

WHAT'S NEW

Next month (September), the USA celebrates National Literacy Month! While I encourage literacy every month of the year, it is nice to have a month dedicated to highlighting its importance. Over the past year, I have been making some corner bookmarks as my "in between" projects. I recently decided to donate them to my local library to support and promote literacy.

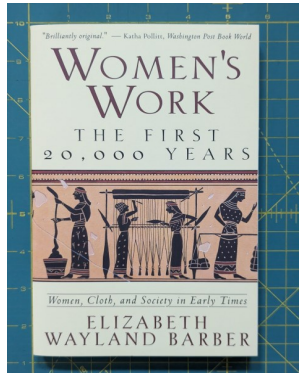
My husband and I were talking the other day about how exciting and memorable it was for him to go to the public library as a kid. He continues to read a wide variety of subjects voraciously and daily because of his early exposure. But I have noticed that many adults, myself included, often fall out of the habit. Life gets busy. We are tired. We develop niche interests. So as much as I encourage parents to read to their children and for kids to read, I also encourage adults to make the time to read every day!

In this month's newsletter I highlight some favorite books of mine related to textiles, sewing, and quilting. And of course, foxes!



*Read, read, read. Read everything—
trash, classics, good and bad...
William Faulkner*

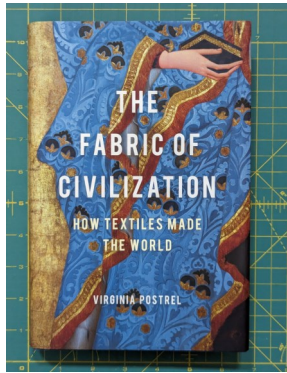
NON-FICTION BOOKS



WOMEN'S WORK: The First 20,000 Years – Women, Cloth, and Society in Early Times

Elizabeth Wayland Barber

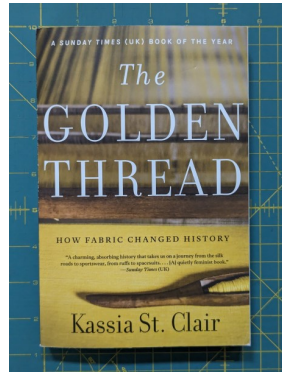
Twenty thousand years ago, women were making and wearing the first clothing created from spun fibers. In fact, right up to the industrial revolution the fiber arts were an enormous economic force, belonging primarily to women. Despite the great toil required in making cloth and clothing, most books on ancient history and economics have no information on them. The extreme perishability of what women produced is largely responsible for this omission – a gap that leaves out virtually half the picture of prehistoric and early historic cultures. But today new discoveries about the textile arts are revealing women's vital role in preindustrial societies.



THE FABRIC OF CIVILIZATION: How Textiles Made the World

Virginia Postrel

The story of humanity is the story of textiles – as old as civilization itself. Since the first thread was spun, the need for textiles has driven technology, business, politics, and culture. In *The Fabric of Civilization*, Virginia Postrel synthesizes groundbreaking research from archaeology, economics, and science to reveal a surprising history. The textile business funded the Italian Renaissance and the Mughal Empire; it left us double-entry bookkeeping and letters of credit, the David and the Taj Mahal. From the Minoans who exported woolen cloth colored with precious purple dye to Egypt, to the Romans who wore wildly expensive Chinese silk, the trade and production of textiles paved the economic and cultural crossroads of the ancient world. ...

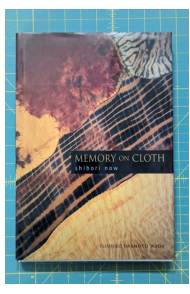


THE GOLDEN THREAD: How Fabric Changed History

Kassia St. Clair

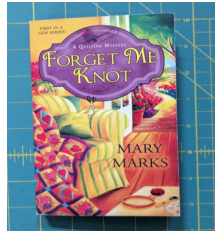
From colorful threads found on the floor of an ancient Georgian cave to the Indian calicoes that fueled the industrial revolution, and from the fabric that allowed mankind to shatter athletic records to the textile technology that granted us the power to survive in space, *The Golden Thread* illuminates the myriad and fascinating histories behind the cloth that came to define human civilization. Offering insights into the economic and social dimensions of cloth making and countering the enduring, often demeaning, association of textiles with "women's work," Kassia St. Clair "spins a rich social history... that also reflects the darker side of technology" (Rachel Newcomb, *Washington Post*).

