Loyalty to Lace

Pam Glew
Andrea Wilson
Introduction

- Overview of lace types
- Historical examples of lacemaking in North America – Weir, Spencer, Ipswich and others
- How does this reflect in:
  - Interpretation
  - Costuming
  - Exhibits
Bobbin Lace

- Torchon
- Milanese
- Flemish
- Brussels
- Honiton
- Valenciennes
- Mechlin
- Lille
- Bucks Point
- Blonde
- Chantilly
- Maltese
- Le Puy
- Bedfordshire
Needle Laces

- Punto in Aria
- Burano
- Venetian
- Flemish
- Reticella
- Point De France
- Alençon & Argentan
- Brussels
- Hollie Point
- Youghal
Needle Lace
Embroideries & Mixed Techniques

- Cutwork Embroidery
- Drawn or Pulled work
- Dresden, Ayrshire
- Tape Lace – (Battenburg, Branscombe)
- Needle woven, (Sol, Tenerife, Rudeas)
- Filet, netting, Macrame
- Tatting, Oya, Bebilla
- Embroidered Machine Nets (Tambour, Needle Run, Carrickmacross)
Embroidered Laces

Reynolds Painting Of Tambour Lace Makers
Knitted Lace

- Shetland knitters
- Orenburg Lace
- Domestic, lacy

knitted garments and trimmings
Crochet
Margaret Weir (1808-1895)

Scottish Tambour Lace Maker

Emigrated to Canada in 1843, settling in rural St. Marys

Margaret & William Weir, c. 1865
Margaret Macarthur – a young lacemaker

Duchess of Hamilton began lace schools to assist women, like Margaret, in employment.

Cranfield Lacemakers, early 20\textsuperscript{th} c.
Tools of the Trade

Coggeshall tambour lacemaker, from a glass plate negative, c. 1900

Tambour Hook
Mother, Wife, Lacemaker

Margaret Weir, c. 1888

She married in 1830, had five children by 1843 three of which survived to come to Canada with Margaret and William. They raised seven children on their St. Marys farm.
Learning the Trade

Lace Schools for Girls
Lace Education – Lace Tells

One, two, buckle my shoe
Three, four, shut the door
Five, six, pick up sticks
Seven, eight, lay them straight
Nine, ten, a big fat hen
Margaret Weir lacework

Emma Fraleigh wearing the lace dress and vest made by her grandmother Margaret Weir, c. 1886
Weir Lace Tradition

Frances and Henry Wilson, wedding portrait, 1873.

Lace cape made by Margaret Weir
The Weir House

now the home of the
St. Marys Museum
located in Cadzow Park
In 17th century French Canada, Marguerite Bourgeoys and Marie de l’Incarnation set up the first schools for the “Filles du Roi”, settlers’ daughters and native women. Lacemaking was among the domestic skills they taught these girls, in part, to increase their chances of good marriages!
From such small beginnings –
Lace in British Canada
American lace history
Ipswich, Revolutionary Bobbin Lace Industry

The Laces of Ipswich

18th Century American Example
What does this tell us?

All laces are not made equal. Each has its own economic, cultural and industrial history. For example, Karl Marx studied the lace trade and documented it in his work *On Society and Social Change*. Child labour laws were enacted in response to the lace trade. Lace has social and economic significance, which makes it worthy of consideration in appropriate historic settings.
The Real Lace Deal

- Work with what you have
- Use Comparisons
- Incorporate Literature, storytelling
- Accurate Costuming
Work with It
Comparisons

- Demonstration
- Talks, lectures
- Tool, lace exhibit
- Workshops
- Discovery days

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St. Marys Museum
Literature/Storytelling

- Little Grey Rabbit Makes Lace
- The Lace Snail
- Nursery Rhymes
Why is this important?

we all wear clogs when we make lace – don’t we?
Legacy

- Wrap-up
- Questions