

# For the INDUSTRIOUS NEEDLEWOMAN

By ADELAIDE BYRD

## A HOLLY CENTERPIECE

DESIGNED BY  
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**S**PEAKING to you of the holiday season and designed by attractive simplicity is the centerpiece today. Indeed, so little work is required that you will have plenty of time to embroider one or two for gifts. Rich silk works up beautifully. You must be sure to procure washable silk of some quality, and for this design a medium thickness. The green holly leaves should be tipped with brown silk and the bright red will glisten in a way to catch the high lights. That is one of the valuable features of the silk

does. It gives a shading itself in herald lights. A design in silk colors will be as lovely as any one could wish. If you wish any other colored effect, choose dark green for the leaves, brown for the broken circle and the stems, using a little for the sharp tips of the leaves. The berries in the sprays you will work in bright scarlet, while the dots in the border are better in white to match the edge. The all-white treatment is good for anything and holds a firm position in the needlewoman's affections.

When you have chosen a medium-weight linen in either tan or white, trace the half of the design according to directions on another part of the page. Swing the design on its center and complete the sketch. Now, after slight padding, work the leaves in solid stitch, and before you realize it you will have finished one spray. The berries are worked as any circular dot, in lines that cross the circle straight after padding in an opposite direction. The stems you will do in fine outline

stitch. Use stem stitch to fill in the broken circle. Or one of the many variations that I mention on this page from time to time can be used. A couching stitch, a simple outline with a filling in of seed stitches, or just a heavy outline stitch on both edges will give good results. Pad the scallops and work with buttonhole stitches, with an outline stitch on the slender lines that terminate the large curves. The dots that appear in groups of three can be solid or eyelet. You will find that much pretty effect can be given at a very small amount of labor. And that is what you are looking for, isn't it? This worked in colors on tan linen, placed under a simple bowl filled with holly, will please your aunt or mother or any bride that you number on your list. The open space in the center admits

of a large plate or bowl without any concealment of the design. If you cannot add the bowl of holly, wrap the centerpiece around a green roll, tie with ribbon and add a sprig of the real leaves as a reminder of the season's wishes. And now you need only my good wishes to complete this holly story.

### Needlework Pictures

**T**HE woman who loves to embroider will take advantage of the present craze of making needlework pictures, either for the decoration of her own home or as a gift for a friend. Our great-grandmothers were taught to make a "sampler" as proof of their proficiency in needlework. These were displayed with pride by the young girls' mothers. Many of them were framed to preserve them from the ravages of time, and today are valued as antiques.

Samples were really needlework pictures, some of them very wonderful in design and execution. Just now it is the fashion to copy these designs of a hundred years ago, or to work an original picture on silk or satin.

A flight of birds, for example, embroidered on heavy cream-colored satin in the natural colors, makes a picture that is quite Japanese in effect, beautiful enough to be mounted and framed in an expensive frame. A cherry branch laden with snowy bloom, with butterflies hovering about, when done on Chinese blue silk and framed in dull gold, is worthy of a place in a handsomely furnished drawing room.

Little landscape pictures worked out in multicolored silks, clusters of fruit and flowers, are all favorite designs. The designs can be sketched on the satin with a hard lead pencil or stamped by a professional. The work is always done with soft silks on satin or lustrous silk. It is necessary to have the material stretched over an embroidery frame while working, so that there will not be the slightest pucker about the edges. After the work is completed, it is carefully pressed on the wrong side, mounted over cardboard that has been slightly padded with a layer of cotton batting and then framed under glass to preserve it from dust. In this way they can be kept for years and finally handed down to future generations as "samples" of art needlework done by the women of the twentieth century.

### Hemstitching and Drawnwork

**P**ERHAPS the simplest of the various forms of fancy needlework is drawn work. Materials required for the work are cheap and of the simplest character. Linen, fine or coarse, is the foundation, and fine cotton thread, with, of course, a fine needle, is all that is required to work with.

The value of drawn work lies in the labor and time required to complete it. Hemstitching is employed on all drawn work; especially is it used for finishing hems and on infants' wear. Table and bed linen, towels, yokes, collars and cuffs, dollies and centerpieces all require fine hemstitching. Threads are drawn one way of the material and the designs worked out on the threads that remain.

Many persons find great difficulty in drawing the threads, having to coax each thread out inch by inch. If you have trouble of this sort, try rubbing a little white soap over the threads to be drawn, or rub the linen through the fingers until it has become softened. Whichever method is used, do not wash and iron linen before drawing threads or you will have trouble on your hands.

### To Transfer

**H**ERE are suggestions for transferring the pattern before you to any material before working. Perhaps the easiest way is the "window-pane" method. This is successful when the material is thin, like linen, batiste, etc. Pin the sheet of paper and the material together and hold them up against the glass of a window. With a sharp pencil draw on the material the design, which can be easily seen through the goods. If one-half of the design only be given, unpin the paper and turn the other side to the fabric. The strong light behind will make it plain. If you have carbon paper, you should place the sheet between your fabric and the newspaper. This latter is on top. With a sharp pencil go over the outline of the design. The impression will be left in fine lines and will last until washed. This method is successful on heavy material.

