in memory of Harold B. Burnham. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada.

H-Needlework Archives [HNW, Historical Needlework discussion list]

[online at: <http://www.ansteorra.org/mailman/listinfo/h-needlework>]

Hunter of Montlaw, David (writing as Baron David of Moffat), "Opus Anglicanum: the Stem and Split Stitch", handout from Needlework Ithra, 28 March 1998.

Isela di Bari. "Canvaswork" (2001) in West Kingdom Needleworkers Guild, Articles by Members and Friends.

Online at: [<http://www.bayrose.org/wkneedle/Articles/Canvaswork1.html>].

Great overview with pictures of historical canvaswork techniques (needlepoint/tent stitch, turkey work, brick, long-armed cross stitch, etc.)

Karen Larsdatter. "Cross Stitch Embroidery in the Middle Ages and Renaissance"

[online at: <http://www.florilegium.org/files/TEXTILES/p-x-stitch-art.html>]

"It is rare to see cross stitch done as the sole stitch on any pre-Renaissance embroidery in western Europe. Generally, cross stitch was used in addition to other work, as split stitch, satin stitch, and so forth."

- King, Donald. Opus Anglicanum: English Medieval Embroidery. London: The Curwen Press, 1963.
Exhibition catalog. Quality of pictures better than other works.
- King, Donald and Santina Levey. The Victoria and Albert Museum's Textile Collection: Embroidery in Britain from 1200 to 1750. New York: Canopy Books, 1993.
- Miller, Joyce. "Almoner's Purse, French, circa 1340"
[online at: <http://www.doctorbeer.com/joyce/emb/almopouch/almopouch.htm>]
Documentation for needlework purse based on 1340 extant example. Scans of the original included.
- Mitchell, Timothy J. (writing as Master Richard Wymarc), "A Stitch Out of Time: 14th & 15th century German counted thread embroidery." Compleat Anachronist pamphlet series, July 1996, Volume 86. [Also online at: <http://home.flash.net/~wymarc/asoot/stitch/cover.htm>.]
- Oliveira, F. Baptista de. História e técnica dos tapetes de Arraiolos. (4th ed.) Lisbon: Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, 1983.
In Portuguese. Best book on Arraiolos rugs showing extant late-period examples and techniques.
- Salazar, Kim Brody (writing as Ianthe d'Avernoigne). The New Carolingian Modelbook. Albuquerque: Outlaw Press, 1995. ISBN 0-9642082-2-9
TNM contains more than 230 counted thread patterns from before 1600 - all with specific citations of provenance and date.
- Saunders, Sally, Anne Butcher, and Debra Barrett. Royal School of Needlework Embroidery Techniques. London: B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1998. ISBN 0 7134 8401 2.
- Schuette, M. and S. Muller-Christiansen. A Pictorial History of Embroidery. New York: 1964.
Available in both English and German. Extremely good overview work; LOTS of pictures of historical examples, and good section on technique. Out of print, very expensive, use Interlibrary Loan.
- Stone, Patricia. Portuguese needlework rugs: the time-honored art of Arraiolos rugs adapted for modern handcrafters. McLean, VA: EPM Publications, 1981.
- Staniland, Kay. Medieval Craftsmen: Embroiderers. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991.
Full of pictures of historical examples, including quilting and appliqué.
- Strozy, Julie (writing as Giuliana Benevoli), "Basic Couching" Needlework Ithra class notes, March 1998.
- Vinciolo, Federico. Renaissance Patterns for Lace, Embroidery and Needlepoint: An unabridged facsimile of the "Singuliers et nouveaux portraits" of 1587. [s.n.]: Dover publications, [s.d.]. ISBN 0-4862-2438-4.
- Wilson, David M. The Bayeux Tapestry. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.
Definitive book on the tapestry (which is really an embroidery).
- Wilson, Erica. Crewel Embroidery. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1962.
- Wilson, Erica. Erica Wilson's Embroidery Book. Scribner, 1985. ISBN 0684163187.
- Zwanzig, Elizabeth [currently Elizabeth Bennett] (writing as Airmid Godwin). "A Catalog of Medieval Embroidery Stitches" in Known World Handbook (30 Year edition). Milpitas, CA: Society for Creative Anachronism/Office of the Stock Clerk, [n.d.], p. 159-163.

