

The decorative art of knitting

Compiled by Linda Newington, October 2012

A selection of books from the Knitting Reference Library I used to accompany and prepare my presentation given at **In the loop 3: the voices of knitting** held at the Winchester Discovery Centre 5-7 September 2012.

My choices are focused on the decorative aspects of knitting illustrated in a range of published sources. The emphasis is on knitting from different parts of the world not only the UK. The list includes publications from the decades of the 20th century through to the present day October 2012 in the 21st century.

Black, Sandy, *Knitting: fashion, industry and craft*. London, V&A, 2012

Note: using the collection of knitted fashionable dress and artefacts from the Victoria & Albert Museum this new book covers the plain and every day to the technically complex from early historical pieces to those mass produced today, with excellent illustrations.

Conway, Henry & Downey, Gail *Weardowney knit couture*. London, Collins & Brown, 2007

Note: emphasis on fashionable knitwear using the company Weardowney as the focus.

Dirix, Emmanuelle, *Unravel: knitwear in fashion*. Tiel: Lannoo, 2011.

Note: an exhibition catalogue from the Fashion Museum in Antwerp with a collection of essays and illustrations.

Don, Sarah, *The art of Shetland lace*. London, Mills & Boon, 1980

Note: a short historical overview with a range of Shetland lace stitch patterns.

Donofrio-Ferrezza, Lisa, *Designing a knitwear collection: from inspiration to finished garments*. New York, Fairchild Books, 2008

Note: illustrated with knitwear by a variety of well-known designers.

Epstein, Nicky, *Knitting on the edge: ribs, ruffles, lace, fringes, flora, points & picots*. New York, Sixth & Spring Books, 2004

Epstein, Nicky, *Knitting over the edge: unique ribs, cords, appliques, colors, nouveau*. New York, Sixth & Spring Books, 2005

Fogg, Marnie, *Vintage fashion knitwear: collecting and wearing designer classics*. London, Carlton, 2010

Note: starting in the early 20th century a visual journey of knitwear through the decades, excellent illustrations.

Garton, Jane (editor) *Wild knitting*. London, Mitchell Beazley, 1979

Note: a "classic" from the 1970s illustrating the fashionable, punk and fun aspects of knitting from that time.

Gibb, Bill, *Hollywood knits*. London, Pavilion, 1987

Note: a selection of Hollywood stars from the first part of the 20th century chosen by the author for the interesting knitwear.

Haglund, Ulla, *Bohus stickning*. Goteborg, Foreningen Bohus Stickning, 1980

Note: a history of this Swedish knitting company started in 1939, good illustrations with an English summary.

Harlow, Eve, [editor] *The art of knitting*. Glasgow, William Collins, 1977

Note: inventive 1970s adaptations by Anne Gordon and Jane Rapley of historical knitting techniques from across the world

Knight, Erika, *Glamour: 15 timeless designs to knit and keep forever*. London, Quadrille, 2006

Note: patterns from a contemporary designer with an emphasis on the glamorous

LeCount, Cynthia Gravelle, *Andean folk knitting: traditions and techniques from Peru and Bolivia*. Minnesota, Dos Tejedoras, 1990

Note: the key published work on knitting from these two countries with good colour illustrations including hats, gloves and toys

Lind, Vibeke, *Knitting in the Nordic tradition*, Asheville, N.C., Lark Books, 1984 [first published 1981]

Note: a visual overview which includes techniques for a range of garments, good illustrations especially gloves and mittens.

Miller, Sharon, *Shetland hap shawls: then and now*. Okehampton, Heirloom Knitting, 2006

Note: brief history of the practical, traditional Shetland shawls worn by working women, with historical and new patterns in both traditional and modern colours

Nieder, Marie, *Kunst stricken*. 3rd ed Leipzig, Otto Beyer, 1921

Note: although a German text the items and stitches are interesting with good black and white illustrations

Pagoldh, Susanne, *Nordic knitting: thirty one patterns in the Scandinavian tradition*. London, A&C Black, 1992 [first published in 1987]

Note: good illustrations of traditional Nordic knitwear including Denmark, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Aland, and Finland.

Reimann, Sirri, *The Haapsalu shawl: a knitted lace tradition from Estonia*. Turi, Estonia, Saara Publishing, 2009

Note: beautiful illustrations of shawls and the related stitches from Estonia.

Roberts, Patricia, *Knitting patterns*. London, Macdonald and Janes, 1977

Note: a selection of patterns from Patricia Roberts a key knitwear designer from the 1970s and 1980s who helped modernise knitting during this period

Sissons, Juliana, *Knitwear: basics fashion design 6*. Lausanne, AVA Academia, 2010

Note: an excellent overview of designers and techniques including details such as collars, neckbands, buttonholes and fastenings

Stanley, Montse, *The Handknitter's handbook: a comprehensive guide to the principles and techniques of handknitting*. 3rd ed. Newton Abbott, David & Charles, 1993

Note: A classic book on a wide range of techniques from an expert who used her collection of knitted objects to illustrate specific types of knitting. It includes examples of the knitted bags and purses with explanations of the techniques used to make them. Her collections of objects, photographs, postcards, books, magazines and patterns are held by the University Library.

Starmore, Alice, *Alice Starmore's book of Fair Isle knitting*. Newtown, Conn., Taunton Press, 1988

Note: now regarded as a classic which includes a useful individual approach to developing colour in patterned knitting.

Tellier-Loumagne, Françoise, *The art of knitting: inspirational stitches, textures and surfaces*. London, Thames and Hudson, 2005

Note: a distinctive, creative and visual approach to a rich variety of knitting techniques for both hand and machine.

Thomas, Mary, *Mary Thomas's knitting book*, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1938

Note: an early classic includes many useful chapters related to technique for example, beaded and bead knitting.

Waller, Jane, *A stitch in time: knitting and crochet patterns of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s*. London: Duckworth, 1972

Note: a pioneer of using what are now described as "vintage" patterns. This is the first edition. Other works by this author are also held along with her knitting pattern collection.

Waller, Jane, *The 1940s knitting pattern book*. Ramsbury, Crowood, 2006

Note: a later contribution by Jane Waller to the now popular reinterpretation of vintage knitting patterns

Wilcox, Claire, *Vivienne Westwood*. London, V&A, 2004

Note: published to accompany the exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum includes good illustrations of Westwood's avant-garde knitwear.