



MNS

MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS SHEET JUNE 2011

NEXT YEAR'S COMPETITION –

and MEMBERS' DISCOUNT:

As announced in the March Newsletter, next year's competition is under the umbrella of "A gift for the new baby" and will be in two sections; one for 1/12th scale and one for 1/24th scale. Because some of the entries may include clothes and because it is so tricky to make clothes in 1/24th scale, it has been decided that entrants can send dressed baby dolls. I am really pleased to tell members that Pat Alston of Tiny Treasures has kindly offered a 20% discount off her exquisite 1/24th scale baby which normally retails at £15 (£17 if wiggled) plus p&p. This is definitely the prettiest of the 1/24th scale babies I have seen and MNS is truly grateful to Pat for her generosity. To order your doll contact Pat at pat.alston@virgin.net, or write to her at 98 Stafford Road, Shirley, Southampton SO15 5ED. Telephone 02380 2 4508. An entry form for the competition will be in the September Newsletter.

Ursula Joost from Germany, who won last year's Bedspread Competition, has generously lent us some more of her gorgeous needlepoints for exhibition at Houghton Hall. They are of a Hunting Scene, a landscape of silver birches by a lake, and Gainsborough's Blue Boy and Pinky. They really are something special.

I have just returned from the Kensington Dollshouse Festival. Like most shows these days, visitor numbers were definitely down, and there were fewer traders. However, the standard at Kensington was as high as ever with some truly exquisite pieces for sale. I am grateful to Carolyn Postgate for manning the MNS table on the Saturday and would remind everyone that I am still looking for volunteers to take over the MNS table at both Kensington and Miniatura. I can't go on doing it for ever. You will get free entry to the show and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Remember, too, that we are looking for a new Chairman if I am to be free to take over from Pat Wootten as Treasurer.

Moir

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT:

Corinne Duggins, after six years of hard work as Membership Secretary, has retired from office. On behalf of the Committee and membership I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her many years of service to the Society, and for looking after membership matters so carefully.

The Committee recently decided to change the system for looking after membership renewals, and the membership database has been handed on to a management company in Cambridge. They have had many years' experience looking after subscriptions and will be a friendly port of call for any enquiries from members. They will be writing to members due for renewal very shortly.

Carolyn

The new contact details are:

MNS Membership, Circa Ltd., 13-17 Sturton Street, Cambridge CB1 2SN

Tel: 01223 564334 Fax: 01223354643 email: mns@circaworld.com

Catherine Jagger or Carolyn Postgate will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Please send any changes of address or email to Circa.

OCTOBER EDINBURGH BOBBIN LACE WORKSHOP:

Our tutors (both of whom are members of our group), Anne Mackinnon and Lynn Macdonald, took on six new lace makers and one experienced lace maker. They had put together a display of many miniature items made from their lace which we were able to enjoy before we settled down to learn a little of how they did it.

The beginners were introduced to their starter kit: a set of 8 pairs of bobbins already wound with very fine thread; a lace maker's cushion; a pricked pattern and a bag of pins. We were shown how to fasten the pattern to the cushion; where to place the first few pins; how to hang our bobbins on these pins and how to start our first technique, the 'Half Stitch'.

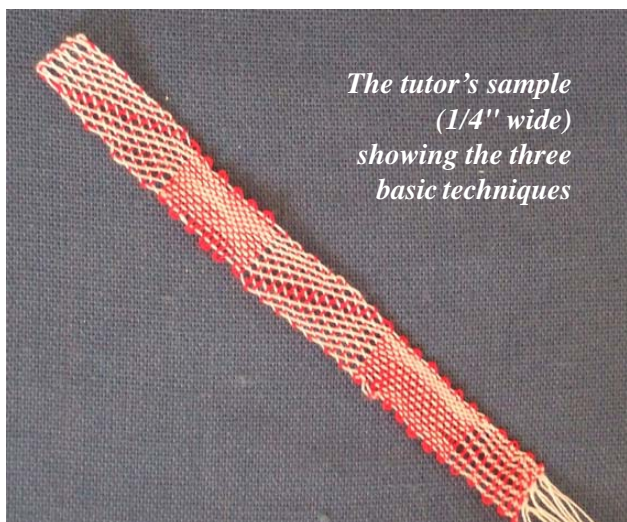
Silence reigned as concentration was so intense but to our amazement the lace started to grow and we were gently led through some basic techniques – 'Half Stitch', 'Cloth Stitch' and 'Cloth Stitch and Twist'. Both tutors were kept extremely busy helping us to keep our stitches correct, often undoing small amounts and getting us going again.

After lunch we were shown how to wind the bobbins (we were pleased that we had not been expected to wind our own before starting the class) and some brave souls started to create a small lace edging.

