



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

IF SEWING IS YOUR HOBBY

Personalized Bed Linens—Novelty Table Mats and Napkins—Silk Quilts—Heirlooms of the Future.

We've always had our tongue in our cheek when we've recalled Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's remarks of long ago. "It is just as scandalous for a woman not to know how to use her needle as for a man not to learn to use his sword." Though maybe events will yet prove that the idea is not so old-fashioned after all.

A Sense of Security
Certainly in times of crises it seems that even the most sophisticated moderns figuratively turn to both these rather basic defenses against uncertainty. We're told today that sewing gives women a sense of security. That she finds comfort and that this, along with the universal urge we all have to make individual things with our hands, must explain why so many women do needlework these days.

The time-honored explanation that we do it for economy, once the reason d'être for almost all sewing, is no longer the entire lure. Now one can often buy things ready made for no more, and often for less, than it costs to buy materials for a handmade article (except in the case of the very fine handmade things where the main cost is a result of the expert needlework).

In fairness it must be added that really fine sewing still commands respect because of its heirloom value. With less now being done than formerly, we may assume that it may be even more highly valued in the future than it has been in the past.

Whatever the reasons, many women find their fingers itching to get at a piece of needlework these summer days. If you're one of these and have a flare for originality and can sew a really fine seam, you can turn out many attractive personalized things that will be fastidious details in your home. If the idea appeals but you don't quite know where to begin, take a trip around town and see the finest bits of household linens to be found in the better stores and the high class linen shops. There you will see exquisite things that should bring out the creative urge in almost anybody. Then look around at the very fine sheer fabrics in the piece-goods departments, remembering when you buy that your work should be worthy of good material.

Small Elegancies
Next examine your tools. A gold thimble with your name on it is a small elegance that every woman should have. A fat and fancy pin cushion, heart-shaped perhaps, is also a necessity. And don't forget a "strawberry" or a "tomato" for sharpening your needle. And you'll owe yourself a really extravagant sewing basket. Or better yet, an antique sewing table. That's for hand sewing.

If you use a sewing machine at all, a good one is all but necessary. The

new models include some interesting improvements, such as a presser-foot that runs over pins without breaking the needle, not to mention the picot-hemstitcher attachment. And in portables there is a new model that fits into a folding bridge size table to serve grandly for both sewing and cutting. A leather case of scissors in graduated sizes along with pinking shears is a marvelous aid to the sewer. If you're a serious seamstress, a little sewing apron looks demure.

Maybe you'll want to begin making some unbelievably featherweight percale or linen sheets with applied hems that are very elegant indeed with a design of scrolls, cords, ribbon bows or flowers. (The really fine ones, if bought ready-made would cost from forty to a hundred dollars each—just in case you're not taking this suggestion seriously.)

If you're too impatient to spend so much handwork on sheets, almost as good results can be achieved by a very neat job of fine machine-stitched applique. An even faster short cut is to applique a cut out of chintz on the sheet and pillowcase with the zigzag attachment of your sewing machine. (Would be nicer done the hard way, of course.)

A dot and scallop pattern applied on sheets and pillowcases is also quite simple to do. So is the scroll and shell pattern. Monograms of sprigged muslin or washable chintz to match a border are gay and pretty. On the fancy side there is a monogram made of embroidered insertion about an inch wide. . . . run ribbon through the insertion. (Take the ribbon out for washing and replace with a different color if you please.) Sheets with wide full ruffles of embroidered muslin across the top end are also pretty frivolous. These same wide ruffles around four sides of pillow cases are practical as well as decorative.

Intricate Quilting

Other luxuries for beds include handmade blanket covers of pastel crepe finished with lace all around, and in the center a hand-inset monogram of lace. And if you're good at quilting, here's an idea to tempt you—get pure silk flowered satin and make a hand-quilted chaise longue throw. Line it with a plain-colored, pure silk satin and quilt intricately.

Table linens are tempting for the imaginative seamstress. The simplest most charming idea we've seen is the use of blue and white scenic patterned linen (toile de Jouy or something similar) made into plain place mats and napkins. These set with blue willow plates are delightful for every day or for breakfast use. Plaid gingham with a fringed edge is about as

effective as anything for informal bean suppers.

