

Silk laces were first made about 1745. At first this new fabric was manufactured from silk of the natural color brought from Nanking, and it was hence called "blonde." After a time, however, it was prepared from the purest and most brilliant white silk. To preserve the purity of color it was made in the open air in summer, and in the winter in the lofts over cow houses, as the warmth of the animals enabled the workers to dispense with fire, which makes more or less smoke. The most beautiful blondes were once made at Caen, but competition with the machine made blondes of Calais and Nottingham has caused the manufacture of white blonde to be abandoned at this place, and its lace makers now confine themselves to making black lace.

The manufacture of black silk lace was first established in the town of Chantilly, near Paris, and hence, wherever this fabric is now made it is called "Chantilly lace." It is always made of lusterless silk, called "grenadine," which is commonly mistaken for thread. As it was only consumed by the nobility, its unfortunate producers became the victims of the Revolution of 1793, and perished with their patrons on the scaffold. This put an end to the manufacture for many years, but in 1835 black lace again became fashionable, and Chantilly was once more prosperous. But the nearness of Chantilly to Paris has, of late, increased the price of labor so much that the lace manufacturers have been driven away. The so-called Chantilly shawls were afterward made at Bayeux. The shawls, dresses and scarfs that were made at Chantilly are mere objects of luxury.

The black laces of Caen, Bayeux, and Chantilly, are identical. The shawls, dresses, flounces, veils, etc., are made in strips and united by a peculiar stitch. Great pains are taken in Bayeux in the instruction of lace makers, so that the town now leads in the manufacture of large pieces of black lace.

Each country has furnished its special style of lace. Italy its Points of Venice and Genoa; Flanders its Brussels, Mechlin and Valenciennes; France its Point d'Alençon and its black lace of Bayeux. England has also produced its unique Honiton and Spain its silk blondes. Each of these laces are made in other countries, but in its characteristic lace each nation is unrivalled.

Pillow or thread lace is made by pricking a perforated pattern on a hard stuffed pillow, and the thread required is wound on bobbins with a groove in the upper part for retaining the thread, while to form the meshes pins are stuck in the cushion and threads woven or twisted around them, the pattern showing the points of insertion for the pins and also the direction for the gimp which is interwoven with the fine threads of the fabric to form the pattern. It is an undecided question whether pillow lace originated in Italy or in Flanders. See Fig. 62.

A remarkably good example of pillow lace is Honiton, which is one of the chief industries of Devonshire, England, and forms a means of livelihood for hundreds of women and children. Honiton owes its revival to the kind offices of Queen Victoria, who pitying the condition of the poor lace makers of Devonshire, ordered her wedding

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