

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

January 2009

PREZ SAYS

Our hearts are lifted with the gathering of family and friends during the Christmas season. The promise of a New Year is invigorating. This time of year the desire to get things in order always hits me. I've discovered something that really makes me feel good is dealing with my PIGS; you know... those Projects In Grocery Sacks that are just waiting to be finished. So, as the saying goes, I've decided to "Just Do It". Remember those vests Kay and Jan had us working on this time last year; how about that sweatshirt project Claire had us so excited about or the Jessica bag that just needs a button. I've got my PIGS in a row, ready to be tackled. The Fashion Show in April is my goal. I look forward to your PIGS meeting my PIGS !

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!
See you January 12th,

Nancy Boccadoro,
President

PROGRAMS:

Speaker: Dr. Johanna Forte

Topic: The History of Corsets

Dr. Forte is an associate professor at Kutztown University. She has been a costume designer for 30 years and is a well known fashion historian.

Eleanor Pinto

DEVOTIONS: Pat Auerbach

HOSTESSES: Assisting Mary Morgan this month are Ann Handy and Missy Rouse

Hostesses are asked to bring a simple snack to share during the break.

FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

Nancy Boccadoro, Carol Williams

Following the January Couturiere Workshop meeting, all members of the Fashion Show Committee are asked to remain for an important committee meeting. We will discuss our theme, review each committee, plan our decorating scheme, address concerns presented from last years program, and look at new ideas for this year. Traditionally the January business meeting is brief so our committee meeting will begin at noon and conclude by 12:45.

KUDOS

I would like to thank all the members who attended the December Couturiere meeting for their generosity in support of a Christmas donation to Third Street Alliance. In addition to some lovely hand made items and donated gifts from our members, Santa's hat collected \$411 for a wonderful Christmas surprise to a very important community organization.

Nancy Boccadoro

It is official !!!

The lands around us are now ----

"Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge" !!!!

I am so proud to be able to say that I have been for many years on local committees to preserve open space lands in our area from development.

For the last several years, I have been on the board of Friends of Cherry Valley. We have worked diligently to find a way to preserve the beautiful, undeveloped land in Cherry and Poplar Valley. (We live in Poplar Valley) It is with great excitement that I announce that all our hard work has paid off and we are now "Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge". We are one of only 3 National Wildlife Refuges in the state of PA. and of 550 in the entire USA!!!

Quite an accomplishment for a "grassroots" effort.

Elizabeth Cortright

The hanky has been an essential decorative accessory for women and men for centuries. It has appeared in guises from the stylish to the frivolous, from pieces of fine linen adorned with wisps of delicate lace to large printed cotton squares commemorating heroes, history, and holidays. Although the advent of paper facial tissues contributed to the decline of the handkerchiefs as major fashion accessories, their use as printed souvenirs of events and holidays remained popular. *Hanky-Panky*, a colorful small display of printed hankies of the 1930s through 1950s celebrating this latter use will be on view in the lobby showcase of the Allentown Art Museum from January 29-April 19, 2009. For a very different take on textiles, don't miss *English Embroidery from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1580-1700*, a fabulous and informative display of the embroiderer's art at the Bard Graduate Center Gallery in Manhattan,

Please contact us with any items you think would be of interest to our group! Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com
Special thanks to those of you who do. Ellen Sorensen glenn13ellen@verizon.net
Deadline for February Newsletter is January 30, 2009 Kay Wolff chiang10@verizon.net
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com Jan Neitzel neitzeljh@aol.com

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through April 12, 2009. –*Jacquie Atkins, Allentown Art Museum*

The following is a list of the dates scheduled at the Library so please mark your calendar:

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

Continuing along with August/September 2007 issue of Vogue Patterns magazine from an article about details making the difference:

The style and placement of pockets, necklines, collars, and sleeves can make or break your look. Keep these points in mind when choosing design details.

POCKETS (especially patch styles) create width. Keep them away from a full bust or large hips.

