

DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE TERMS.

L

Label Cloth: A heavily sized, plain woven cotton fabric; used for tags.

Labium: The under lip of the silkworm, upon which is situated the spinneret.

Lac Dye: A color of the same class as cochineal, consisting of small parasitical insects (*Coccus ficus*) united together by a resinous matter exuding from the twigs of the trees which they inhabit. A good lac should be soft, so as to be broken by the fingers. The fracture should not have a shining resinous appearance, and should give out a strong peculiar odor. If it be very hard, with a resinous fracture, it contains a large amount of shellac.

Lace: An open perforated fabric produced by the threads of which it is composed being twisted together in such a manner as to form patterns. The threads may be twisted either two, three, or more together, or thick and thin threads may be so combined. There are two kinds of lace—point and pillow. Point or needle made lace is said to have been invented by the Italians at a very early period, and during the 16th and 17th centuries became of very general use. Pillow lace is of more recent date, and Beckman asserts that the knitting of lace is a German invention, "found out before the year 1561, at St. Annaberg, by Barbara, wife of Christopher Utman." The statement does not appear to have ever been disproved. Both are now made extensively by machinery being measured according to the number of warp-threads within an inch; as six-point, ten-point, etc.

A plaited cord or tape of cotton or silk; used for shoes, corsets, etc.

Lace Bark: This tree is a native of Jamaica. Its outer bark is smooth and light colored, with glands on the surface and numerous lenticels. It resembles the bark of the Silver Birch. The inner cortical tissue or bast fibres are repeatedly interlaced, and resemble a leno or gauze fabric of a yellowish-white color. Used for making ropes; at one time it was employed in the West Indies for making slave whips. Sloane states that caps, ruffles, and even whole suits of clothes have been made from this peculiar tissue. Cloth made from the Lagetta have been imported at Liverpool under the name of *Guano*.

Lace Cloth: A light, summer textile for ladies' wear, having raised stripes, or narrow line checks, intermixed with embroidery or lace like effects upon the surface.

Lace Frame: A machine used in the manufacture of lace, the construction of which is ingenious and rather complicated. Also called *Bobbinet Frame*, *Point Net Frame*, *Warp Net Frame*, etc.

Lace Needles: Those needles, in lace making, to which the loops of yarn or thread are transferred, to produce the pattern, so that tuck-stitch, transferred-stitch or dropped-stitch can be used.

Lacet: Silk or cotton braid used to form patterns for laces, as well as lace made of such braid.

Lace Thread: A twisted thread, composed of two minor threads of great difference in their counts; in turn imparting a beady or lace like appearance to art needlework in which it is used. The counts of yarn used vary from 140's to 350's cotton yarn.

Lacing: Stringing the Jacquard cards together in an endless chain.

Lacmoid: A dark violet blue coal tar dyestuff, derived from resorcin.

Lacovries: An East Indian cotton cloth.

Lactarene: A mordant, used in calico printing. A yellowish, granular, pulverulent casein, or curd of milk, produced by precipitating skimmed milk with dilute acids.

Lactic Acid: Commercial lactic acid represents a pure yellow to brown syrup containing 50, and sometimes 80 per cent. of pure lactic acid, contaminated by sulphuric acid, sugar, dextrine, iron and other substances. In water, lactic acid is soluble in any proportion. Used principally as an assistant in mordanting wool with potassium bichromate; similarly with sulphuric acid and bichromate; the acid potassium salt (lactolin) is also recommended, claiming to give better equalization than tartar. In silk dyeing, lactic acid is used as a brightening agent.

Ladder Braid: Open work braid, presenting a ladder effect; used for laces and for trimmings.

Ladder Stitch: In embroidery or fancy work, a cross bar stitch resembling a ladder's rounds.

Ladder Tape: Stout cotton tape; used for Venetian blinds.

Ladies' Cloth: A term by which is distinguished a class of fine, broad, light-weight woolen goods, face finished; used for making ladies' wraps and dresses.