### A Utility Square

**I**F YOU are traveling and spend much time in hotels, or if you live in a boarding house, you will appreciate the gift of a utility square. This is simply a fifty-four-inch square of china silk, cretonne, silkoline, linen or any soft material that will take little room in your suitcase, and which is used to throw over a chair on which your underclothing has been put to air, in case it is necessary to open the door of your room to admit a bellboy, maid or any stranger who may knock.

Women always like to air their undergarments before dressing for dinner or the evening, especially if a complete change of clothing is not to be made. Then they are spread over a chair by the window or hung on the clothesline in a current of air, while milady slips into her kimono for a little nap or a visit to the bath.

Now, if any one comes to her door and has to be admitted, the utility square can instantly be tossed over the lingerie and, instead of a display of lace and muslin meeting the stranger's eye, there will be a drapery of pretty silk or cotton material. The edges of the square are either finished with a plain hem, hemstitched or fringed. Fringed edges are most graceful. If plain material is chosen, a flower or some attractive conventional design is embroidered in each corner.

An initial or monogram can be worked in one corner and the other corners left plain, if you desire. Of course, no embroidery is necessary on figured china silk or silkoline, unless you wish to outline the figures with a plain stitch in a contrasting color of heavy silk. The utility square has a multitude of uses, not the least of which is to fold around your fine silk or lingerie blouses before packing them in a trunk or suitcase. In the hotel it can be used as a trunk cover or pinned up before a window that is not provided with inside lace curtains. Possessing a utility square, you will be surprised at the many ways it will serve in an emergency.

### Cretonne Applique

**C**RETONNE has, until recently, been classed among the cheaper cotton materials, but manufacturers are now producing such realistic and artistic copies of nature in flowers and fruit that one sometimes mistakes them for tapestry. Clever needlewomen have realized the advantages of this beautiful material and the value of cutting out the flowers to applique on plain-colored linens and muslins for various articles of household use.

The work is easily accomplished, is quick and fascinating, reminding one of childhood days, when it was a delight to cut out pretty pictures and paste them in the scrapbook. With few exceptions, cretonne is an inexpensive material, and should be combined with something equally low in price to preserve harmony. Unbleached sheeting is a splendid fabric to choose, for it is easy to work on, while the deep cream color makes a good background for gay flowers or figures. Select the cretonne carefully, choosing clearly defined figures and those printed in colors that will not quickly fade.

Inside curtains for a bedroom, living room or nursery made of this sheeting, with a border of cretonne appliques, are extremely attractive. Cut out the flowers, fruit or figures very carefully and baste them on the sheeting four inches from the hem, which should be at least two inches wide. Now sew the flowers fast to the sheeting, using the outline stitch in heavy mercerized cotton or rope silk, using the color of the flowers or black. Do not choose a fine pattern or you will have difficulty in cutting out the design and also in applying it to the plain material.

There is little beauty either in very stiff patterns or too pronounced colors. Choose graceful roses, vines and leaves, clusters of grapes or berries, or quaint figures of soft colors that combine or contrast with the color tone of the room. A square table center of natural-color linen crash has a hemstitched border two inches wide. Two inches inside of this is a border of cretonne roses and green leaves, outlined with red silk on the rose edges and green silk to edge the leaves. At a short distance this appears to be a beautiful example of hand-painting, the flowers standing out from the ecru background in bold relief.

All sorts of bedroom accessories can be made to match the table center—in fact, a complete set of curtains, bureau and dressing table covers, bed covers, bolster covers and pillow shams, couch and chair covers. Cretonne flowers applied to heavy net make the most attractive curtains. These materials are easily cared for, and if washed with a good white soap and warm water will last for years. Many very beautiful holiday gifts can be made with cretonne applique; or, if you are planning to furnish a summer cottage, you can employ the long winter evenings in doing this fascinating work.

## OF LEFT-OVER LACE.

**W**ITH the holiday season so near at hand, we are constantly looking for some new and dainty thing to make as a gift to our best friends. Almost every woman has among her possessions some pieces of left-over lace—bits left from the summer gown or even rescued from the otherwise worn-out lingerie frock, but still in good enough condition to make it usable again.

We here show three dainty articles that can be copied, using either heavy lace, medallions and lace or the finer laces and net as the outside covering. The glove case, for example, can be fashioned of a lace scarf and, when the scarf itself has quite outlived its usefulness. An oblong pad of cotton wadding is made to fold over like an envelope. This is sprinkled with delicate sachet powder and covered on both sides with pink china silk.