GENERAL NEEDLEWORK/MATERIALS/TEXTILES

Anchor Manual of Needlework. Interweave Press, 1990.

Antrobus, Mary Symond and Louisa Preece. Needlework through the Ages. London: Hodder & Strough, Ltd., 1928.

Includes non-European work. Fewer plates than Schuette. [Mary Symond Antrobus is also cited sometimes as Mary Symonds]

Atlantia, Kingdom of. Ministry of Arts and Sciences links megasite, "Embroidery and Needlework Links" [online at: <http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/topics/embr.htm>]

Atlantia, Kingdom of. Ministry of Arts and Sciences links megasite, "Textiles and Weaving Links" [online at: <http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/topics/text.htm>]

Clabburn, Pamela. The Needleworker's Dictionary. New York: William Morrow, 1976.

de Dillmont, T. 1996. The complete encyclopedia of needlework. Third edition. Running Press, Philadelphia.

Emery, I. 1966. The primary structure of fabrics. Textile Museum, Washington D.C.

Geijir, Agnes. 1983. "Textile Finds from Birka." pp. 80-99 in Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe: Essays in Memory of Professor E. M. Carus-Wilson (Pasold Studies in Textile History, 2), E. M. Carus-Wilson, K. G.

Hald, M. 1980. Ancient Danish textiles from bogs and burials: a comparative study of costume and Iron Age textiles. National Museum of Denmark.

Harris, J. (ed.) 1993. Textiles, 5,000 years: an international history and illustrated survey. Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York.

Hoffmann, M. "Beds and bedclothes in medieval Norway". Pp. 351-367 in: Harte, N.B. and K.G. Ponting (eds.) Cloth and clothing in Medieval Europe: essays in memory of Professor E.M. Carus-Wilson. Studies in Textile History 2. London: Heinemann Educational Books, 1983.

Jorgensen, L.B. 1992. North European textiles until AD 1000. Aarhus University Press.

Lamm, Carl Johan. Cotton in Mediaeval Textiles of the Near East. Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner, 1937. (14th-15th century fragments)

Levey, Santina M. Elizabethan Treasures: The Hardwick Hall Textiles. Harry N Abrams, 1998.

Mitchell, D.M. 1989. 'By your leave my masters': British taste in table linen in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Textile History 20:49-77.

Owen-Crocker, G.R. 1986. Dress in Anglo-Saxon England. Manchester University Press.

Thomas, Thelma K. 1990. Textiles from Medieval Egypt, A.D. 300-1300 (Carnegie Series on Egypt). University of Pennsylvania Press.

Thornton, Peter. The Italian Renaissance Interior, 1400-1600. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1991.

van Reeseme, E.S. 1926. Contribution to the early history of textile technics. Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen.

Wilson, K. 1979. A history of textiles. Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado.

KNITTING/NJALBINDING/SPRANG

Knitting is loops made in rows with each new loop coming up thru the loop directly below it.

“As with all knitted items at this time [Italy 1562], Eleanora’s stockings were knitted in the round on a set of five double-pointed needles. Knitting back and forth on single-point needles or a knitting frame to create a flat pieces was relatively new.” –Strehl (TI #126, p. 15)

“Nålbinding is a textile technique that uses a single, eyed, needle to create fabric by sewing non-continuous lengths of thread in a fashion that in its most basic form is a series of buttonhole stitches and in more complex forms are threaded together. In Nålbinding, the thread is not pulled tight against itself forming a hard knot, but the stitches are tensioned, often around a thumb or needle, leaving a meshwork of interlocking loops of thread. [...] The resulting fabric is generally built spiraling up row by row and can be very elastic or quite stiff depending on the variation and material used.”-- Anne Marie Decker

“Sprang is a type of interlinked or intertwined fabric. To get an idea of how it is made, think of braiding 3 strands of yarn which are fixed at both ends. The yarn at both ends is braided with an open area in the middle, and the two ends are mirror images. That braid is a small piece of sprang. If more strands are used, the fabric can have a complex pattern of large and small holes, or any number of other variations.

