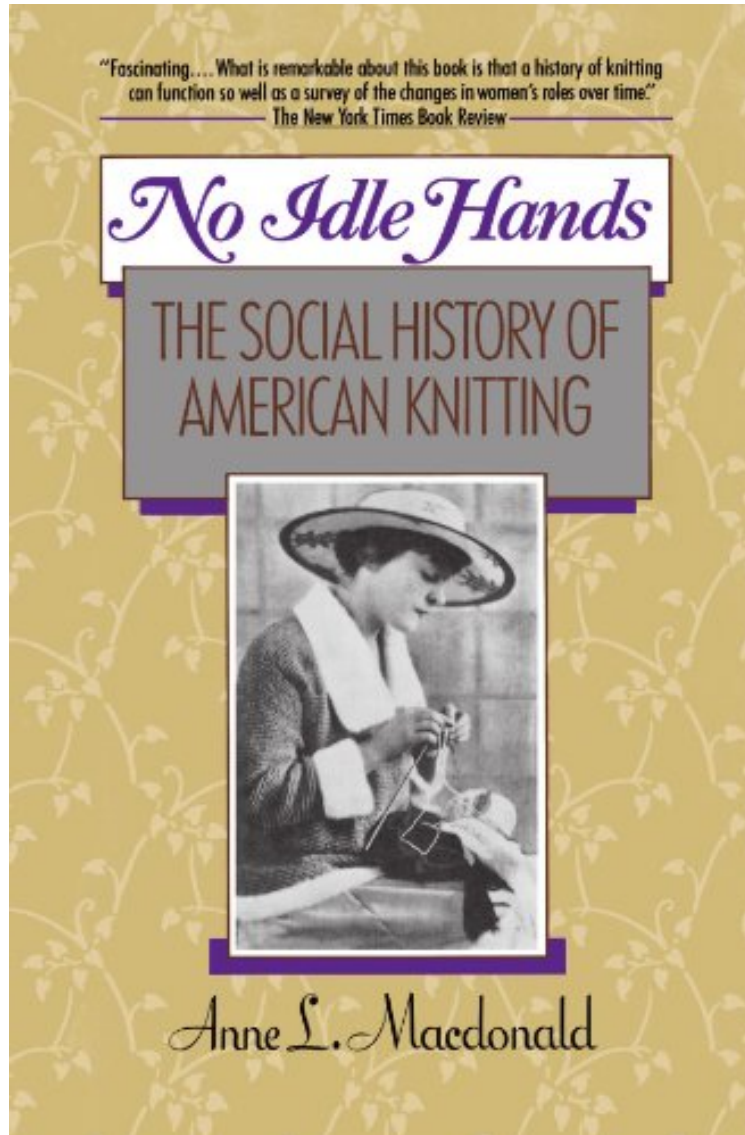


(Download free ebook) No Idle Hands: The Social History of American Knitting

## No Idle Hands: The Social History of American Knitting

Anne L. MacDonald

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**Anne L. MacDonald : No Idle Hands: The Social History of American Knitting** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Idle Hands: The Social History of American Knitting:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Knitting, A History!By H. M. FreemanI got this for ideas on what to

knit for the 400th commemoration of the Pilgrim's Landing at Plymouth. This is social history seen from your knitting needles. The narrative opens on the decks of the Mayflower and the knitting done there. Little of knitting is actually recorded as it was a common daily activity. About as common as pouring beer or kneading bread. You find it in asides. Thus you might find a mention in Ben Franklin's Autobiography! "To obviate idleness, the unforgivable sin, and to assure the young lookouts performed constructively while keeping their eyes peeled for errant sheep, the Township of Andover, Massachusetts, adjudged knitting a productive substitute for 'larking about' " and so decreed in 1642. Knitting was part of the three Rs, so if you could read you could knit! Knitting also took place on sailing ships! There are many illustrations and sources and thus knitting from any period may be attempted. A perfect gift for the knitter of your life! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Connections across time By Katherine Winchester A delightful read -- if you are a knitter, you will feel an instant connection to our foremothers in wool; if you are not, you may come to realize just what a huge contribution people with needles (and thread and cloth, for that matter!) have made to who we are and continue to be as a people. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Adds to the History of Knitting in America By Eve Starr American knitters now have a slice of history, but by no means comprehensively done. I love this book! I sold my hardcover years ago and bought another. I was obviously born in the wrong century! Knitting, crochet, tatting, sewing were all ubiquitous and necessary just one hundred years ago, and it was just a given that your work bag was always with you. I'm an obsessive knitter and I loved being immersed in the history of knitting in the 19th and 20th centuries. I wished there were more anecdotal accounts of early household knitting, but I did really enjoy the window into wartime pushes for hand knit socks and "Balaclavas" for bitter cold, even in the age of machine knits.

Fascinating . . . What is remarkable about this book is that a history of knitting can function so well as a survey of the changes in women's roles over time. The New York Times Book Review An historian and lifelong knitter, Anne Macdonald expertly guides readers on a revealing tour of the history of knitting in America. In *No Idle Hands*, Macdonald considers how the necessity and the pleasure of knitting has shaped women's lives. Here is the Colonial woman for whom idleness was a sin, and her Victorian counterpart, who enjoyed the pleasure of knitting while visiting with friends; the war wife eager to provide her man with warmth and comfort, and the modern woman busy creating fashionable handknits for herself and her family. Macdonald examines each phase of American history and gives us a clear and compelling look at life, then and now. And through it all, we see how knitting has played an important part in the way society has viewed women and how women have viewed themselves. Assembled from articles in magazines, knitting brochures, newspaper clippings and other primary sources, and featuring reproductions of advertisements, illustrations, and photographs from each period, *No Idle Hands* captures the texture of women's domestic lives throughout history with great wit and insight. Colorful and revealing . . . vivid . . . This book will intrigue needlewomen and students of domestic history alike. The Washington Post Book World

About the Author Anne L. Macdonald was for fifteen years chairperson of the history department of the National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. She was the author of *No Idle Hands: The Social History of American Knitting* and *Feminine Ingenuity: Women and Invention in America*. She died in 2016.