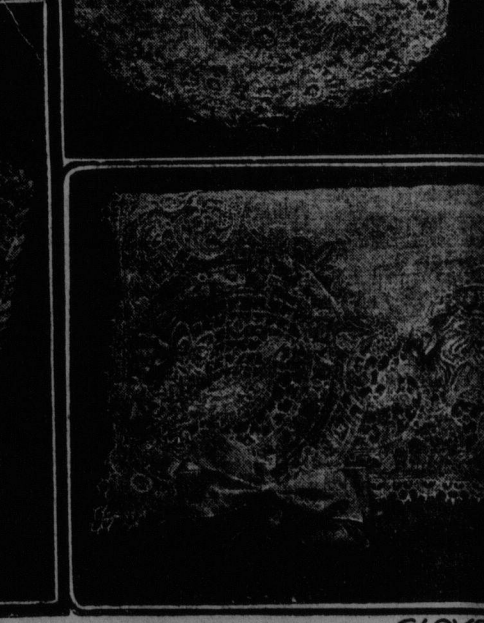
Fine handkerchief linen is then cut the size of the scented pad and the lace applied to one end, with the rest of the linen hemstitched about the edge. The linen is cut away from under the lace, allowing the rose silk to show. Bows of pink ribbon trim the edge

and serve to conceal glove fasteners underneath. Catch the linen-and-lace cover to the silk pad at stated intervals. When it is soiled it can be removed and be washed.

The dainty opera bag can be copied either in heavy or fine lace. This is lined with lavender satin, interlined with china silk sprinkled with sachet. The ribbon is run through openings in the lace, tied in a bow at the side and serves to carry the bag over the arm.

An odd handkerchief case is made of quilted satin lined with china silk and accented with violet sachet, then covered with heavy ecru lace. This also can be copied with fine lace or strips of insertion joined with narrow ribbons. Run a row of heading at the point where the case folds over, and through that run narrow satin ribbon that matches the wider ribbon used to decorate the corners. Such a case can be made square if you like, or diamond shaped.

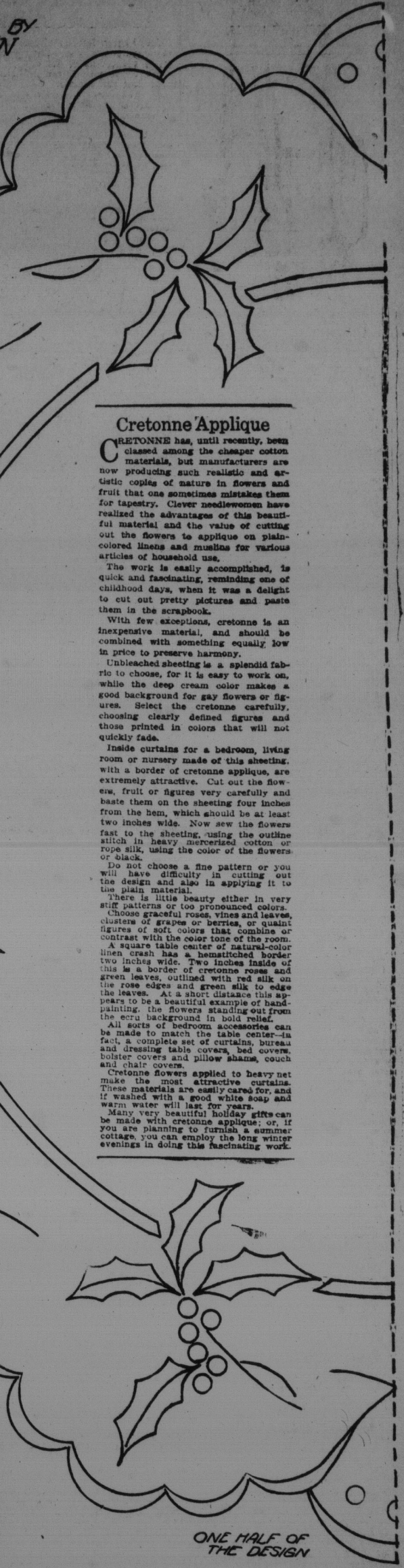
Many are the ways that small pieces of left-over lace can be utilized in the making of holiday gifts, useful and at the same time ornamental. They are things that will delight the heart of the most fastidious woman.



HANDKERCHIEF CASE

GLOVE CASE

A PARTY BAG



ONE HALF OF THE DESIGN

### An Artistic Table Cover

**T**HE woman who is interested in needlework as employment for the long winter evenings will enjoy making a table cover or scarf of monk's cloth applied with linen figures. Cut the cloth the size you desire of a very dark green shade and baste in a two-inch hem all around for a square cover—and at each end on a scarf—then cut out fancy figures from natural-colored linen, using either flowers simple in design, leaves like the clover and oak, or the dots, circles or small triangles.

Baste these on the cloth just above the hem and sew them fast by buttonholing around with rope floss in a burnt-orange shade. One clever girl made a table scarf, cushion cover and window curtains to correspond for her room at college of monk's cloth applied with figures representing books, dumbbells, Indian clubs and various things associated with college life. One advantage of the work is that it is quickly done and when finished is very attractive.



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