LOW NECKLINES, V-NECKS, and **SHAWL COLLARS** slim and lengthen, drawing the eye downward - great for broad shoulders, not so great if you are trying to take attention away from a big bust. **TURTLENECKS, HIGH NECKLINES** and **ROLLED COLLARS** bring the eye upward, shortening the neck and making shoulders seem wider. They can also make a broad upper body seem boxy. **SQUARE** and **SCOOP** necklines draw attention to the shoulders and elongate the neck.

FULL SLEEVES camouflage too-heavy or too-thin arms, but they also add width to the overall silhouette. **SLIM SLEEVES** narrow the garment's overall shape. Just be sure they're not too tight on heavy arms. **RAGLAND** and **KIMONO SLEEVES** draw the eye down to the lower body, diverting attention away from the shoulders and bust.

PUFFED SLEEVES disguise sloping shoulders and make shoulders appear broader. **BELL SLEEVES** add width to the lower body, making the top half appear slimmer. They also draw attention to the hips. **THREE-QUARTER SLEEVES** create a lean, elegant line and highlight the upper arm.

FINGERTIP-LENGTH SLEEVES add length and width to a silhouette..

Best wishes, jan

SEW N SEWS

Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 9 AM at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, we will have our first session in 2009. We are not working on a special project, so it will again be a "Bring Your Own Project". We will discuss what projects we want to do as a group.

Thursday Jan 22, 2009
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009
Wednesday, Mar. 25, 2009
Thursday, Apr. 23, 2009
Thursday, May 28, 2009
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Thursday, July 23, 2009
Thursday, August 27, 2009
Thursday, September 24, 2009
Thursday, October 22, 2009
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Thursday, December 17, 2009

Annette Smerkanich

SEW WHAT'S NEW?

I was determined to get this off to Jo before she had to remind me, but I failed. Not a good way to start a new year. It's hard enough to remember things when you turn one page each month, but to have to switch all 12 months at one time is mind boggling. And I probably started last January's column the same way. Where did the year go?

I had a Christmas card from a good friend (and college room mate) in which she so truthfully said, "Each year the time goes faster and faster, and each year I move slower and slower." How true!! But there is one good thing I have discovered and that is that I am forced to take breaks at intervals during the day, and breaks are good! It's thinking time, planning time, napping time (?), reading time - things I didn't have time to do in years past. So pour a cup of coffee, snatch a leftover Christmas cookie, and plan your sewing projects for the immediate and long range future. Happy Sewing in 2009!!

Ellen Sorensen

SOME SEWING HISTORY - NEEDLES

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About 25,000 years ago animal skins were sewn together by gut or sinew, the earliest form of sewing. One end of the sinew strip was moistened, twisted to a sharp point and then dried. This hardened end served as the "needle" for pulling the "thread" through holes made in the skins with a sharpened flint. Later, needles (as we know them) were made from thorns and fish bones, carved from

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wood, bone, shell and ivory and hammered out of a variety of metals, including gold and silver.

When woven cloth was invented, a fine, thin needle with an eye was developed and spun thread replaced sinew. The Chinese are credited with inventing the steel needle to sew their fine silks. Some authors believe the invention of the eyed needle is as important as the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel! Steel needles were probably introduced into England during the time of Queen Elizabeth in 1560.

By the mid-1600s England established needle trade and is still one of the major suppliers of needles. In a complicated process, coiled wire is cut into double lengths and then straightened. The needle wire is strengthened, polished and cleaned. Both ends of the double length are then pointed. Next the area of the eye is flattened. The die flattens and indents both sides of the wire at the same time. A screw press or automatic machine, makes two holes almost side by side near the center of the uncut wire where the indentations were made, thus making the eyes. The needle is then bent forward and backward between the eyes until the wire cracks. The heads are smoothed and the wires polished several times. After the Civil War needles made in America were made entirely by machine.

Kay Wolff

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