

REVIVAL OF BEAD CRAZE IN PORTLAND

THIS FORM OF FANCY WORK USED FOR MEN'S WEAR ORNAMENTS AS WELL AS WOMEN'S



HOME OF THE ORIGINAL BEAD-WORKER

THERE has been a remarkable revival of the bead craze in Portland since Christmas, and there is scarcely a home in the city where fancywork has a place that some dainty conceit made of tiny Indian beads may not be found. Miniature looms are seen in my lady's boudoir, in her den, or by her favorite window seat. Her work basket contains bunches and strings of gray colored beads, which her nimble fingers weave in and out, in and out, among the threads, until some quaint old-fashioned design is worked out on a cardcase, a belt or a wrist bag.

Those who can turn the leaves of memory back to the days when every grand dame carried a bead purse, wondrous of color and design, may feel, when they see the great array of useful articles which are now fashioned of beads, that they are living again in other days, for beadwork is a craft of the past resurrected.

For many centuries past beadwork had been considered an important branch of needle craft among crowned heads. Our American Indians record much of their history in its handicraft and used it for every conceivable form of personal adornment and admired them, but it is only of late seasons that the maker of fancywork has taken up the art and made it so vastly popular.

The very latest fad in beadwork here in Portland is the fraternity badge, and the man who cannot support his lodge or club colors neatly woven into a fob is marked as being absolutely destitute of admiring feminine friends. Especially among the school frats has this become popular, and the Portland Academy, the B. S. A. boys and the pupils of the high school are proud possessors of insignia woven in beadwork showing their favorite colors. An Indian parlor in a local hotel is often crowded after school hours by girl students who eagerly select their own special "frat colors." This parlor carries the shades which the schools all use, as well as Multnomah red and the Elk purple. Multnomah badges make up very pretty, but the customers who come in for these are not schoolgirls—a little older, if you please—real young ladies. Designs and patterns are to be had for the Masons, Oddfellows, Knights Templars, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Royal Arcanum, Christian Endeavor, Epworth League and many others. And they are not merely displayed—they are being purchased and worked up

by the dozens, and the men have to wear them whether they like them or not—which is a question.

It soon becomes the ambition of a beadworker who has made belts and chains to attempt a large piece—a cardcase, wristbag, purse or chateleine. The very old-fashioned bags were knitted after the beads had been strung, yards and yards at a time. This was an arduous way of making them, for the miscount of just one bead would throw the entire pattern out of gear when it came to knitting the strands. The use of the little loom now does away with the tedious part of the work, and these pieces can be constructed in a few days where it used to take many weeks of patient labor. It is always desirable in making the cardcases or chateleines to select a very old-fashioned design, as much like grandmother's as possible. The design for a wristbag given here with the church, trees and flowers is copied from a bag carried by a maiden of fashion in the days of Martha Washington, and gives a good idea of one of the season's debutantes in church last Wednesday, and in the same congregation a fashionable matron carried a wristbag of white with violets scattered over it. The wild rose is probably as pretty as any of the floral effects, and set pieces are prettier than any of them.

Bracelets and collars are much fancied by young folks, especially school girls. The collar is woven just like the belt in the edges bound with ribbon, on which fasteners are tacked, and the front is ornamented with fringe forming a long point over the chest. These are very pretty when chosen with care. Cut-stitch beads on a black background make a striking effect, especially when the pattern is simple, such as the bowknot or Grecian border designs. The long sampler chains which are

worn around the neck are not new, but they retain their popularity, and many are now under construction. Tobacco pouches come in pretty conceits made on buckskin. These make a nice present as well as the fraternity badge.

Beads From Barbarous Tribes. There is such a bewildering array of colors and shades in the new stocks of beads which are being displayed on every hand that it is not difficult for anyone to make up any design that

