

History of Knitting

By Gay Robertson



History of Knitting

- May be connected to knotting fishing nets
- One needle knitted socks found from year 300-499
- First two needle knitting believed to come from Egypt
 - In 11th century
 - Now in Victoria & Albert Museum



Knitting and Catholic Church



Visit of the Angel, 15th c. by Master Bertram of Minden

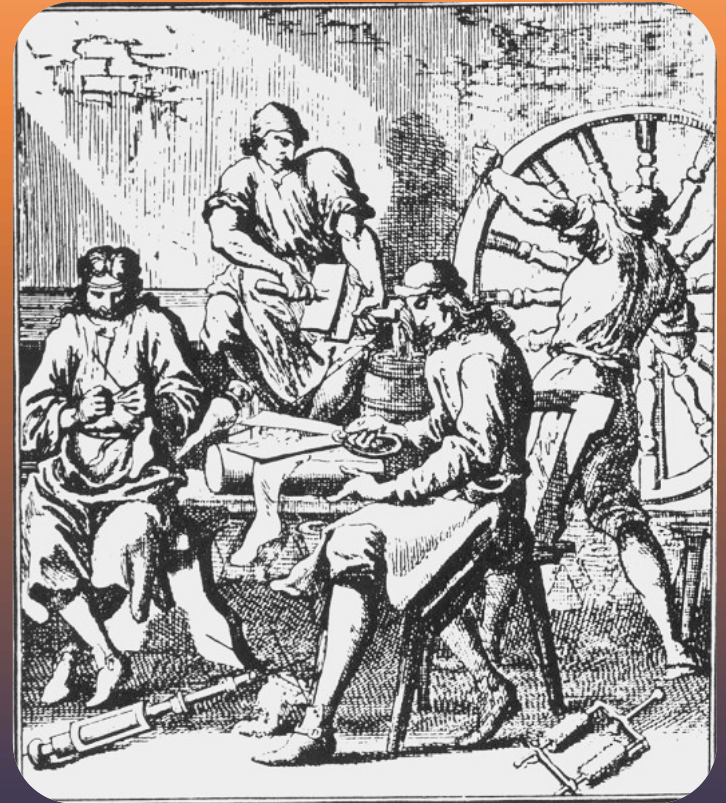


Close-up: the Madonna is clearly knitting in the round!

- This painting shows the Virgin Mary knitting on a circular needle
- Silk pillow covers were knitted for the church
- Garments were knitted for churchmen
- Painting dated 1390

Knitting guilds in France

- From 1420 France had knitting guilds
 - All male
 - Apprenticeship system of 6 years training to encourage the quality of the profession
 - Able to protect trade secrets
- Wool spinning was done
- Wool washing
- Knitting garments
- Finishing garments by embroidery etc



Knitting guilds in Britain

- Elizabethan period in Britain saw knitting become fashionable
 - Knitted and embroidered socks
 - “real gentlemen wear knitted stockings”
 - Exports of these began
- Wool was commonly used
- Silk and silver gilt thread more rarely used



Master Knitters work



- Knitted and embroidered gloves, early 17th century
 - Silk, probably for priest



- Italian jacket, 16th century
 - Silk and metallic thread

Knitting machine

- 1589 William Lee invented the knitting machine
- Industrial Revolution meant more sophisticated machines
- Guilds of hand knitters were gone
- Knitting became a craft for women



Knitting lives on

- Why are we still knitting?
 - Produces beautiful garments
 - Simple to do
 - Satisfying
 - Pleasurable
 - Stress free
- Countless websites with tips
- Free patterns
- Knitting communities



Information and graphics from:

<http://sheepandstitch.com/the-history-of-knitting-part-1-mysterious-origins/>

<http://sheepandstitch.com/the-history-of-knitting-pt-2-madonnas-stockings-and-guilds-oh-my/>

<http://www.knittingdaily.com/>

<http://www.theyarnloop.com/>

<https://www.anniescatalog.com/knitandcrochetnow/index.htm>

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<https://knittingtoday.com/>

Thank you for watching

Hope you enjoyed it!