MEMORY ON CLOTH: Shibori Now, Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada



Shibori is infinitely more than the tie-dye that became well known in the late 1960s. Shaped-resist dyeing techniques have been done for centuries in every corner of the world. Yet more than half of the known techniques—in which cloth is in some way tied, clamped, folded, or held back during dyeing, to keep some areas from taking color—originated in Japan. Shibori can be used not only to create patterns on cloth but to turn fabric from a two-dimensional into a three-dimensional object. The word is used here to refer to any process that leaves a "memory on cloth"—a permanent record, whether of patterning or texture, of the particular forms of resist done.

FICTION BOOKS



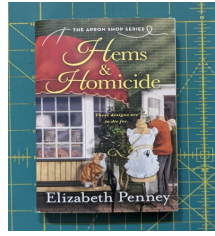
FORGET ME KNOT – A Quilting Mystery

Mary Marks

A cute, cozy murder mystery where quilters – and quilting – takes the center stage. Join Martha, Lucy, and Birdie as they solve the murder of their new friend and famous quilter, Claire Terry.

Favorite quote: "Quilting has nothing to do with patience. Working with your hands can be a form of meditation."

Goodreads rating: 4.06*/5*



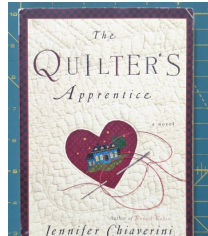
HEMS & HOMICIDE – The Apron Shop Series

Elizabeth Penney

Another cozy sewing-related murder mystery – this time with an apron shop as a perfect backdrop. Pal along with Iris as she solves not one, but two murders, and becomes a suspect herself!

Favorite moment: Iris discovers one of her aprons is used as a murder weapon.

Goodreads rating: 4.03*/5*



THE QUILTER'S APPRENTICE

Jennifer Chiaverini

A quiet but charming story about women's friendship and the commonalities of life experiences, even across social and generational distances. Using piecing and quilting as strong metaphors for woman sharing stories and healing from past hurts, this book is filled with compassion and gentleness.

Favorite aspect: the descriptions of quilt-making and the quilting world are spot on.

Goodreads rating: 3.94*/5*

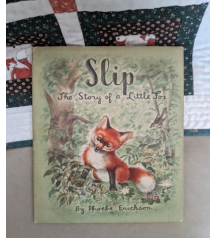
SARAH'S QUILT, Nancy E. Turner



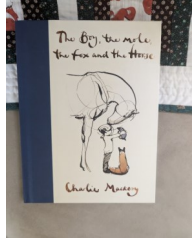
Second of a trilogy and the sequel to *These Is My Words*. The story follows the hardships and tribulations of homesteading rancher Sarah Elliot living in pre-statehood Arizona Territory. It is a sad and heartbreaking read. Recommend reading these in order.

Favorite aspect: takes place in Arizona (Territory). Goodreads rating: 4.03*/5*

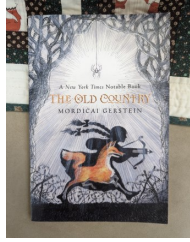
SOME BOOKS ABOUT FOXES



Slip: The Story of a Little Fox—Phoebe Erickson



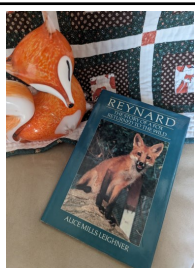
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, & the Horse — Charlie Mackesy



The Old Country — Mordicai Gerstein



The Fox and the Star — Coralie Bickford-Smith



Reynard: The Story of a Wild Fox—Alice Mills Leighner



The Story of a Little Fox— Louisa Stoeckicht



The World of the Fox— Rebecca L. Grambo



Rufus: The Remarkable True Story of a Tamed Fox—Ernest Dudley