Sprang has a very long history. The oldest example of sprang (found in a bog in Denmark) dates from 1400 BC, and the technique was probably in use in Scandinavia through the 18th century. Sprang has been used for articles that need to be slightly stretchy, like stockings, and also for open-work like hairnets, and decorative items such as belts.”—Phiala’s sprang page, <http://www.stringpage.com/sprang/sprang1.html>

Collingwood, Peter. 1974. The techniques of sprang: Plaiting on stretched threads. Watson-Guptill Publications, New York.

Croft, Pauline. 1987. "The rise of the English stocking export trade." Textile History, 18(1, Spring):3-16.

Decker, Anne Marie (writing as Sigrid). "What is Nålbinding?" [online at: <http://www.geocities.com/sigridkitty/>]

Ekstrand, Gudrun. "Some Early Silk Stockings in Sweden." Textile History 13:2 (1982), 165-182.

Farrell, Jeremy. Socks and Stockings. London: B.T. Batsford, 1992.

Gómez-Moreno, Manuel. El Panteon Real de las Huelgas de Burgos. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, 1946. (13th century Spanish pillows)

Grass, Milton N. "The Origins of the Art of Knitting." Archaeology 8:3 (1955), 184-190.

Gudjónsson, E.E. "Some Early Examples of Icelandic Knitting." Archaeological Textiles Newsletter 3 (1986), 3, 5.

Hald, Margrethe 1980. "History and Distribution of Looped Needle-Netting." Pp. 298-310 in Ancient Danish Textiles from Bogs and Burials : A Comparative Study of Costume and Iron Age Textiles by Margrethe Hald. Translated by Jean Olsen. Denmark : National Museum of Denmark. (Publications of the National Museum. Archaeological-Historical Series, vol. XXI) ISBN 8748003123.

Levey, S.M. "Illustrations of the History of Knitting Selected from the Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum." Textile History 1 (1969), 183-205.
16th century Spanish liturgical gloves, 16th century English felted cap.

Lewandowski, Marcia. Folk mittens: techniques and patterns for handknitted mittens. Loveland, Colo.: Interweave Press, 1997.

Lind, Vibeke. Knitting in the Nordic tradition. Asheville, N.C.: Lark Books, 1991.

Pegg, B. 1990. Braidmaking. Whitstable Litho Printers Ltd., Whitstable, Kent.

Rutt, Richard. A history of hand knitting. Loveland, Colo.: Interweave Press, 1989.

Skowronski, H. & M. Reddy. Sprang: Thread twisting: a creative textile technique. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1974.

Steffensen, Helga. Nalebinding. Odense: Borgens, 1975.

Thirsk, Joan. 1973. "The fantastical folly of fashion : the English stocking industry, 1500-1700", p. 50-73. In Textile History and Economic History: Essays in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann. Edited by N.B. Harte and K.G. Ponting. Manchester : University Press. ISBN 719005388.

Turnau, Irene. "The Diffusion of Knitting in Medieval Europe," in Cloth and Clothing in Medieval Europe: essays in memory of Professor E.M. Carus-Wilson, N.B. Harte and K.G. Ponting (eds.) (1983). London: Heinemann Educational Books, 368-390.

Woolley, Linda. 1994. "Arab-Islamic textiles : the Bouvier Collection, medieval Arab-Islamic textiles." Hali 16(Aug/Sept):94-103.