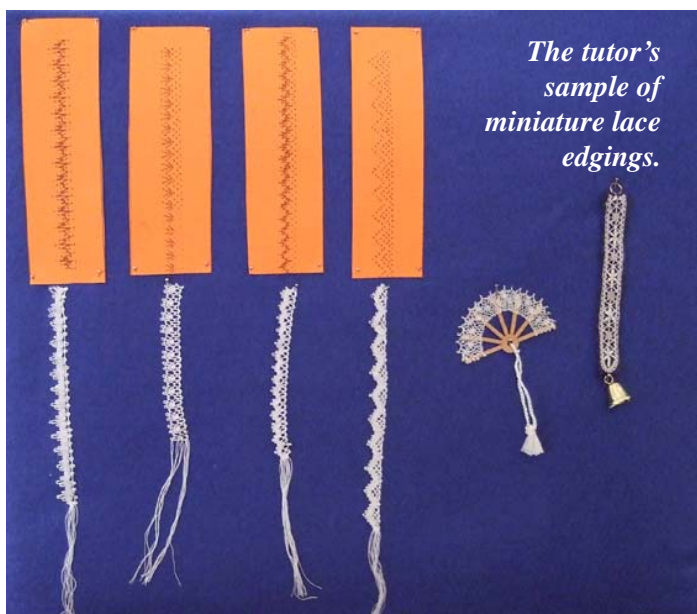
Altogether it was a very successful workshop – we hope that some of those attending will decide to continue lace making and eventually become expert lace makers!

At our lunch time break we discussed our way forward and agreed that Anne Mackinnon would take over as the Edinburgh Workshop Organiser, so this will be my last report.

Judith H Gordon



Our experienced lace maker's work (a parasol)



BOB GAULT:

It was with sadness that I heard of the death of Bob Gault on 15th February 2011. Bob had been a sponsor of the Society for a number of years. When he built his new Garden Centre at Houghton Hall he included a specially designed room to house his 'A World in Miniature' collection, and allowed us three showcases in the museum to display work by members of the Miniature Needlework Society.

I met Bob several times: at the opening of 'A World in Miniature' within the Garden Centre and at 'Miniatura' at Murrayfield. It is interesting to reflect that our space at Houghton Hall is a legacy from Sally Howard-Smith. She inspired our project and made all the arrangements with Bob. Our connections with 'A World in Miniature' will continue with Bob's wife Dorothy. **Ann Ford**



30th March 2007: Bob with the Mayor of Carlisle, at the opening of 'A World in Miniature', Houghton Hall Garden Centre

After a recent visit to Houghton Hall, Ann Ford wrote: We had a good day with the MNS showcases, adding a few items and rearranging others. The most recent item added today was No 172, five samplers by Mary Roberts. Since 'A World in Miniature' opened in March 2007 we have displayed over 200 items. At present there are 120 on show. The public are always amazed at the skills of our members. I enjoy meeting the visitors and telling them about the Society, mentioning our web site, and telling them about the threads and needles we use.

People who use public transport will be pleased to learn that there is now a bus service from Carlisle City Centre (from a stop outside Reays Travel Centre in Devonshire Street) out to Houghton Hall Garden Centre. The service is no 64A. Further information can be found at www.reays.co.uk. I met a lady who has used the new City hopper bus service today. She was suitably impressed. The bus comes right up to the doors of the Garden Centre. They accept OAP concession cards.

1/24TH BEDSPREAD COMPETITION:

Only four members entered the Chairman's special competition but, as luck would have it, each chose a different medium (patchwork, knitting, cross stitch and embroidery). The quality of all the entries was excellent. All the bedspreads were on display at the Kensington Dollshouse Festival in May and were very much admired by the visitors. Prizes will be sent soon by Moira, and photographs of the work will be included in the September Newsletter.



WHO CAN GUESS WHAT THIS WILL BECOME?

On display in the MNS Frenchay Museum Exhibition were these examples of knitting by Pat Wootten. Can you identify these component parts? Email Carolyn with your guesses at carolyn@clara.co.uk. The answer and a photo of the finished piece will be published in the September Newsletter.



FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS:

(Members £15, visitors £20)

GLASGOW: Saturday 1 October 2011 10am – 4pm

Venue: The Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Glasgow

Technique: Smocking

Tutor: Ann Ford

Organiser: Mrs Ann Ford, 7 Carcluie Crescent, Ayr KA7 4SP

EDINBURGH: Saturday 22 October 2011 10am – 4pm

Venue: Home Economics Room, Leith Academy, 20 Academy Park, Edinburgh EH6 8QJ

Technique: Blackwork

Tutor: Ann Ford

Organiser: Anne Mackinnon, 6 Newbattle Road, Kalkeith EH22 3DB

Miniature Needlework Society Accounts for year ended 31st December 2010

Balance Sheet

	2009		2010
ASSETS			
CASH AT BANK			
Community Account	3,085		3,649
Business Premium Account	<u>6,985</u>		<u>6,989</u>
	10,070		10638
DEBTORS			
Australian Subscriptions	223		240
Insurance	<u>90</u>		<u>90</u>
	<u>313</u>		<u>330</u>
	<u>10,383</u>		<u>10,968</u>
LIABILITIES			
Capital Account b/f	8,725		10,029
Shortfall/Excess Income for year	<u>1,304</u>		<u>939</u>
	10,029		10,968
Creditors	<u>354</u>		<u>354</u>
	<u>10,383</u>		<u>10,968</u>

Income & Expenditure Account

	2009		2010
INCOME RECEIVED AND ACCRUED			
Subscriptions	2,197		2,864
Advertising	339		265
Donations	0		50
Workshops	555		782
Bank Interest	4		40
Information Packs	48		179
Sundries	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
	3,143		4,180
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletters	1,020		1,339
Workshops	402		685
Postage & Stationery	333		280
Insurance	153		147
Information Packs	0		0
Advertising	0		564
Exhibitions (inc travel)	209		294
Sundries	<u>87</u>		<u>209</u>
	<u>2,240</u>		<u>3,518</u>
Shortfall/Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>939</u>		<u>662</u>