Lag: A wooden bar of the harness chain, used in connection with some classes of dobbies.

Lagos: A variety of African cotton having a moderately strong and coarse staple of brown color and very irregular in length.

Laguary: Variety of raw cotton from Colombia.

Lahar Crape: A soft draping silk and cotton fabric for evening wear.

Lahore: Knotted cotton and wool rugs made in India, the design consists usually of alternate rows of palm leaves.
English dress goods, made of cashmere wool.

Laid Wool: Wool from sheep which has been smeared with tar and butter as a protection from the rigor of winter.

Laid Work: Embroidery, consisting of couching.

Laine: French for wool.

Laine Brodee: A two-fold yarn, made of an open and firm Australia wool, used as filling in genuine Beauvais and Gobelin tapestries.

Laine Elastique: All-wool, dull black, light French dress goods made in crepe and corded effect.

Lake: A pigment color obtained by mixing solutions of dyestuffs and mordant, the precipitate forming the lake.

Lalio: Several varieties of raw cottons grown in Kathiawar and Ahmedabad, India. The staple is fair, but usually dirty with leaves.

Lama: See Llama.

Lamb: Applied to sheep from time of birth to time of weaning, say until seven months old. Lamb's wool is glossy and slippery, difficult to comb and spin.

Lamba: A cloth made of wild date leaves by some tribes of native Africans.

Lambaremas: Shrouds in which the natives of Madagascar Island lay out their dead; produced from silk raised in the Madagascar Island.

Lambsdown: A plated knit cloth, the face made with a very heavy and spongy fleece, raised from slack twist woolen yarn, while the back is of hard spun cotton; used for children's coats, carriage robes, etc.

Lambskin: The pelt of a lamb, used for ornamental purposes; also its imitation in woolen cloth, made to resemble the dressed skin of a lamb.

Lambskins: See Fustian.

Lamb's Wool: Wool of a short, fine and slippery nature, sheared from the lamb when about seven months old, or, if late born or for the butcher, before it reaches that age.

Lamb's Wool Yarn: An extremely soft, slightly twisted woolen yarn, used for knitting and embroidery.

Lametta: Thin metal thread used in brocades.

Lamina: Scales on wool fibres.

Lammy: The thick, quilted, outside jumper, worn in cold weather by mariners.

Lamot: Native Phillipino name for Manila hemp.

Lampas: Originally, East Indian printed silks; now silk fabrics, having satin woven figures on a different colored taffeta ground, used for drapery and upholstery.

Lamsa: Better grade of calico used for inner coats in Persia.

Lana: Vegetable wool of Porto Rico. The pods of the lana tree are 8 or 9 inches long and contain a surprising amount of fibre. The seeds are small and not very abundant. The fibre looks and feels like wool or fur. It ranges from a very light brown to a darker color, and is soft and silky. Used for filling pillows, upholstery goods, etc. Also called *Guano*.

Lanary: A place for storing wool.

Lana Vegetale: Variety of Venezuelan tree cotton.

Lancé: French for "thrown." Showing tiny dots or specks; also fine pinpoint effects, as if the figures were thrown on the ground.

Landing Bar: In lace making, the shuttle bar.

Landing Wheel: The wheel on the circular knitting frame which pushes the loop up over the needle beads.

Langet: A strong lace used in Holland, mainly for women's dresses.

Lanolin: An unctuous fatty mixture of the ethers of cholesterol with fatty acids, obtained from various keratin tissues, as the wool of sheep; valuable in pharmacy as a basis for ointments.

Lansdowne: A fine twilled dress goods, having a silk face and worsted back. A novelty in dress goods.

Lant: Stale urine, used formerly extensively for scouring wool.

