

OVERRATED HISTORY SOURCES



With so many gyms and social activities during weekday evenings in London, I could well spend my late evenings doing something else, however, my calling called me for this - so here I am going through old history sources. The Toys of Needlework by Gertrude Whiting is one of those sources that I would label as an old history source.... But would add more, an old history source that is overrated and unnecessary for a relevant academic background to an object observation. Is not just the writing that is obsolete, is the unnecessary details and the values at the time that today would be seen as reflecting paternalism and lack of objectivity and accurate historical relevance.

or with a support for one — have rings near the middle, through which pass a steadying cord. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there were tooled steel sheaths. Bone or ivory holders must exist, and tin ones could during the World War be had in the United States. These holders are sometimes called sheaths. The lengthened type of knitting-sheath is known as a knitting-stick.

Knitting-needles are "pesky critters" to carry around — they bore through pockets and push through bags, they fall through cracks and catch and bend. They are dangerous too. Our cook, for off moments, kept knitting in her pocket. One morning, Mother was out marketing and the maid thrust her hand into her long pocket to pull out the ever-present knitting. A steel needle ran right through the palm of her hand, and I, having just heard of such a thing as lockjaw, pushed one of my play blocks between her teeth so there would surely be an opening through which to feed her. Then I ruthlessly yanked out the offending needle and handed it over for her to go on knitting, requesting to see what she was making. Since the wound, being small, quickly

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96 *Knitting-Needles and Crochet-Hooks*

closed and stopped bleeding, I saw no reason why she should abjure knitting; though I thoroughly frightened the poor girl, insisting there was every reason for keeping her jaws wide propped with my uncomfortable block!

Hence I warn all knitters who wish to avoid the block, that they should invest in needle ends, or at least use corks for protectors. I have a pair of tiny Swiss chamois horns — naturally hollow — connected by elastic cord, to slip over the tips of a set of steel needles when not in use. Many amusing devices — especially painted wooden ones, Darby and Joan, et cetera — were made up during the war.

Old cylindrical ivory cases, sometimes tooled leather spectacle cases, all sorts of dainty or stunning old French *étuis*, and carved wood pen cases, are available and practical, as well perhaps as delightful, for housing one's needles when traveling or visiting or when the slippery creatures are not in use. If more than one set be kept in a single case, it is well to tie each lot by itself.

Mrs. Florence L. Cohen has a charming *sablé* knitting-needle

Above all, is the lack of detail regarding the age of the crochet needles in question, the accurate date, period and owners of design and patents. Is not that I need the information I am complaining about is absent in this book, it is just that my previous booklets covering Historical Needles Object Observations for Chronological Purposes, had this information retrieved by me after accessing several patent records in the US and in the UK. The patents were registered prior to the book's first publication in 1928, a year in which the author in question had a leadership academic role in a cosmopolitan museum, several publishing roles and was a 'Lace worker to India', as per book biographical notes, yet no use of archives. Mind you the initial title of the book in 1928 was 'Tools and Toys of Stitchery'. The two copies I have, the American and the British versions, were published in 1971 by Dove Publications. Titled 'Old-Time Tools & Toys of Needlework' by Gertrude Whiting and purchased by me years ago as rare and hard to get books. Yet, today, the book has depreciated to an average of £7 with free postage. Yet, I decided to finally take the books off the shelves and hit the blog with a fine critique for you readers only. Thank me later The saga started with lots that I need to add to my historical collection of objects of needlework. Every time I add a new lot to Ariane Crafts portfolio of historical crafts objects, I try to find new details that until now have not been registered by academia. Some objects in the lot we are discussing today do not have a patent registration number, hence why I looked at sources which I would not resort straight away because the writing and irrelevance put me off. However, I was up for the task to make object observations to each of these needles below,

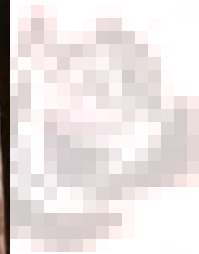




The book proved completely useless for this purpose, but my detailed observation between two lace crochet needles gave me an eureka moment! The retractable lace crochet needles were made in different sizes, yet maintaining the same size of retractable needle base structure!

Amara Crochet

www.amaracrochet.com







How did this escape my object observations back in 2021?

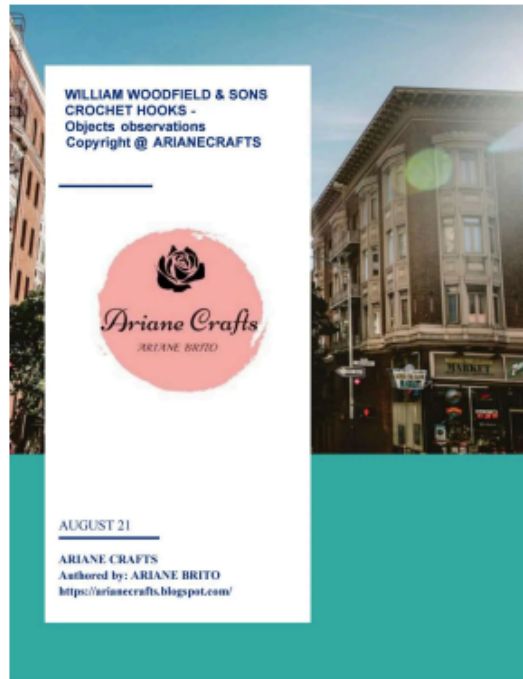
Once W.H. and sons crochet hook model is upgraded and the tambour needle adjustable nail is removed from the design, the sliding crochet needle loses much resemblance with the Algesimeter, German medicine needle. As you can see below, the remaining of the top needle is identical to posterior models patented by the same owner.



Above, left to right: Three W & Sons needles and One Brass William Hall crochet needle

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If you want to look at my 2021 Object Observations, please visit
https://issuu.com/thomaszpublications/docs/only_crochet_hooks_wd_sons_august_2021



Don't take this blog post as a book review, I am biased by plain objectivity :)

Until next time,

Ariane Crafts Blog

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