LACEMAKING

- Needle or filet lace - The oldest form of lace making is Network, some early examples date to 2000 BC. Network evolved from adding decorative filled in areas to nets. These decorative nets were made with the same techniques as nets used to catch small animals. This type of lace was used in the 1500's mostly for large pieces like bed coverlets, palls, altar frontals, and curtains. —Lynn McMasters
- Needle lace - Some of the most intricate laces were made by the needle lace technique. They range from simple and geometric to heavily scrolled. Needle lace has its origin in embroidery. By the later half to the 1400's undergarments were decorated with white embroidery. To add interest, embroiders soon started cutting out areas of the background fabric and edging them with the button hole stitch cutwork. This evolved to where more and more of the background threads were being removed and replaced with stitches (Reticella). Finally, lacers developed a technique which required no background fabric at all. This is called punto in aria (point in air).—Lynn McMasters
- Bobbin lace -As needle lace is to embroidery, bobbin lace is to weaving. In bobbin lace the threads are plaited, twisted and interwoven.[...] Bobbin lace became more popular than needle lace because it was lighter in texture and it worked well in Elizabethan costume.—Lynn McMasters

Bath, Virginia Churchill. Lace. Chicago, 1974. ISBN 0809282961.

Burkhard, Claire. Fascinating Bobbin Lace. Bern, Stuttgart, 1986.

Cook, Bridget M. Practical Skills in Bobbin Lace. New York: Dover Publications, 1987.

Earnshaw, P. Threads of lace from source to sink. Guilford: Gorse Publications, 1988.

Kraatz, Anne. Lace: History and Fashion. London: Thames and Hudson, 1989.

Kliot, Jules and Kaethe. Needle Laces: Battenburg, Point & Reticella. Berkley, CA, 1981.

Knight, Pauline. The Technique of Filet Lace. London: B.T. Batsford, 1980. ISBN 0-7134-1698-X
This gives detailed instructions on how to do filet lace netting, and even gives instructions on how to make a netting box, and how to jury-rig a netting instrument.

Levey, Santana, M. Lace: A History. Leeds, UK, 1990.
Highly recommended.

Levey, Santana M & Payne, P Le Pompe. 1559: Patterns for Venetian Bobbin Lace Ruth Bean, Bedford, 1983
A very useful book with reproductions as well as workings of the patterns.

Mincoff, E. & Marriage, M. Pillow Lace: A practical handbook Ruth Bean, Bedford, 1981
First published in 1907 this is one of the first practical bobbin lace books. It combines instruction with a practical history.

Palliser, Mrs Bury History of Lace Dover, New York, 1984
First issued in 1865 this was considered to be an exhaustive historical survey of lace and embroidery

Shepherd, Rosemary Introduction to Bobbin Lacemaking Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst NSW, 1995
This book is probably one of the best beginner books as her instruction are clear and easy to follow.

Simeon, Margaret The History of Lace Stainer and Bell, London, 1979
This book covers needle laces as well as bobbin lace. The reproductions are fantastic!

Waller, Kathleen. Introducing Filet Lace. self-published, 1987. no ISBN.
Booklet but good.

Ibid. More Filet Lace. self-published, 1987. no ISBN.

Vecellio, Cesare. Pattern Book of Renaissance Lace: A Reprint of the 1617 Edition of the Corna delle Nobili et Virtuose Donne, by Cesare Veccelio. New York, 1988. ISBN 0486258259.

Vinciolo, Federico. Renaissance Patterns for Lace, Embroidery and Needlepoint: An unabridged facsimile of the "Singuliers et nouveaux portraits" of 1587. [s.n.]: Dover publications, [s.d.]. ISBN 0-4862-2438-4.

QUILTING

Colby, Averil. Quilting. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.

Elspeth Semestress of Dunkel. "Puffed, stuffed & bombasted" in Filum Aurem [newsletter of the West Kingdom Needleworkers Guild], 2001.

International Exhibition Foundation. Portugal and the East Through Embroidery. Charles E Tuttle Co., 1985. ISBN 0883970384.

Isela di Bari. "Embroidered Dreams" in West Kingdom Needleworkers Guild, Articles by Members and Friends. Online at: [<http://www.bayrose.org/wkneedle/index.html>]. Accessed August 7, 2001.