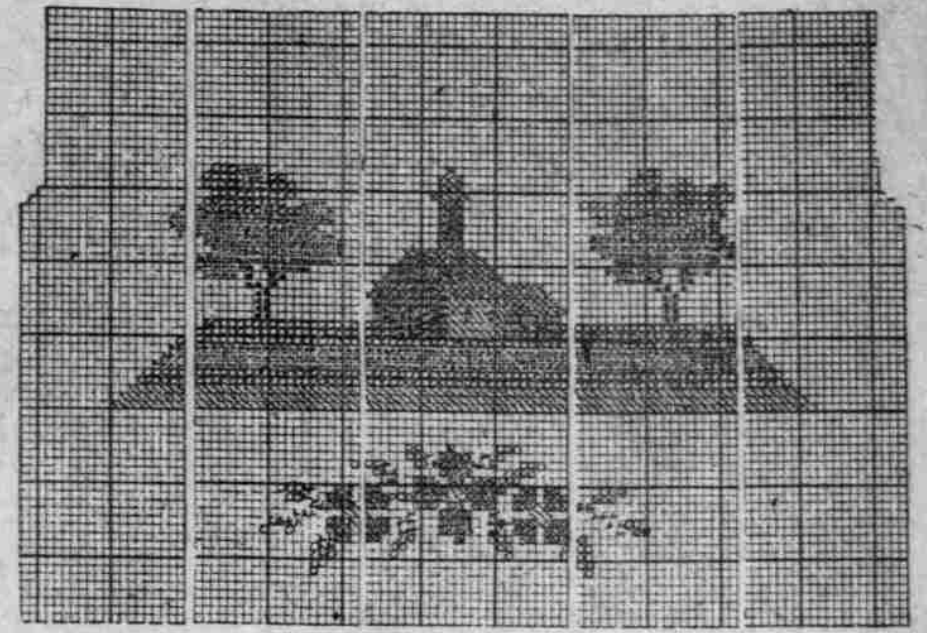
may be conceived. The introduction of the loom has made the work comparatively simple. Of greens alone not less than five shades were noticed in one Indian parlor, and the yellows, silver, blues, reds, purples, golds, steel and black were there in every conceivable shade or tone.

Jeweled beads for decorating lace collars and fancy work are good sellers, and there is a variety for the little kindergartners, too. They are consid-

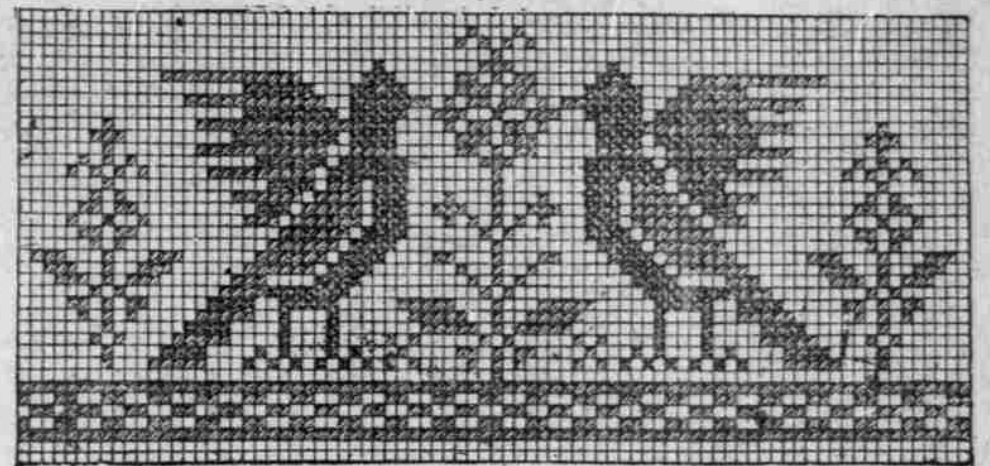
ered very instructive, especially when the children work out their own designs. One dealer has some "fathoms" of beads which the mother of Chief Shaka, of the Thlinket tribe, bought from the Hudson Bay Company about 60 years ago. Some of them are small red ones and others are large blue glass, and all are strung on reindeer sinew—there being no thread available for the purpose in those days. Black-eyed Susan beads from Honolulu come in 100-yard lengths, and are hardened berries, red with a small black tip. They are strung while green, as they get too hard to penetrate with a needle after being dried. They are used to drape the ceilings of dens, forming graceful festoons when hung about. Tasmanian beads are another of the late ideas in this kind of ornamentation. They come in beautiful iridescent

tints, and are tiny sea shells. There is an insect grows in each and if strung before this insect dies the shells keep their

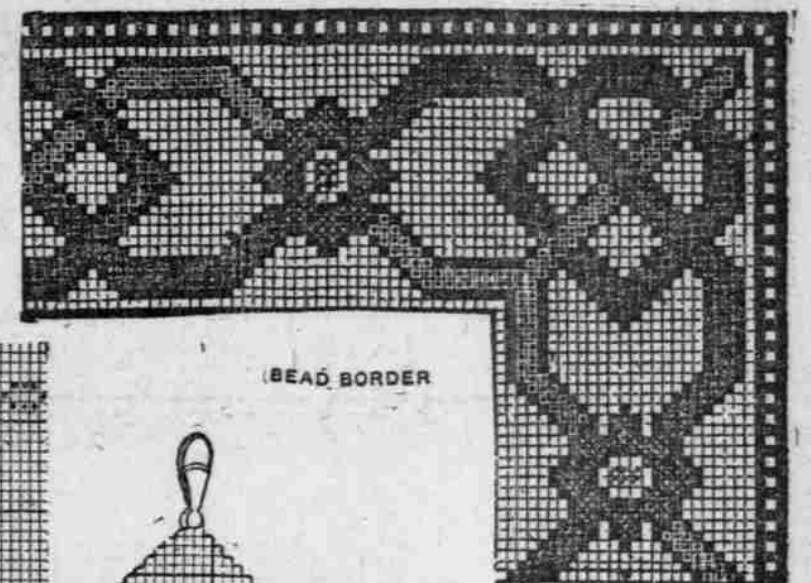
beautiful luster. These are also worn about the neck. MARION MAC RAE.



