

# NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SHAPES/DESIGNS FOUND LACE BOBBINS

By Brian Lemin Jan 2010

## INTRODUCTION:

Lace bobbin making is essentially a wood turner's art, though many metal and hand carved lace bobbins exist. The same can be said for bone lace bobbins, as essentially they too are turned on a wood lathe.

This "sort of" dictionary is based only on the turner's art and not the auxiliary decoration of the bobbins, i.e. tinsel and grooves, mother and babe etc.

The best book I can recommend to you for this sort of thing (Decoration) is:

Turning Lace Bobbins with David Springett. Self Published and currently available on the web.

I am sure this is not complete and as always I welcome your contributions to improve upon it.

## BALL-AND-RING TURNING

Turned member composed of alternating series of spherical shapes and narrow rings. In lace bobbin terminology we often call this the caterpillar. (See tomato sandwich below!)



## BALL TURNING



Turned member composed of a series of spherical shapes. This turning was especially popular in northern European and American furniture of the late 17th century.

## BALUSTER

Turned or carved upright post or pillar, commonly curved in outline, incorporating a vase or pear shape. It may appear in a chair back below the crest rail or in a column supporting a CORNICE on a cupboard. A group of balusters supporting a rail form a balustrade. The term baluster is also used for a stout turned member of any shape (see BALUSTER TURNING, Under TURNERY). A split baluster may be used as an applied ornament. To make split balusters, a turned baluster is not actually cut in two. Rather, two pieces of wood are glued together temporarily and turned together on a lathe (see TURNERY). When separated, they are two split balusters.

## BALUSTER TURNING



The term BALUSTER denotes a stout turned member of any shape.

## BARLEY-SUGAR TURNING

Another name for twist turning (see under turnery) refers to its resemblance to a traditional candy.



Here it is a solid spiral in bone

## BOBBIN TURNING



Turned member composed of a series of narrow, raised rings separated by gaps of approximately their own width. Together, two rings plus the gap between them resemble a bobbin, a short spool for thread.

I can understand that lace makers might find this definition hard to come to grips with. However it is an official description that we have to live with.

## CUP TURNING



Turned member incorporating profile of inverted cup

### DOUBLE OPEN-TWIST TURNING



Turned member formed as two separate but intertwining spirals. The double open twist is produced by PIERCED CARVING after turning.

### REEL-AND-BEAD TURNING

This is pretty close to it



Turned member composed of alternating spherical and ovoid shapes. The ovoid's are much longer than the spheres and are usually grooved with rings around their central, widest parts. This type of turning was used in MEDIEVAL FURNITURE.

### RING TURNING



Turned member banded by series of parallel grooves

### SAUSAGE TURNING



Turned member composed of series of abutting ovoid swellings, resembling linked sausages.

### SCREW TURNING



Another name for Twist TURNING (see under TURNERY).

### SPIRAL TURNING

Another name for TWIST TURNING (see under TURNERY).

## SPOOL TURNING



Prior to 19th century, synonym for BOBBIN TURNING (set under TURNERY); more specifically, an element in 19th-century American SPOOL TURNERY length Of turned wood intended to Provide spools for thread, composed of a series of separated narrow rings.

## BEAD



A series of beads

A bead in its classic sense is a half round shape, but designs allow them to take a variety of symmetrical curved shapes. Turned with a skew.

## BOBBIN



A concave shape that will take a winding of thread. Often combined with other shapes to make a design. Differs from a reel by the fact that it is somewhat a wider design.

### BUTTON BEADS.



A series of narrow is beads turned in a row.

### REEL-AND-BEAD TURNING



Turned member composed of alternating spherical and ovoid shapes. The ovoid's are much longer than the spheres and are usually grooved with rings around their central, widest parts. This type of turning was used in MEDIEVAL FURNITURE.

### STRAIGHT TAPER.



Straight sided taper.

### SUNK BEAD.



A bead that is lower than its surrounding profile.

NOW FOR SOME LACE BOBBIN ONLY DEFINITIONS.

### TOMATO SANDWICH



Two pieces of bread with a tomato between them!

### BEES KNEES



Bit like a bees knees under a magnifying glass

### WAISTED



If it only has a groove or a double groove where the “waist line” would be, we call it “belted”. I.e. waisted and belted.

### COLLARS



These are just below neck and can take many forms.

### BISHOPS CROZIER



These can be seen in wood and in bone. Very often the loose rings are absent