

**Bi-monthly newsletter of the Foundation
and the activities at the Museum**



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The story of a collar destined for royalty and now in the Bruges collection.

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Kristin created a multifiber and multi-colored lace shawl that now adds depth to the museum.

Stunning Binche collar

By Hugo Uyttenhove



The collar shown above is one item in the priceless collection of Binche lace on loan from the Lace Museum of Bruges, Belgium. This piece was made in the mid-1700s, and the lacemaker used 1200-count thread. In comparison, the white Binche pieces displayed have a 180-thread count. Such fineness resulted in delicate patterns, and one needs a magnifying glass to see all the points where the maker has twisted the threads (see the picture left from the red-lined area top left of the collar).

The collar is so delicate and smooth that it looks like a weightless cambric, with the filmy design caught in a web of partridge eye ground and separated from it by a thin picket of tiny pores or pinholes. The bobbins used were miniature versions of the average bobbin in the museum.

Binche lace was very popular in France. Parisian nobility felt privileged to wear this lace style and wanted control of who could access it. Their demand resulted in controlling the supply of Binche lace at the border with Belgium. Undaunted, Binche's lacemakers promptly used dogs to smuggle the lace into France for anyone wanting to pay a fair price.

Come and visit the museum soon to admire this stunning masterpiece. The unique collection from Bruges is only on display until March 28, 2025.

Beginner lace classes

By Prabha Ramakrishan



Almost halfway through the set of classes, it is encouraging to see eight enthusiastic people making lace. They have become quite adept in the art. Our First Friday open house has enticed many to become future lace makers.

Liz Redford and I are team-teaching people who seem to have been bitten by the lace bug!

A new session for beginners will start in the Fall. Click [here](#) to check the museum website for the upcoming dates, registration and payment details.

Guided tours

Docents are available to give tours of the museum. The tour includes a short history of lacemaking and an explanation of the many types of lace and their history. Patrons learn about the techniques used to create this form of textile art and are invited to handle bobbins and learn more about the intricacies of lacemaking.

During and after opening hours, there are one-hour and two-hour tours for several group sizes. To learn more about our guided tours, visit the museum website [here](#).

For a quick online tour, click below

[The Raleigh Lace Museum \(youtube.com\)](#)

Museum improvement

By Angelina Dryden

If you have visited the museum since its opening seven months ago, you may have noticed the current lighting is not optimal. In addition to the small lights for the displays, our Artistic Director, Diane Makgill, is determined to showcase the room's splendor with appropriate lights. All subscribers will soon receive an email asking for your help reaching our goal. Our total ask is \$5,000 for this project. Any supplemental donations will go to the general donation fund. I am looking forward to your help with this much-needed improvement.

CBS Sunday Morning show

On Sunday, February 9th, the CBS Sunday Morning show broadcasted a segment on lace. It was primarily recorded in Franklin, Tennessee, during the 2024 IOLI convention. The show spotlighted the art of lacemaking and presented a short historical perspective. Click on the picture below to watch the replay.



Anniversary lace creation

Multi-fiber Torchon Lace



Kristin wrote the following while working on this colorful lace shawl in 2014. It was presented on the 25th anniversary of the Sir Walter Lacer in Raleigh, NC.

“As I was getting started, I thought it would drive me crazy because the bobbins were so loaded (15 ft per bobbin), and the slip knot came loose so easily. When I started using hair clips, those issues were solved. The most interesting part of working with the different fibers is seeing what happens as the colors blend together. Some colors disappear, and others pop! The fibers themselves create a three-dimensional and alive landscape.

After only an inch, I let our group know I was in love with a new type of lace and would never make traditional lace again. It is very exciting to work on and makes me smile as I rewind the silk one more time, even as I have to search once again for the mohair knot. If you love color and/or different fibers, you will love the challenge of making a multi-fibered lace creation!