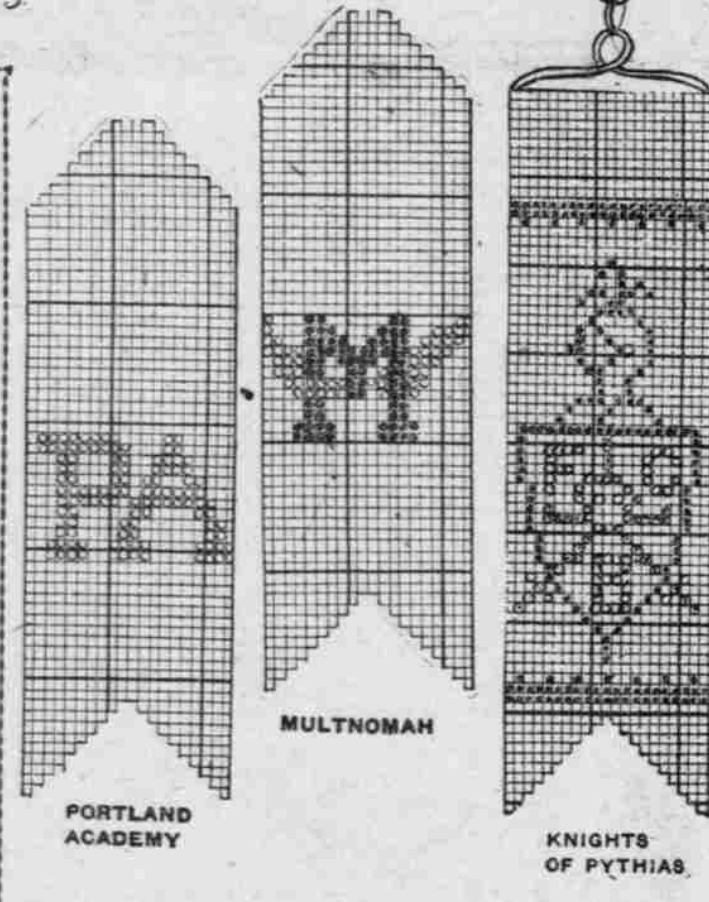
CHATELAINE BAG



CARD-CASE



BEAD BORDER



PORTLAND ACADEMY

MULTNOMAH

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

MASONIC

ODDFELLOWS

EPWORTH LEAGUE

ORDER OF ELKS

COMMUNICATING WITH MARS (From the Files of The Sunday Oregonian, Feb. 28, 1888.)

A REPRESENTATIVE of The Oregonian visited the observatory, museum and library on the summit of Mount Hood yesterday to get an authentic report from Professor Dinfenauer of the remarkable work being done in the observatory and in the manuscript department of the library under his skillful direction. The following was received by Marion Mac Rae at midnight:

Mount Hood, Feb. 27, 1888.—A severe snow storm was in progress yesterday afternoon when we emerged from the snow and reached the cable lines, and stepped from our car under the new steel sheds at the station. After 7 P. M. the reflection of Portland's radiant lights in the snow clouds gave a beautiful atmospheric effect which was photographed by our artist, Mr. Morelight. We watched, with a great deal of interest the preparations for the electric discharges and explosions overheard, to remove the clouds so that Professor Dinfenauer could proceed with his work of arranging mutually intelligible signals with the inhabitants of Mars. While waiting for the sky to clear the Professor talked freely of his recent successful efforts in this line, as well as of other discoveries. He is now convinced that the two worlds sent from the planet so frequently in the last month mean "light" and "heat." With these understood, a foundation is laid for future

work, and he expects the progress in communication to be rapid.

The Professor also took us to the library and showed some of the plates recently unearthed in the excavations on the island of Tozando, a part of the small but ambitious kingdom of Japan, that rose to a position of influence and power in the latter half of the 19th century and was so obliterated in the first decade of the 20th. These plates are unlike the small plates of the same age that have been preserved in this country, and are semicircular in form, and are presumably original printing plates of the old style newspapers.

