

The lively needle

Every stitch has its own era

By MARY KAY DAVIS

If you're intrigued with which embroidery designs fit with your furniture styles, and what colors you should use to stitch them, here are a few more matchings.

The ornate Chippendale style was often upholstered in bargeello needlepoint. The most common patterns were the carnation and the flame. An excellent book with many good bargeello patterns from this period is "Florentine Embroidery" by Snook.

America's Federal and Empire periods began after the American Revolution and lasted until around 1840. Greek and Roman styles were popular. As a young, weak republic we liked to copy our fashions from those old and more secure democracies. The light, classic, restrained furniture of Hepplewhite, Sheraton and later, of Duncan Phyfe, were popular.

Printing presses could now print pictures on cotton and linen cloth. Upholstery and clothing no longer depended upon embroidery for their patterns. Most American embroideries of this time were framed pictures, such as

elaborate samplers or school girl mourning pictures with tombs and weeping willows in the background.

COLORS BEFORE 1840 were very strong—rich yellow, glowing orange, scarlet and brilliant blue. In 1814, a good green dye was discovered that needed only one dying to achieve its color. Green quickly became one of the most fashionable colors of the Empire period in America.

During these first years of the 19th century, American clipper ships were opening trade with the Orient. Chinese, or pseudo-Oriental designs, soon became popular.

Pictures of Federal and Empire cornucopias, eagles, and Chinese junks can be found in "More Needlepoint from America's Great Quilt Designs" by Davis and Giannattelli.

THE AMERICAN VICTORIAN era lasted from 1840 until the end of the 19th century. This was a time of revivals. Everything from Gothic to Renaissance to Louis XV French to America's own past was revived at one time or another. The styles being resurrected tended to get a bit mixed in the process.



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Berlin needlework, much like our needlepoint today, allowed everyone to stitch canvases with wool by working from graphs. These designs first

appeared in Germany on little, hand-painted graphs and soon crossed the ocean to America.

The 1850s discovered aniline, chemical dyes. They swept the world, from Persian rugs to Berlin wools. Colors that were deep and saturated, though often harsh, were now possible. The Victorians loved them.

This was a romantic, sentimental era. Pictures of cocker spaniels on tasseled cushions, curly-haired children, and elaborate Biblical scenes were popular.

Large Berlin patterns can be found in "Needlepoint In America" by Hanley. Smaller, overall patterns, copied from a large, 19th century sampler, are to be found in "The New World of Needlepoint" by Perrone.

Piano teachers to hear musician

Dr. Louis Nagel, performer and faculty member of the University of Michigan, will present a piano master class at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the monthly meeting of the Livonia Piano Teachers Forum.

The program will be presented in the Hammill Music Store, 15630 Middlebelt, Livonia. Area piano teachers are invited to attend.

Nagel has played in recitals in several cities in this country. In 1967 he won

the Juilliard Orchestra competition. The following year he shared the top prizes in the Emma Feldman piano competition in Philadelphia and the international performers competition in Geneva, Switzerland.

He received his doctorate from the Juilliard School of Music in 1969 and was appointed to the piano and piano literature faculty of the U-M the same year.

Want to be Miss Petite?

You might become Miss Petite Detroit if you are beautiful, no taller than five feet, five inches, no younger than 17 and single. The Miss Petite Beauty Pageant to be held at 8 p.m. Sunday,

Feb. 18, in Royalty House in Warren. It is designed for the smaller beauty who thought that such events were reserved for tall model types. Winners of the contest will be announced the

evening of Feb. 18. Pageant prizes include a deluxe, one-week trip to Hawaii.

Those interested in entering the event should call pageant officials at 569-1846.



My sister moved out of town and left me all of her house plants. Some of them don't look too healthy and look as if they are insect infested. I can't bring myself to throwing them out and am nervous about using sprays. Any suggestions? Marion R. Redford

Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The price of meat is making a mess out of my food budget. I would like to make and serve more meatless meals but I don't know where to start. Will I be depriving my family of necessary protein?

Sandra L. W. Bloomfield

There are many excellent and inexpensive alternatives to meat as a protein source. Beans, rice, whole grains, cheese, eggs, fish and nuts are all good protein substitutes for meat. For a copy of "Complete Protein Casseroles-Without Meat," compiled by Anna Gordon, Dietitian, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, NYC, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Concern, Inc., Detroit 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy, MI 48068.

Consumer Mailbag answers your consumer and environmental questions. Send questions for this column to Concern, Inc., Det. 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy MI 48068. Grace R. Gluskin Executive Director

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She chose the high back wing for doing needlework. The striped pattern picks up chair and sofa colors. (Savings: \$90)

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