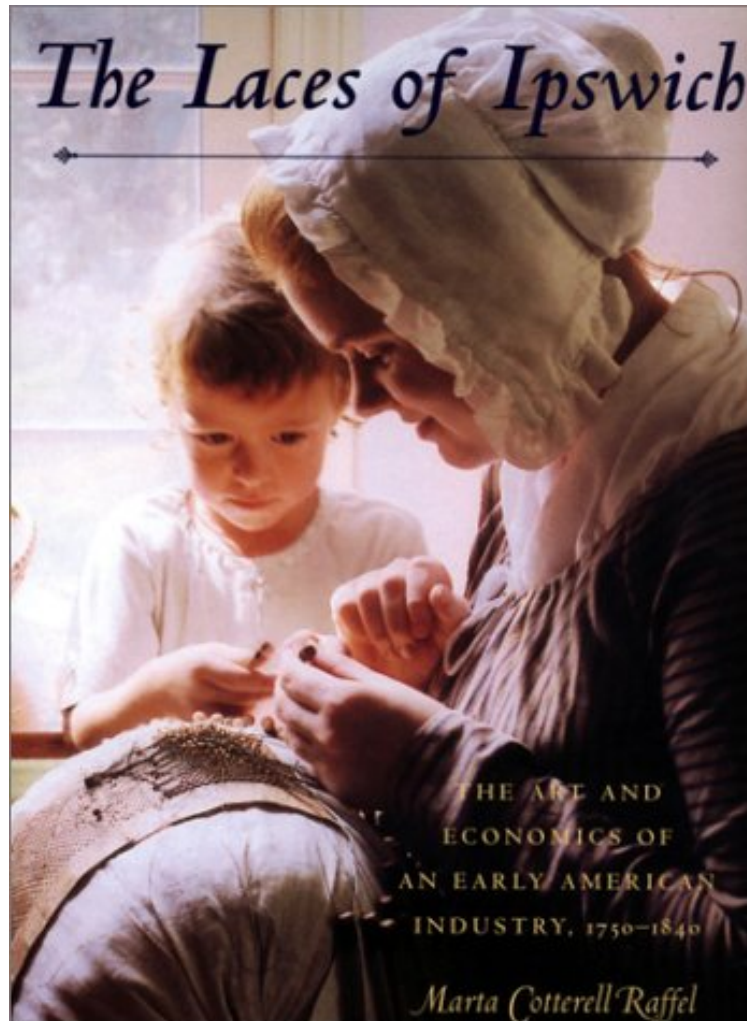


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The Laces of Ipswich: The Art and Economics of an Early American Industry, 17501840

Marta Cotterell Raffel
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10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Quite a well-researched little bookBy Lady LaWhile researching handmade laces of the eighteenth century for a grad-school project, I came across a small reference to Ipswich laces in an article from the early part of the twentieth century. I was totally intrigued by the idea of there being a handmade lace industry in New England. I had previously believed everyone was too puritanical to make lace (in seventeenth-century Massachusetts, there was a prohibition on the wearing of laces.) Further research led me to this fascinating

little book. The author clearly has a passion for the subject, and she follows that up with some very good research on multiple aspects of the industry, the society at large, the women who made the laces, the women who wore them, as well as the identification and characteristics of the various types of laces made there. She includes primary source documents (a report on the industry in Alexander Hamilton's papers, as well as original receipts and account books), visual sources (portraits), and lots of original artifacts (pillows, prickings, bobbins, finished laces, and surviving garments on which they were used.) Definitely worth reading by anyone interested in American history, textile and fashion history, and lace and lace-making enthusiasts. Well done! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great book with wonderful information! By M. Auker If you are interested in bobbin lace, history of textiles in America, early American industries or just history in general this is a wonderful book. Full of information and has great photos. The history of this style of lace is something that needs to be appreciated and not lost to us today. I only wish that lace such as this was still as valued and could support those who are still producing this beautiful style of laces. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ipswich By Carol Stevenson Spending a lot of summers with my cousin, Susan, who grew up in Ipswich, and because of my love for lace, fabric and textiles in general, I purchased this book and my own antique lace bobbin pillow. A lovely book full of history and lace making techniques. A must for anyone else that appreciates America's young past.

In its lace making heyday in the late eighteenth century, Ipswich, Massachusetts boasted 600 lace makers in a town of only 600 households. Marta Cotterell Raffel's study is the first to focus specifically on the Ipswich lace industry in the wider world of eighteenth-century work. She explores how lacemakers learned their skills and how they combined a traditional lace making education with attention to market-driven changes in style. She shows how the tools of lacemaking were intrinsic parts of the craft, and how the shawls, bonnets, and capes created by the lacemakers designated the social class, and sometimes even the political affiliation, of those that wore them. With extensive research based on hundreds of previously unseen artifacts and documents, Raffel shows how this preindustrial labor and craft - absolutely central to the economic health of Ipswich - created and sustained forms of early American culture such as fashion and political symbolism, and shaped an entire community for several generations.

From the Publisher 7 x 10 trim. 101 illus. LC 2002-015336 About the Author Marta Cotterell Raffel is a lace maker who learned the craft over the course of ten years from some of the most skilled people in the field. She has published essays about Ipswich lace in *Antiques and Civilization Magazine*, and lectured on the topic at the Heard House in Ipswich, Massachusetts, the Peabody Essex Museum, and the Dublin Seminar, among others. Her research for this book was partially supported by the Great Lakes Lace Guild and the Chesapeake Region Lace Guild.