Mr. Nozomure, the expert translator of the ancient Oriental languages, told me that several of these plates are dated July 4, 1894, and give accounts of celebrations all over Japan of the surrender of the Russians after severe fighting in the ancient Russian province of Manchuria, now the American dependency of Mukden. Other plates of different dates throw light upon the later history of the people. It appears that their great victories over the Russian sea and land forces developed a warlike spirit that was without precedent in human history. The little fellows thought they could whip the world, and the hitherto friendly relations between them and the other world powers were severely strained. After witnessing of celebrations, the Japs made an attack on the constellation of

the Great Bear, in the northern heavens, and boasted that in 30 days they would knock it out of the sky.

It is not known why they did this, unless the constellation in some way reminded them of the enemies they had so completely vanquished. Nothing daunted by their failure to fulfill their boast of victory in 30 days, they kept up the bombardment at intervals for two years. The professor is authority for the statement that the central star in the tail of the Great Bear, as shown by the series of photographic plates, disappeared in the Summer of 1895, and in the last week of August of that year the North Star was so badly damaged by a misdirected shell that the Nebula now seen in that vicinity was formed of the star dust.

This last shot so angered Zets, the ruler of the heavens, that on November 13 and 14, as the earth was passing through the meteor system Leonides, he caused meteoric showers to destroy all their islands. This, and not a volcanic eruption, as commonly supposed, was the cause of the immense flow of lava-like rock that buried their islands and destroyed their inhabitants.

It will be recalled that the first effect of the Japanese victories was to awaken in Europe and in America a new interest in old and Oriental religions. The idea that victory in war proved the superiority of the victor's gods was still influential. A large portion of the people were ever

following fads and changing their beliefs as they changed the fashion of their garments, and Paganism was quickly revived. Unfortunately, the paper on which books and newspapers were then printed was so poor that none have survived, but the metal plates from the printing offices show that, in practice at least, society had for a long time been largely Pagan, and the revival of the old faiths was easily accomplished. When the people began to dread the war-loving Japs, public prayers were frequently offered to Zeus for protection, and some will perhaps consider his intervention as an answer to prayer, and not as an act of anger.

Personal.—As a result of the electric discharges, the storm has abated and the outlook at midnight is for clear weather. And me the ship Orinithos, and I shall take a fly to Washington to see how the debate on the Panama Canal bill is progressing. R. H. KENNEDY.

Expert Telegrapher at 11 Years. Atlanta Constitution.

Robert T. Baird, aged 41 years, the son of Robert L. Baird, of Grovania, holds a unique place among the bright youths of Georgia. He is a fast and accurate telegraph operator, and has already done regular work in Western Union offices. At one time he was in charge of the office at Vienna as day operator.

Young Baird seems to have taken to the key by instinct. When only 7 he could sit at the instrument and send before his father knew has was acquainted with the alphabet. At 9 he could receive and now he is considered a competent operator.

SLUMBER ROBES, BRIGHT IN COLOR

THE slumber robe that women like best now is a cheerful-looking and cozy object of comfort. It is neither too delicate in color nor in material to stand hard wear, and it combines lightness of weight with warmth.

A pretty new slumber robe is of Italian make, or an imitation of it, in broad stripes of bright colors, in which yellow appears and frequently red. It has a long, woolly, hairy surface that is soft in effect and warm to the touch.

The Italian slumber robes are selected with a view to the colors in the room in which they will be used, and hues are chosen which will become the face of the woman who snuggles under them.

French slumber robes are also fashionable. These are more elaborate than the other sort and cover a wider range of designs and materials. The French robe is light and warm and also distinctly ornamental. It often has wreaths of flowers in soft tints upon a delicate ground color, but, generally speaking, its colors are not so bright as those in the Italian stripes.

The Afghan, which was once such a favorite, has come into its own once more, and society not only wraps itself in afghans when it lies down for a slumber, but knits and crochets them as well.

Slumber afghans are sometimes worked in broad stripes and sometimes in alternating lines of color, while various fancy effects are produced in alternating lines of colors of contrasting hues. It is also a fad of the day to make these broader stripes with shaded sides, the center lines of stripes being dark and the side lines gradually shading to an almost white edge. Another popular afghan pattern has a zigzag stripe running from corner to corner instead of from end to end.

Slumber robes worked in cross stitch are even more stylish than the others, and require much more time to make and much more money to buy. To work a big moungram in the center of a slumber robe, and then work a border or corner pattern in large figures and bright colors, and finally to fill in the ground with a dark wool in cross stitch, is to produce something as beautiful as it is serviceable and fashionable.

It is possible to get a single blanket of a pretty color and work a cross-stitch border to it upon scrim, with a design in the center.

Robes of Swedish flat stitch are worked in different tints and lighter ones from cross stitch, and much more yellow is seen in Swedish and Danish work. The slumber robes are treated in the same manner and with the same materials as if cross stitch was to be worked, the coloring being differently arranged for the reason that one stitch mingles color where it pleases and the other work in lines.

The average cost of labor in the production and presentation of cover is 4.7 cents a square.