

Brian Lemin

Lace Bobbin CV.

My interest in lace bobbin began approximately 15 years ago when I bought a lathe and learned how to make them. From making them I developed an interest in antique bobbins and wanted to learn more about them. I started asking people questions about them and found that, with notable exceptions, they were unable to answer them, which I thought rather strange.

In my professional career I had been a researcher and writer at different time (I have written a text book (out of print now) and chapters in books too. I have also some 40 or so professional papers published. I did my Masters degree in Nursing Ethics by research too. I tell you this as my response to unanswered questions was to find out the answers myself.

I can't quite remember how, but I was put in touch with a collector in the UK who recommended Freeman's book, Pillow Lace in the East Midlands; so that got me started. I bought other books on lace bobbins and treen and began correspondence with a number of interested collectors, Diana Smith being one of them and as it has turned out, the most helpful and enduring bobbin friend of all. (that is despite all the troubles I pile upon her!)

Over time I wrote quite a lot of "articles" on lace bobbins and published them on my web page (now defunct as I stopped writing for a longish while)

One of the difficulties that I had was that by the time my interest had peaked I had retired and was consequently in reduced circumstances and was unable to put money into a buying a bobbin collection. Also I needed bobbin pictures to illustrate my articles.

As I was a photographer by hobby I decided that I would create a photographic collection. This has resulted in me having a very large collection of bobbin pictures which I have used for study purposes. Many of these I have reprinted for my friends in the form of an annotated collection of pictures. I think it amounts to 300 or so which I have in my albums and use them as coffee table reading.

I have two unpublished manuscripts which I doubt I will ever publish now so I will put them on a web page somewhere.

1. A Dictionary of Antique East Midland Lace Bobbins. This what it says in the title; all the types of bobbins, makers, terms etc that a collector might well be interested in
2. A Survey of East Devon Lace Bobbins. This is more of a monograph, but is unique at being the first in its field as all the attention has been upon East Midland bobbins. I have revealed quite a lot of previously unknown things about these Devon bobbins.

If I am to identify my greatest weakness, it would be “excited enthusiasm”, which can run away with me. On the plus side it often produces rather good research material or research sources. I need also to confess my total lack of organization and work discipline.

Please find below a list of my papers that I have or can remember:

A Bibliography of Lace Bobbin Articles

A Calendar of English Lace Makers Feasts and Celebrations.

A Standard Nomenclature for East Midland Antique Lace Bobbins.

An analysis of East Devon Maritime Bobbins

Church Window lace Bobbins (Full article)

Church Window Lace Bobbins (Published)

Collected Inscriptions on Lace Bobbins (when I saw Diana’s collection I gave up!)

Cow and Calf Alternatives. The whys and wherefores of this genre of bobbins.

Cryptic Lace Bobbins (Puzzle bobbins)

Dating the introduction of Spangling East Devon Bobbins. (I think this was a good article but it has one weakness) None the less a contribution to the difficulty we have in this area.

Devon Bobbins

East Midland Bobbins and Spangles. A speculation.

English Lace Bobbins and their History

First Words. Earliest incidence of words used for lace and bobbins

Hanging Bobbins

Historical Methods of Spangling Lace Bobbins.

Honiton Bobbins

Lace Bobbin Repairs

Lace in Malmesbury

Lace Makers Lamps

Materials Testing

Naive Decoration on East Devon Bobbins (A weak article I am afraid)

Non East Midland Lace Bobbins in England and America

On Lace and Love

Pewter and Lace Bobbins

Pins and Historical Lace Making in England

Preliminary Notes on English Lace Bobbins

South Bucks Bobbins

Terms Used to Describe lace Bobbins

The Traditional Approach to Lace Bobbin Repairs.

The Unique Names of Bobbins Used in the Olney Museum

The Use of the Word Baluster in Lace Bobbin Turned Decoration.

Tools Used in Needle lace

What is it made of?

I have also written about tatting Shuttles and Crochet hooks. A few articles, say four?