

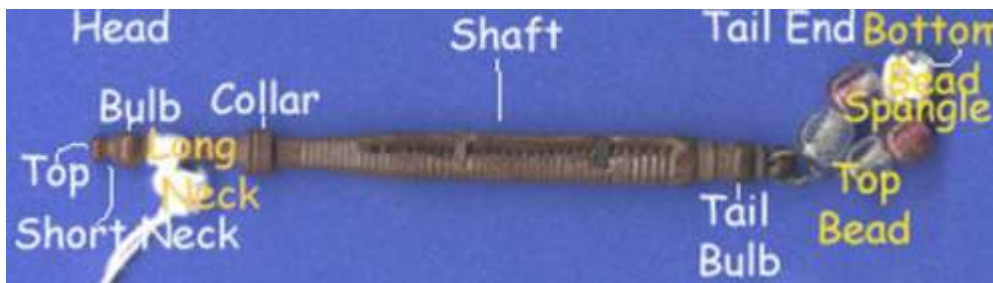
## TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE LACE BOBBINS.

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### INTRODCUTION:

Recently I undertook a mammoth job of annotating my photographic collection of lace bobbins. I suddenly found great difficulty in expressing technical turning terms, and indeed interpreting turning terms to allow a bobbin to be described so that, without a picture it would be possible to reconstruct the bobbin from the description. I think it possible that such an ideal is beyond me and I even question if it is really a necessary standard to achieve. Actually I mostly wanted to eulogize about the maker or the bobbin. In the end I did a bit of both and was not standard in my terms throughout the exercise. However there are some general terms that bobbin collectors should be able to use and understand, and this is what I want to introduce in this article.

### PARTS OF THE BOBBIN.



I have included two pictures here, so that between them you will see that there are discrepancies (i.e. shank and shaft) but the basic picture is that whatever words we use we will be able to interpret them within reason. Let us start at the top and work down.

BULB< SHORT NECK<HEAD

These comprise the parts where the thread is wound around to anchor the bobbin in place. This collection of turnings can be described as "large; bulbous; narrow, long, short" all of which are fairly subjective to the person describing the bobbin.



For example, I would describe the above as; *"bulbous, with a very narrow small-neck, curving gracefully but sharply to a head a little narrower than the bulb."*



This is what I would call *"squat with an extremely short, short-neck"*



This I would describe as *"flat bulb with sharp chamfer to the short-neck and small conical head"*.

The "LONG NECK".

Well the long neck can be *"short"*; *"long"* or *"conical"*. If the neck is normal length then it does not warrant a description.



Possibly the bottom neck is short, then normal then long, but the long can be much longer too! The middle neck is clearly conical, so too are the others to some extent, but many necks are parallel.

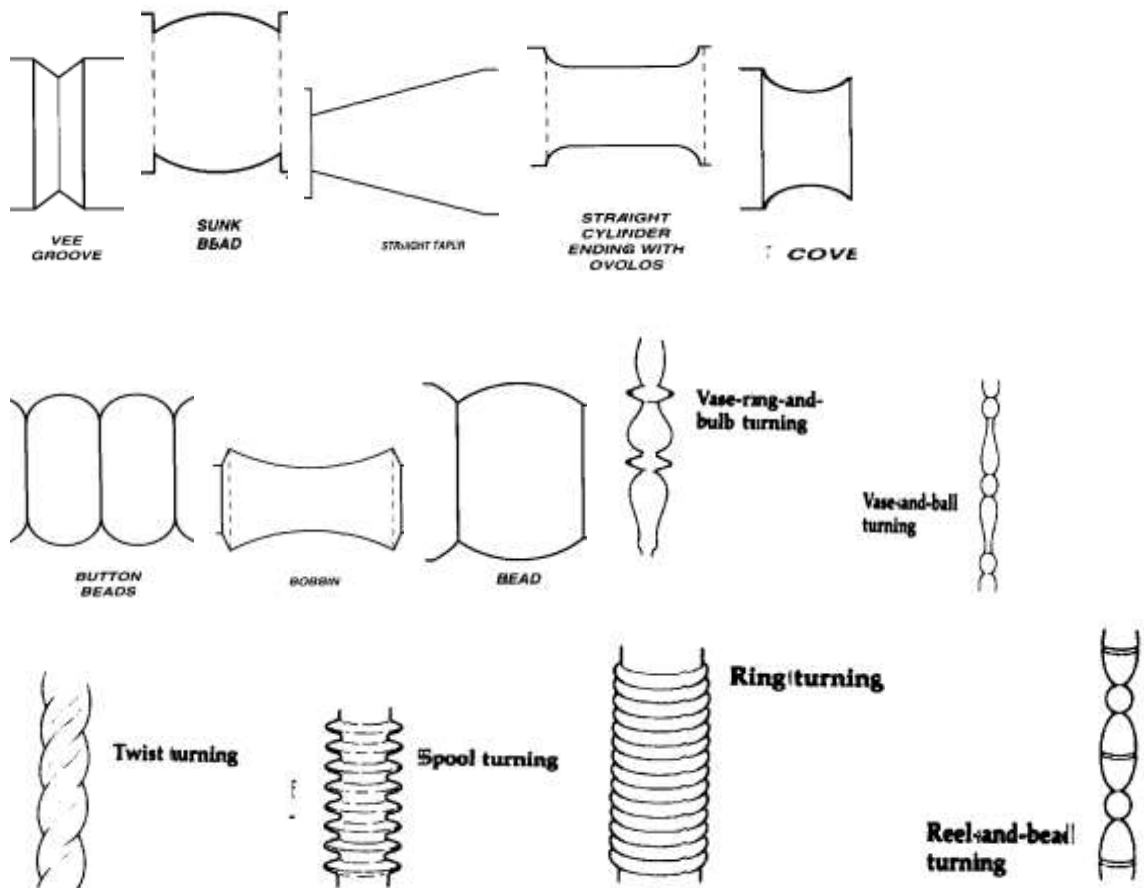
SHANK/SHAFT/BODY.

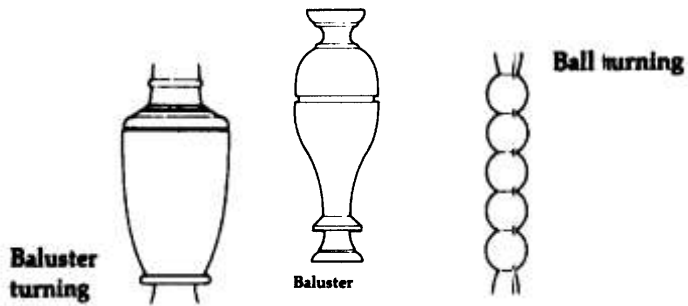
I prefer shank.

We now become totally embroiled in the hundreds of differing turning shapes with their variations; we add to that the specialties of bobbin makers (i.e. mother and babe etc.)

Firstly I start at the top of the shank (usually) and move down to the tail. Often you will see that the shaft can be described in thirds, or possibly halves and often the whole shaft. The top of the shaft is the neck, so this is where I start.

Here are some bobbin turners shapes that may be appropriate to your description.





You don't have to be accurate, for example I use the word "Grooves" to mean a number of technical terms that are included above. Please do not get yourself bogged down by the above. They are there for you to use if you really want to.

You can call the mother and babe chambers(best) /cages/lanterns/windows.

If there are more than a single chamber you can call the tiers (ie three tiers)/chambers (ie 4 chambers)

A "waist" is almost always in the top third.