If you're looking for more elaborate ideas, make place mats and napkins with delicately applied clusters of fruit or flowers in natural color on sheerest white organdy or of white batiste applique on net (really marvelous examples of this are to be seen at the French Pavilion at the fair).

Another smart type of handmade

table linen is one of those circular, to-the-floor table cloths for a round table. Use some sheer fabric with delicate applique designs in white or a contrasting color. Or a circular cloth of "mousseline de soie" made with a deep ruffle around the bottom looks simple but it takes expert sewing and handling for perfection—and anything less won't do for this sort of thing. Flowered tea napkins of sheer linen with fine hand-rolled hems are daintily to use with a beautifully appointed silver tea service.

In addition to these not so usual types of handwork there are ever so many tempting packages in the art needlework departments of the leading stores. Tablecloths, pillowcases, towels to embroider or applique, beautiful quilts to piece or applique, all are available if you don't feel equal to original designs.

And take no back talk from anyone on the subject of what we used to call "fancy work." You've royal precedents! Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Anne were both skilled with the needles, while Queen Mathilde of France re-



Plain but very pleasant indeed is this simple place mat made of blue-and-white scenic linen, such as a toile de Jouy, with a plain hem and set with a blue willow plate.

This Story Certainly is Complimentary to Waiters

As an interesting sidelight in connection with the recent appointment of Hon. Angus L. Macdonald as Minister of Naval Affairs, The Financial Post recalls the story suggested as being told by George James, editor of The Bowmanville Statesman. The incident is quoted as having occurred in 1936 when the Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association was holding its annual convention in Halifax, the banquet usually a special feature of the proceedings being held at the Nova Scotian hotel.

"Previous to the banquet," Editor James is credited as saying, "the editor had occasion to go into the huge dining room on business and seeing a fine looking man half way down the room dressed in evening clothes we approached him thinking he was the headwaiter. Broaching a question to this immaculately dressed gentleman, to our amazement as well as embarrassment, we learned, when it was too late, that we were addressing the Premier of Nova Scotia and not the headwaiter. Was our face red? Well say it was! An apology was unnecessary as the good natured Premier enjoyed the mistake in identity."

It is a pity, no doubt, to spoil a good story, but this one seems to rouse doubts on a couple of points. Editor

recorded the story of the Norman conquests in embroidery. Helen of Troy ornamented with fine needlework the sails of the ships which brought the Greek warriors to battle, while Eve, using a thorn for a needle, was the inventor of the art.

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James has travelled very widely on this continent and across the sea, but where is the Nova Scotian who will admit that there are even headwaiters in any land or clime handsome enough to justify the alleged error made by the Bowmanville editor? When shown the story a local gentleman who was born in Nova Scotia said:—

"I once saw a waiter in the Albany Club who was distinguished enough to be mistaken for a party politician, but Angus Macdonald could never be mistaken for a "waiter." He has the distinguished look of a man who doesn't wait, but hurries things along to success. That's Angus! It's more likely that the Bowmanville editor mistook a head waiter for Hon. Angus. All the Nova Scotia waiters are distinguished looking and gracious—gracious enough to flatter a stranger and flatter themselves by accepting a mistake for the truth."

Brandon Sun: One wonders why a night in June is always coupled with a moon and pretty girls and handsome mugs instead of dust, ants, frogs and bugs.

Snorty Had One Leg But His Shooting Eye Was OK

(Vancouver Province)

A skipper came ashore to report that his ship had been attacked by two Nazi planes in the Channel. "What happened to them?"

"Oh, they were both shot down at once with one shell by "Snorty," the ship's gunner."

"Snorty," it appeared, was refused enlistment in this war because he lost a leg in the last one. "But humme," says "Snorty," "I can still shoot." So "Snorty" went as gunner of the freighter.

Happy was "Snorty" when the two Nazi planes came roaring to the attack. He kept manoeuvring his gun, but held fire, while the crew waited. Suddenly came an explosion. "Snorty" had got the two planes in line and then fired. His shell passed through the first one and exploded in the second.

"They both came down in the sea, and we kept right on going," said the skipper.

