



N O T I O N S

DO YOU HAVE everyday textile treasures? I do. They're among my most prized possessions. One is a luncheon cloth (part of me longs to return to the days when I might have had occasion to use a luncheon cloth) embroidered and appliquéd with bright red poppies and trailing vines. Another is a delicately embroidered white-on-white linen bread cloth. A third, a plain white doily surrounded by embroidered pansies, is marred by a giant rust spot that I haven't been able to remove, but I have a large dark blue glass vase that covers up the stain.

I use my treasures often. They make me smile, and they elicit fond memories of those who made them: my mom, my maternal grandmother, and a close family friend who considered my brother and me her grandchildren.

This issue is our salute to everyday textiles, ones that may evoke fond memories for many of you: Weave-It afghans, embroidered hand towels, pot holders, an embroidered laundry apron, crocheted monograms for marking towels, "useful stockings," and a back-of-the-neck scarf. I'd love to hear about your own everyday textile treasures (contact information is in the masthead at right).

In "Knitting for Survival: Anna Samens and Her Knitting Machine," Eileen Wheeler traces the life of an extraordinary woman. Beginning in 1909, when Anna was seventeen and working in her father's knitting factory in Riga, Latvia, and continuing on to Russia, back to Latvia, then to Germany, and finally to Canada, Anna had to rely on her knitting machine for her own and her family's survival.

Thanks to generous readers, *PieceWork* has a small collection of needlework magazines that were published in the United States in the early decades of the twentieth century. We peruse them frequently looking for inspiration or for actual projects. In "The 'Pin' Is Mightier than the Sword: Politics and Needlework Magazines in the Early Twentieth Century," Mary Dickinson Bird notes that some of these magazines also contained political messages and encouraged their readers to use their needlework to earn their own money. She presents examples from *Needlecraft*, which dates from 1909, and *The Modern Priscilla*, which was established in 1887.

I am delighted to announce two new offerings from *PieceWork*. *Knitting Traditions* is a 148-page special issue containing forty-three projects selected from previous issues of *PieceWork* magazine, most of which are no longer available. You'll find loads of really wonderful socks, shawls and scarves, baby bonnets and booties, sweaters, caps, and a few surprises. Check your local yarn shop or bookstore or visit www.interweavestore.com/Needlework.html.

The other new offering is a series of downloadable electronic pattern books. Four eBooks containing the first four series of Weldon's Practical Knitter from Volume 1 of *Weldon's Practical Needlework* now are available for downloading. Opening a window on turn-of-the-twentieth-century London, they contain instructions and illustrations for a total of 147 "Useful Articles for Ladies, Gentlemen and Children," including insertions and edgings, shawls, slippers, beaded cuffs, socks, baby bonnets and booties, quilt squares, mitts, hats, pincushions, sweaters, gloves, and scarves. The First Series also includes general information and definitions of knitting terms as they were in Victorian England, a valuable reference for the projects in this and subsequent series. Visit www.interweavestore.com/Needlework.html and click on eBooks for complete details.

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PIECEWORK

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CONTACT US

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Advertising: Stephanie Griess (877) 613-4630, e-mail sgriess@interweave.com, or visit pieceworkmagazine.com.

Retail sales: (800) 272-2193, e-mail sales@interweave.com.

Editorial inquiries: (970) 776-1436, e-mail piecework@interweave.com.

Interweave
201 East Fourth Street
Loveland, Colorado 80537
(970) 669-7672



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