Laning, Chris (writing as Christian de Holacombe). "A Survey of Historic Quilting", in Filum Aurem [newsletter of the West Kingdom Needleworkers Guild], 1998.

TOOLS

Berry, Robin (writing as Sabrina de la Bere), "Dressing a Slate Frame: All About Tension", 2003.
[online at: http://www.bayrose.org/needlework/Slate_Frame.html]

Groves, Sylvia. The history of needlework tools and accessories. Middlesex: Country Life Books/ Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd., 1966.

McConnel, Bridget. The Story of Antique Needlework Tools. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 1999.
Lovely pictures, thin on scholarship. Does have some pictures of surviving scissors and thimbles.

Rogers, Gay Ann. An Illustrated History of Needlework Tools. London: John Murray, 1983.
Upfront about being primarily Victorian. Not recommended.

Taunton, Nerylla. Antique Needlework Tools and Embroideries. Suffolk: Antique Collector's Club, 1997.

Wild, John Peter. Textile Manufacture in the Northern Roman Provinces. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1970.
Second century AD bronze needles in case.

WEAVING (fabric weaving in general)/ TABLET (Card) WEAVING/INKLE WEAVING/TAPESTRY

Barber, E. J. W. Prehistoric Textiles : The Development of Cloth in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages : With Special Reference to the Aegean. Princeton University Press, 1993.

Barber, E.J.W. Women's work: the first 20,000 years: women, cloth and society in early times. Norton Press, 1994.

Birrell, V. The textile arts. New York: Harper and Row, 1957.

Broholm, H.C. & M. Hald. Costumes of the Bronze Age in Denmark. Copenhagen: Contributions to the Archaeology and Textile History of the Bronze Age, 1940.

Budny, M. and D. Tweddle. "The early medieval textiles at Maaseik, Belgium". The Antiquaries Journal (1985) 65: 353-389.

Christie, A.G.I. Embroidery and Tapestry Weaving. New York: Pitman & Sons, c.1928.

Collingwood, Peter. The Techniques of Tablet Weaving. Watson-Guptill Publications, New York, 1982.
Some historical information, lots and lots of techniques. Highly recommended.

Crowfoot, G.M. "The tablet-woven braids from the vestments of St. Cuthbert at Durham". The Antiquaries Journal (1939) 19:57-80.

Crowfoot, G.M. "Textiles of the Anglo-Saxon period in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology". Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (1950) 44:26-32.

Crowfoot, G.M. 1952. Anglo-Saxon tablet weaving. The Antiquaries Journal 32:189-191.

Dendel, E.W. The basic book of fingerweaving. New York , Simon and Schuster, 1974.

Geijer, Agnes. The History of Textile Art. London: Philip Wilson Publishers, 1979.

Hansen, Egon. Tablet Weaving: History, Technique, Colours, Patterns. Petaluma, CA: Books for Craftsmen, Inc., 1990.

This book is a good source for advanced techniques and historical information. It is difficult to decipher and definitely NOT a beginner's book. Out of print.

Muller-Christensen, S. 1977. Examples of mediaeval tablet-woven bands. pp. 232-236. In: Gervers, V. (ed.) Studies in textile history in memory of Harold B. Burnham. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada.

Priest-Dorman, Carolyn. (writing as Thora Sharptooth) "Handweaver's Bibliography"

[online at <http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/textilebiblio.html>]

ibid "Sprang Bibliography", [online at <http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/sprangbib.html>]

ibid. "Viking Embroidery Stitches and Motifs" , [online at: <http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/vikembroid.html>]

Verlet, Pierre, Michel Florisoone, Adolf Hoffmeister, and Francois Tabard. The Book of Tapestry: History and Technique (La Tapisserie Historie et Technique du XIV au XX Siecle). 1978(1965). Published by The Vendome Press, distributed by The Viking Press. ISBN 0-670-18015-7.

"Textiles in The Metropolitan Museum of Art." The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin. Winter 1995/96.

Woven Splendor: Five Centuries of European Tapestry in the Detroit Institute of Arts. ISBN:0-8143-2674-9. 1996.