Lantern: The extension on the cylinder of Jacquard machines, which turns the same by coming in contact with the catches.
In calico printing, the steam cham-

- ber in which the colors of the printed fabrics are fixed.
- Lap:** The sliver resulting from the imposition of several layers of fibres, one on the top of the other.
- Lap Feeding System:** This is the oldest method of feeding in use, and refers to the feeding between first and second breaker. This system of feeding is not used in this country, but is used extensively abroad. There are two types. In one, the film is taken off by the doffer knife, in turn is automatically wound around the surface of a large drum. When the lap is of sufficient thickness, it is torn across in a direction parallel to the axis of the drum and taken to the next card of the set, in the form of a sheet composed of about 40 films or thicknesses each $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 60 inches in length, and 60 inches wide. In connection with the other system of lap feeding, and which is of a later type, known as the *Martin Lap Former*, the lap is built on an endless lattice of great length, but with the exception of the latter item it does not differ from the method previously referred to.
- Lapis:** The process of calico printing with indigo, the resists acting as mordants for other dyes, as madder or quercitron; so called from the bright blue color produced.
- Lapper:** In cotton manufacturing, that portion of the Picker or Scutcher which receives the opened and cleaned cotton from the beating and blowing portion of the machine, and compacts it into a lap or fleece upon the surface of a roller called a lap roller. This lap or fleece, when it acquires the proper thickness, after inserting a steel lap rod, is torn across, and the finished lap removed from the lap roller, to be in turn fed to the intermediate or finisher scutcher, or to the carding engine; into the action of either machine quoted, the lap is fed by the feed rollers.
- Lappet:** An ornamented fabric in which the figure is produced by means of extra warp-threads, the ground weave being plain cloth; the extra threads form the figure on the surface, the filling on each pick interweaving with these threads and binding them to the surface of the fabric structure. In order to produce the figure, a series of needles, fixed to a movable frame, which slides through a distance equal to the breadth of the figure woven, is used. These needles are lifted into the lower shed of the warp, in front of the reed, carrying the extra figuring threads along with them. After the shuttle has passed across the shed, the needle frame is moved out of the way to allow for the beating up of the reed, and when the extra or figuring threads are then bound into the body of the fabric structure. The distance to which the needle frame can slide to the right or left, on each pick, to suit the pattern, is controlled in different ways.
- Lappet Frame:** In a lappet loom, the sliding bar carrying the needles, each needle being supplied with a separate thread, for producing the pattern.
- Lappet Loom:** A special form of loom mounted for lappet weaving.
- Lappet Wheel:** The round disc cut in grooves which guide the finger of the needle bars carrying the whip-thread for forming the figure.
- Laps:** Rolls of cotton, from which the intermediate and finisher scutcher as well as the carding engine are fed.
- Lard Oil:** The same is a clear colorless oil obtained by subjecting lard to pressure. In this way the oil is separated from the accompanying stearin. It does not readily become rancid. Its melting point is low, viz. 10 deg. to 12 deg. C. Used as a softening agent in the finishing of cotton goods.
- Larees:** Gray, bleached or printed cotton cloth in East India, imported from England.
- Larme:** An elliptical figure, supposed to resemble a tear drop, as in a lace pattern.
- Larva:** The second, or worm state of the silkworm.
- Lasher:** A piece of cord employed for binding or tying.
- Lassaigne's Reagent:** 5 grams of litharge and 5 grams of sodium hydroxide are dissolved in 100 c.c. of boiling water. $PbO + 2NaOH = Na_2PbO_2 + H_2O$.
- Lasting:** A fine, durable fabric made from strong wool or cotton, of a somewhat hard handle, but smooth in appearance; used chiefly for the uppers of women's shoes.
- Latch:** The small piece hinged to the base of the knitting-needle hook which closes the hook and holds the engaged loop, while another loop is being formed.
- Lathe:** See Batten.
