

It's here, our sixth annual Historical Knitting issue! In it you'll meet some extraordinary knitters. Among them are Anna Munster, Bertha Mae Shipley, and Faustino Quispe Cruz.


Ileana Grams-Moog describes how her mother, Anna Munster (1913–2010), a Jewish physician, survived World War II (1939–1945) in Europe in part by knitting gloves (“The Knitted Gloves That Saved My Mother’s Life,” page 27). Anna had learned to knit at the age of five while growing up in Bukovina, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She committed a pattern for gloves to memory and continued using that pattern throughout her life.

Bertha Mae Shipley (1893–1971), who was born in a hogan in Tó Haach'i', New Mexico, probably learned to knit at the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma, where in 1915 she became the school's first Navajo graduate (“Bertha Mae Shipley: A Navajo Knitter,” page 32). Bertha knitted throughout her life and loved to knit sweaters; one that she made in 1918 for her first child is shown on page 34. By 1961, Bertha Mae Shipley occupied the distinctive position of being “a single Navajo woman who owned property, had a pension and a trust fund, and was financially independent.”

And then there's Faustino Quispe Cruz (“Knitting on Peru’s Taquile Island,” page 12), who with his son, Marc Antony, and the other men of this island in Lake Titicaca knit traditional caps at the almost unimaginable gauge of about 22 stitches per inch (9 stitches per cm). The men of Taquile begin learning to knit when they are about eight, and, like Anna Munster and Bertha Mae Shipley, they keep knitting throughout their lives.

While preparing this issue, I came upon “Knitting: English Literature Before 1910” (available at <http://booksandwriters.co.uk/writer/K/knitting--english-literature-before-1910.asp>), a marvelous list of more than 200 knitting pattern books published in England between the 1830s and 1909. You'll find several titles mentioned in “The Delights and Perplexities of Victorian Knitting Books,” page 40.

Interweave founder and *PieceWork* creative director Linda Ligon comments at the end of her article on the Taquile knitters, “. . . [T]he knitting endures.” The statement is true not only of these knitters' exquisite caps but also of the work of all the knitters featured in this issue and of the art of knitting itself. Enjoy!



P.S. For more on Victorian English knitting, check out *PieceWork's* electronic pattern books, which include the first eight series of knitting patterns from *Weldon's Practical Needlework* as well as our most recent publication, the 1849 *Knitting Tales and Poetry: A Melange of Instruction and Amusement for the Work-Table*. Visit pieceworkmagazine.com and click on the “Knitting eBooks” button.

P.P.S. Don't forget our Pincushion Contest! See the page opposite for details.

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PieceWork (ISSN 1067-2249) is published bimonthly by Interweave Press LLC, 201 E. 4th St., Loveland, CO 80537. (970) 669-7672. Periodicals postage paid at Loveland, CO 80538 and additional mailing offices. All contents of this issue of *PieceWork* © Interweave Press LLC, 2012. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited, except by permission of the publisher. Subscription rate is \$29.95/year in the U.S., \$34.95/year U.S. funds in Canada, and \$39.95/year U.S. funds in foreign countries (surface delivery). Printed in the U.S.A.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *PieceWork*, PO Box 469107, Escondido, CA 92046-9107. SUBSCRIBERS: Please allow six weeks for processing address changes. Your customer number on the address label is your key to the best service possible. Please include it with all correspondence to avoid delays or errors.

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