



Designing for Needlepoint and Embroidery from Ancient and Primitive Sources

Jan Messent

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Creative & adventurous hobbyists who are looking for new ideas in embroidery will find this book a rich and rewarding experience. It is the first guide to suggest ways of adapting designs from ancient and primitive sources to create beautiful new pieces of handiwork. Jan Messent covers a wide range of previously untapped design sources from the Stone and Bronze Ages through the arts of Ancient Greece, the Celts, Aztecs, and Indians to modern African and South American cultures. Designs are adapted from textiles, ceramics, coins, glass, and jewelry. Ways of translating the designs into embroidery, along with suitable techniques, are graphically illustrated with attractive drawings, showing in some cases how to incorporate found objects such as seashells, feathers, and seeds. Included are many options in the selection of colors (some of which were not available in ancient times), and in the use of today's fibers, unknown in the past, that are frequently more interesting and certainly more convenient to use. Materials discussed are wools, hair, silks, cotton, crochet threads, metal threads, cords, twine, string, leather thongs, raffia, nylon, and other synthetics. Techniques include assisi work, blackwork, needlework, cutwork, shadow work, smocking, surface stitchery, couching applique, patchwork, quilting, pulled work, drawnthread work, needleweaving, sprang, twining, netting, machine embroidery, metal-thread embroidery, and 3-dimensional embroidery, among others. Inspired by the ideas presented here, the embroiderer can enjoy the satisfaction of creating something beautiful, highly individual, and uniquely personal.

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