- Lattice:** An apron, formed of cross bars of thin wood strung on a cloth base, by which fibres are fed to machines.
- Lattice Stitch:** In embroidery, slanting bars are run across a long, narrow, open space, forming lattice work.
- La Vague:** A moiré effect, formed by fine satin lines on a bengaline ground.
- Laventine:** A thin silk, used chiefly for sleeve linings.
- Lawn:** A light-weight single cloth wash fabric, weighing from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz. per yard, and in widths from 36 to 40 inches finished. It is composed of all cotton yarns (bleached) from $1/40$'s to $1/100$'s, and is always woven with a plain weave. The name is derived from the French "*linon*." Plain lawn is made of solid white or bleached yarn in both warp and filling. The fancier grades, or those having color effects, are produced by printing vines, floral stripes, small flowers, etc.; in bright colors in scattered effects on the face of the goods. The patterns are always printed, never woven. Lawn, when finished, should have a soft, smooth feel. Therefore, the finishing process includes brushing, very light starching or sizing, then calendering or pressing. Lawns have to be handled carefully in the bleaching process, starched with an ordinary starch mangle (sizing contains a little blueing) finished on the Stenter machine and dried with hot air. It is used principally in the manufacture of ladies' and children's summer dresses, sash curtains, etc. "India lawn" is a calendered fabric, about 12 yards to the lb. and 28 to 36 inches wide in book-fold or 40 inches in long-fold. "Victoria lawn" has a very stiff finish. Also called *India Lawn*.
- Lay:** See Batten.
- Lay Cap:** In a loom, the wooden bar which rests upon the top of and assists in holding the reed in its place in the lay, lathe or batten, affording also a convenient hold for the weaver in moving the lay by hand, if necessary.
- Laying Brush:** The brush, on a shearing machine, with which the cloth is brought in contact after passing the cutting blades; used to lay or smooth down the nap.
- Laying Hook:** An iron on the head of a rope-walk pole on which the rope is placed after twisting.
- Laying Top:** Conical piece of wood used to guide the strands of the rope while it is being formed, retreating as the strands are closed.
- Lay Race:** Flat part of the batten between the shuttle boxes, along which the shuttle runs.
- Lay Sword:** The two arms which carry the lay of a loom, towards and away from the fell of the cloth.
- Lea:** The parts into which a hank or skein is divided, when it is being reeled. The number of leas per pound indicate the count. The seventh part of a hank; in worsted, 80 yards; in cotton and spun silk, 120 yards; in linen, 300 yards. Also called *Rap*.
- Lead:** The base of spring beard knitting needles.
- Lead Acetate:** White crystals which dissolve in double their weight of cold water. If calcareous water is used, a little acetic acid should be added in order to ensure clear solutions. It is only used for cotton. At one time it was used for yellows and oranges, to-day it is used as a basic acetate with litharge; mordants cotton on simple immersion, and is used for eosines and similar colors. Like all other lead combinations it is poisonous. Its antidote is Epsom Salts (which forms an insoluble lead sulphate) the white of eggs, and emetics. Also called *Acetate of Lead* or *Sugar of Lead*.
- Lead Sinker:** One of a series of weights used to depress the yarn between the needles in a knitting machine. They alternate with the jack sinkers.
- Lead Sulphate:** This is obtained on a large scale in the manufacture of acetate of alumina, and its use as a filler for weighting cotton fabrics, is largely due to the need for finding some use for it when so produced. It is white, insoluble in water, and very heavy, but has the great disadvantage of being poisonous, and of blackening in the air of towns where coal gas is used. Comes into commerce in paste form, and is often adulterated by barium sulphate and gypsum. Used in printing blues.
- Leaf:** See Harness.
- Lease:** In beaming, warping and weaving, the crossing of the warp-threads, to keep them separated, effected by passing each warp-thread alternately over and under lease strings or lease rods.
- Lease Rod:** In weaving, one of the wooden rods, usually of oval cross section, over and under which the warp-threads are alternately passed in forming the lease, i. e., to keep the warp-threads separated. Two or three of these rods are used together in a set for forming a lease in the warp.