

to have been made, as they are in the present day, of bone cut into the prescribed form.

Shakespeare, in "Twelfth Night," speaks of

"The spinsters and the knitters in the sun,  
And the free maids that weave their threads with bone."

The Devonshire lace-makers, on the other hand, deriving their knowledge from tradition, consider the term as applying not to bone bobbins, but the bone pins used in pricking out the lace. When lace-making was first introduced into their county, pins,<sup>41</sup> so indispensable to their art, being then sold at a price far beyond their means, the lace-makers, mostly the wives of fishermen living along the coast, adopted the bones of fish, which, pared and cut into regular lengths, fully answered as a substitute. Even at the present day pins made from chicken bones continue to be employed in Spain; and bone pins are still used in Portugal.<sup>42</sup>

"Bone" lace<sup>43</sup> constantly appears in the wardrobe accounts; while bobbin lace<sup>44</sup> is of less frequent occurrence.

<sup>41</sup> It is not known when brass wire pins were first made in England, but it must have been before 1543, in which year a statute was passed (35 Hen. VIII.), entitled, "An Act for the True Making of Pynnes," in which the price is fixed not to exceed 6s. 8d. per 1000. By an act of Rich. III., the importation of pins was prohibited. The early pins were of boxwood, bone, bronze, or silver. In 1347 ("Liber Garderobæ," 12-16 Edw. III. P. R. O.), we have a charge for 12,000 pins for the trousseau of Joanna, daughter of Edward III., betrothed to Peter the Cruel. The young princess probably escaped a miserable married life by her decease of the black death at Bordeaux, when on her way to Castille.

The annual import of pins, in the time of Elizabeth, amounted to 3297l. "State Papers, Dom." Eliz. vol. viii. P. R. O.

In Eliz. Q. of Bohemia's Expenses, we find: "Dix mille espingles dans un papier, 4 florins."—*Ger. Corr.* No 41. P. R. O.

"In Holland, pillow-lace is called Pin-work lace — Gespelde-werkte kant."—*Sewell's Eng. and Dutch Dict.*

<sup>42</sup> Bone pins were in use until a recent period, and renounced only on account of their costliness. The author

purchased of a Devonshire lace-maker one, bearing date 1829, with the name tattooed into the bone, the gift of some long-forgotten youth to her grandmother. These bone or wood bobbins, some ornamented with glass beads—the more ancient with silver let in—are the calendar of a lace-worker's life. One records her first appearance at a neighbouring fair, or May meeting; a second was the first gift of her good man, long cold in his grave; a third, the first prize brought home by her child from the dame school, and proudly added to her mother's cushion: one and all, as she sits weaving her threads, are memories of bygone days of hopes and fears, of joys and sorrows; and though many a sigh it calls forth, she cherishes her well-worn cushion as an old friend, and works away, her present labour lightened by the memory of the past.

<sup>43</sup> "Surtees Wills and Inv."

"Hearing bone lace value 5s. 4d." is mentioned "in y<sup>e</sup> shoppe of John Johnston, of Darlington, merchant."

<sup>44</sup> "1578. James Backhouse, of Kirby in Lonsdale. Bobbin lace, 6s. per ounce."

"1597. John Farbeck, of Durham. In y<sup>e</sup> Shoppe, 4 oz. & ½ of Bobbin lace, 6s. 4d."—*Ibid.*