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NATIONAL STOCK TAKING NEEDS NATIONAL REGISTRATION

CANADA CALLS upon all her citizens, regardless of nationality, male and female, over 16 years of age, to register on August 19th, 20th, or 21st. Registration offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The object of this registration is to ascertain the human resources of the nation so that they may be mobilized to enable Canada to make her maximum effort in the defence of this country and towards the successful prosecution of the war.

Here are the questions you will be asked to answer. The card for women will be similar but subject to certain necessary variations. Study the questions carefully now so that you may be ready to give full and complete answers to the registration officer.

REGISTRATION DATES:- AUGUST 19th, 20th and 21st

DATE OF REGISTRATION		ELECTORAL DISTRICT No.		POLLING DIVISION No.		CARD No.	
Month	Day	Year	Name		Name, if any		
1940							
1. Surname (Print in block letters) Given Names							
2. Permanent Postal Address (if away from usual residence when filling in card give name of usual residence)							
3. Age last birthday Date of birth Year Month Day							
4. Conjugal conditions: Single Married Widowed Divorced							
5. Of what dependents (if any) are you the sole support:—							
(a) Father (b) Mother (c) Wife (d) Number of children under 16 years (e) Number of other dependents (f) Do you contribute partial support to any one							
6. Country of birth (a) Yourself (b) Your father (c) Your mother							
7. Nationality or country of allegiance—British subject (a) by birth (b) by naturalization (c) Foreign citizen (d) If naturalized, in what year? (e) In what place? (f) If not British subject, to what country do you owe allegiance? (g) If an immigrant, in what year did you enter Canada?							
8. Racial origin							
9. Language or languages: (a) Do you speak English? (b) French? (c) What other language can you speak, read and write?							
10. Education: (a) Primary only (b) Primary and Secondary (c) Vocational Training (Business College, Technical High School) (d) College or University Degree?							
11. Is your general health (a) good? (b) fair? (c) bad? 12. If blind, deaf, dumb, crippled or otherwise physically disabled, state nature of disability							
If permanently disabled, are you in receipt of a pension? In respect of War Service? Workmen's Compensation? Old Age or Blind? Other? (Specify)							
13. Class of occupation: (a) Are you an employer of labour other than domestic? If so, state business (b) Are you working on own account, but not employing labour? If so, state business (c) Are you an employee? (1) working at usual occupation (2) working at other than usual occupation (3) unemployed (d) Not working because pensioner, dependent, retired, independent means (Specify)							
14. Occupation or Craft:— (a) Present occupation? (b) What is your regular occupation? (c) What other work can you do well? (d) If an employee, who is your present employer? Name Address Nature of business where employed? (state precisely) (e) If experienced in a skilled industrial occupation or profession, describe specifically the type or types of work in which you are specially equipped by training or experience.							
15. Unemployment: (a) How many weeks did you work in the past 12 months? (b) If out of work now, state number of weeks since last employed in any occupation other than work performed in return for direct relief (c) Are you totally incapacitated for employment?							
16. (a1) Were you brought up on a farm? (a2) Until what age? (b1) Have you worked on a farm? (b2) How long? (b3) In what province or country? (c1) Can you handle horses? (c2) Drive a tractor? (c3) Use farm machinery? (c4) Can you milk? (c5) Are you able to do other farm work?							
17. Is there any particular occupation in which you would like to be specially trained?							
18. Defence Services: (1) Have you previously served in any Naval, Military or Air Forces? If so, state: (a) Forces of what country (b) Approximate dates between which services performed (c) Unit (d) Rank held (2) If retired or discharged, give reasons therefor (3) Have you been rejected for military service in the present war? (a) Why? (b) Where?							

