



N O T I O N S

During a trade show last summer, I mentioned to Ann Blalock, Coats and Clark's Manager for Consumer Information, that the theme for this issue of *PieceWork* would be Love as Expressed through Needlework. When Ann described the sampler that her husband, a non-needleworker, had stitched to commemorate their twenty-fifth anniversary, I knew we had to include it. "John's Anniversary Sampler," in which Ann tells how John—in secret—conceived, designed, and stitched his special gift, may be found, along with stories and needlework treasures from other readers, in the Love and Weddings section on pages 54 through 61. Thanks to all who contributed; your generosity never ceases to amaze me.

The response to our call for reader participation has been so gratifying that we're offering further opportunities for you to contribute your needlework treasures. If you have or know of needlework objects and personal stories that symbolize Costume, Household Textiles, or Love and Weddings, themes we've chosen for the first three issues of 2006, please contact us (see the masthead on page 4 for contact information).

Since the November/December 2003 issue, the editorial and department pages of each issue have been headed by a different icon that is also a miniature chart. This issue's icon consists of the hearts from Merrily Beams's "Token of Affection Sampler" (see page 62). If you have stitched any of our icons, we'd love to hear from you.

As we put the finishing touches on this issue, we are also working on future issues. A serendipitous connection with our July/August Lace issue is the presence, July 31 through August 6 in Denver, of the International Old Lacers, Inc. (I.O.L.I.) for their annual convention. Welcome to this volunteer nonprofit association of people "who share an interest in the beauty and intrigue of lace"! The Rocky Mountain Lace Guild is hosting the event. For more information, visit www.internationaloldlacers.org; for membership information, contact Membership Chair Laurie J. Hughes, 191 State St., Framingham, MA 01702-2465.

Meanwhile, in Berkeley, California, Irish Crochet Lace: 150 Years of a Tradition, runs through July 30 at the Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. The museum, which opened in October 2004, preserves and maintains Kaethe and Jules Kliot's extensive collection of objects dating from pre-Columbian Peru to the early nineteenth century. For more information, call (510) 843-7290 or visit www.lacismuseum.org.

Whether lace or samplers, household textiles or a professionally made early-seventeenth-century man's wedding cloak (see page 22), all yield information about needlework's long and rich history. It's up to us, however, to keep the needlework tradition alive. I hope that this issue's love-inspired needlework will inspire you to share your own handmade treasures with someone else.