SCA PUBLISHED RESOURCES:

Compleat Anachronist pamphlet series (needlework topics) from the SCA.org index:

#31 5/87 Blackwork Embroidery: A manual of techniques and ideas

#86 7/96 A Stitch Out of Time: 14th and 15th Century German Counted Thread Embroidery

#108 7/00 Fingerloop Braids

#114 1/02 Perugia Towels

History of a brocaded textile used for towels and tablecloths since the Middle Ages; includes weaving instructions and charted drafts

#115 4/02 Wrought with Flowers of Black Silk

An in-depth exploration of a popular style of blackwork embroidery fashionable in the late 16th century, with outlines and patterns based on historical examples

Tournaments Illuminated (needlework topics) from the SCA.org index:

NEEDLEWORK: EMBROIDERY		
Mounting Needlework for Framing or Display	Gabrielle Chasseresse de Chevreuil	Fall 1999 (#132)
Cross Stitch Embroidery in the Middle Ages and Renaissance	Karen Larsdatter	Summer 1998 (#127)
Simply Embroidery	Siban nî Sheaghda	Fall 1995 (#116)
Sixteenth Century Turkish Light Embroidery: Pattern Darning	Deonora Ridenow	Summer 1994 (#111)
A Fifteenth Century Embroidered Bag	Richard Wymarc	Summer 1993 (#107)
Transfer Ink for Embroidery	Leonie de Grey	Summer 1990 (#95)
A Blackwork Cap	Eowyn of Kincora	Summer 1990 (#95)
Opus Anglicanum	Cateline de la Mor	Winter 1989 (#93)
Some 16th Century Border Patterns for Blackwork Embroidery	Brigid ni Chiarain of Tethba	Fall 1989 (#92)
Queen Jane's Cuffs	Ciorstan MacAmhlaidh	Summer 1987 (#83)
Medieval and Renaissance Lace and Embroidery Patterns and Pattern Books	Airmid Godwin	Fall 1985 (#76)
A Needlemade Oriental Rug of the Renaissance	Airmid Godwin	Summer 1984 (#71)
A Catalog of Medieval Embroidery Stitches	Airmid Godwin	Winter 1983 (#69)
Motifs for Trim	Kathryn Goodwyn	Winter 1980 (#57)
<i>100 Embroidery Stitches</i>	Book review by Marynel of Darkhaven	#12

NEEDLEWORK: KNITTING		
Knitting Eleanora of Toledo's Stockings	Camilla de la Reynarde	Spring 1998 (#126)
The Age of Knitting	http://woodlyn.net/elspeth.htm Elspeth of Oakwood Court	Summer 1996 (#119)

TEXTILES		
"Cloth of Gold"	Cassandra of Glastonbury	Summer 2002 (#143)
<i>Ecclesiastical Pomp & Aristocratic Circumstance: A Thousand Years of Brocaded Tabletweoven Bands</i> by Nancy Spies	Book review by Tangwystyl verch Morgant Glasvryn	Winter 2001 (#137)
The History and Use of Cotton	Laudin d'Ælinor	Fall 1998 (#128)
<i>Byzantine Silk Weaving, AD 400 to AD 1200</i> by Anna Muthesius	Book review by Fiadnata ó Glenn Àlainn	Summer 1998 (#127)
<i>Textiles, Cordage and Raw Fibre from 16-22 Coppergate</i> by Penelope Walton	Book review by RoseMary Fleury FitzHugh	Fall 1997 (#124)
Floor-standing Band Looms	Ingvild Josefsdatter	Fall 1997 (#124)
A Thirteenth-Century Brocaded Belt	Ingvild Josefsdatter	Fall 1994 (#112)
Weaving Medieval Fabric: Wool Diamond Twills from the First to the Twelfth Centuries in Europe	Nicolette Bonhomme	Spring 1993 (#106)
<i>Tabletweaving: History, Techniques, Colors, Patterns</i> by Egon Hansen	Book review by Birgit av Birka	Summer 1992 (#103)
A Tablet Weaving Loom	William the Frogge and Elaine Bel Monte	Summer 1986 (#79)
A Thousand Flowers (millefleurs tapestries)	Beatrix of Die	Spring 1983 (#66)
O! What a Tangled Web We Weave: Tapestry Weaving and History	Alarba Bronwen the Tarquia	Winter 1982 (#65)
Some Relationships Between Medieval Textiles and Clothing	Robert Sartor van Pays-Bas	Fall 1981 (#60)
Spjaldvefnaður: Icelandic Double-Shed Card Weaving	Brynhildr Kormaksdottir	Fall 1978 (#48)
A Note on Single Shed Weaving	Sigismund Wasa Care	Fall 1978 (#48)
A View of Medieval Tapestry	Katherine Ardeth Galesimier	#24
The Warp Weighted Loom -- Part II	Sheen of Ire	#17
The Warp Weighted Loom	Sheen of Ire	#14