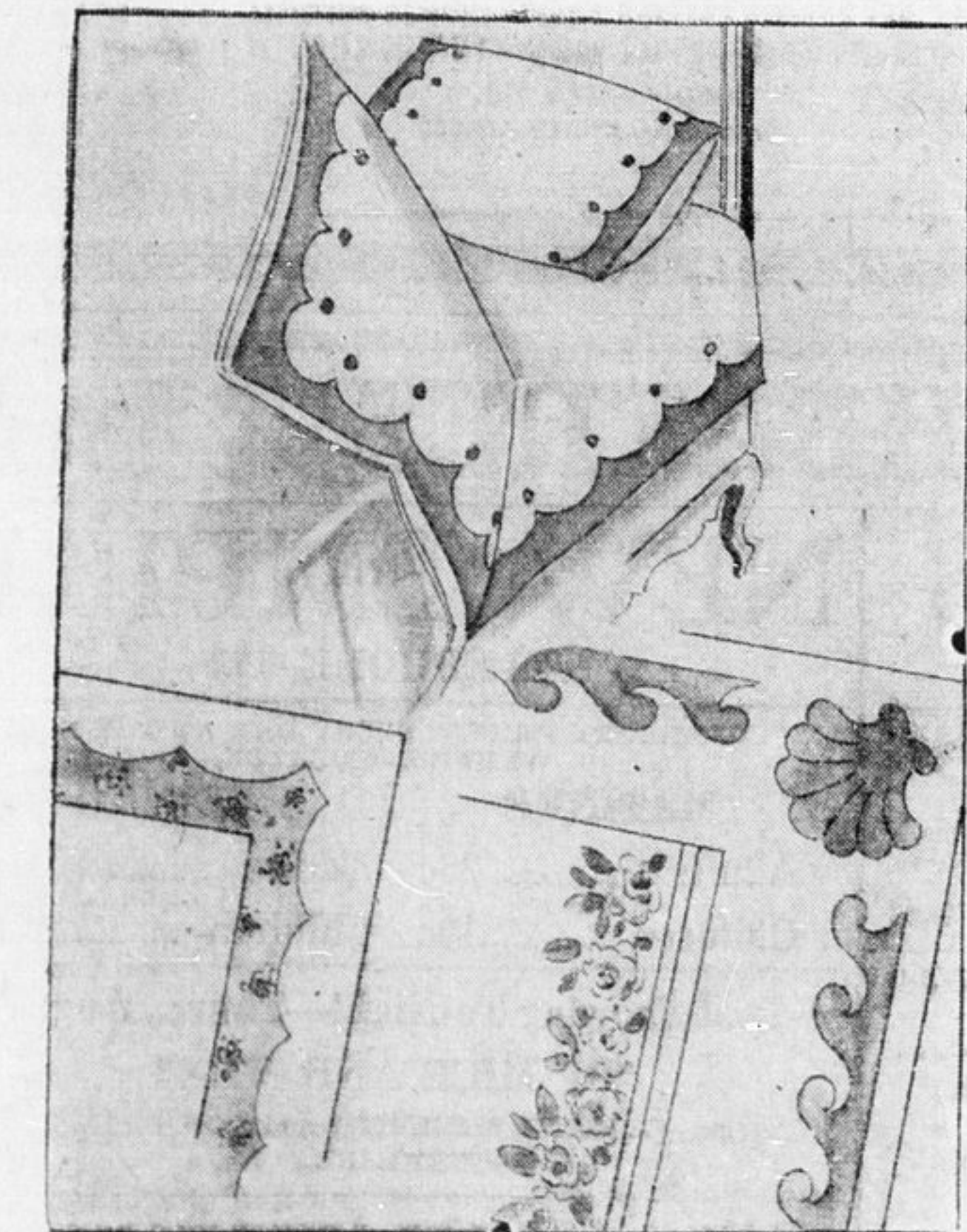
This is Your Opportunity to Help in The National Effort. To keep the cost of this registration at a minimum the Government is asking the co-operation of all public-minded citizens in the work of registration. You can help by getting in touch with your local registration officials and offering your services.

WHERE TO REGISTER

Registration offices are being set up by electoral districts in the same manner as in the last Dominion election. Registrants are required to register in the regular polling subdivisions of their own constituencies. But should a registrant be in some other province or district out of the regular polling subdivision on Registration Days, he or she may register at any registration office convenient, upon satisfactory explanation to the local deputy registrar.

Penalty for Non-Registration — Failure to register will make any male or female, married or single, over the age of 16 years, liable to a fine not exceeding Two hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding Three months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, and moreover to a further penalty not exceeding Ten dollars for each day, after the day upon which he should have registered, during which he shall continue to be unregistered.

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Personalized bed linens are a decorator trick that even a beginner at sewing can turn out if she's willing to take pains and patience. Those illustrated here are easy to make on the sewing machine, and they are staunch and durable.



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