List of Suppliers (Three Mountains/Dragon's Mist/Mountain Edge area)

Acorns & Threads, Owner: Roz, (503) 292-4457
4475 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. #158, Portland, OR, 97225
Her shop is targeted at fine cross-stitch and hardanger artists. Will special order fabrics and books.

Aurora Silk, 503-286-4149
5806 N. Vancouver Ave, Portland, OR 97217 USA
<http://www.aurorasilk.com>

Fabric.com (formerly Phoenix Textiles)
<http://store.yahoo.com/phoenixtextiles/>
Online discount fabric supplier, great prices, good quality. Good cotton, linen, silk, and wool, especially blends.

Fabrics-store.com
<http://www.fabrics-store.com/Shop/enter.html>
Online discount fabrics house. Reportedly fabulous 100% linen.

Jo-Ann Fabrics & Crafts, (503) 639-2434
208 SW Tigard Plaza, Tigard, OR, 97223
Aida cloth and other evenweave fabrics available off the bolt (especially the wide stuff).

LACIS, (510) 843-7178, fax: (510) 843-5018
Lacemaker's supply store, <http://www.lacis.com/>
3163 Adeline St., Berkeley, CA 94703

Michaels Arts & Crafts, (503) 684-8255
17880 SW Lower Boones Ferry Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Michaels carry a nice line of wool-blend tapestry weight yarns, plus lots of other needlework supplies.

Needlepoint Plus, (503) 641-7100, M-S 10-5, except Thursday 10-9
8640 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Beaverton, OR 97008
Really nice shop with twisted silk and lots of colors and sizes of DMC perle cotton (especially hard to find #3!)

Northwest Wools, (503) 244-5024
3524 SW Troy St., Portland, OR
Their shop is target towards weavers. Lots of yarn and goodies including card weaving supplies. Carries Cleckheaton brand wool tapestry yarn.

Pastiche, SCA merchants: Foggy & Asha, email: pastinc@aol.com
3634 NE 19th, Portland, OR 97212
They carry Kreinik Silk Embroidery floss (flat silk). Catch them at events, especially large Kingdom events, like Twelfth Night and Kingdom Arts and Sciences, or send them an email to make an appointment to drop by or what their next event will be. They also sell fabrics and books.

Robin and Russ Handweavers, Inc., (800) WEAVE-91, <http://www.robinandruss.com/index.html>
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128
Fabulous store, mecca of weavers. Great for silk thread, books, looms, and accessory supplies (cardweaving cards and shuttles).

Threads & More, (503) 538-3577, Owner: Pat McGarraugh
602 E. 1st St. #B, Newberg, OR
Reported to have great customer service.

Woodland Woolworks, Phone: (503) 852-7376, Orders: (800) 547-3725, Fax: (503) 852-6685
<http://www.woodlandwoolworks.com/>, Email: info@woolworks.com
100 E Washington St., Carlton, OR 97111
Even more fabulous than Robin & Russ. Volume discounts, fabulous wool yarn (Cleckheaton!), patterns, tools, accessories. Don't take your credit card, just what cash you're willing to part with. ☺