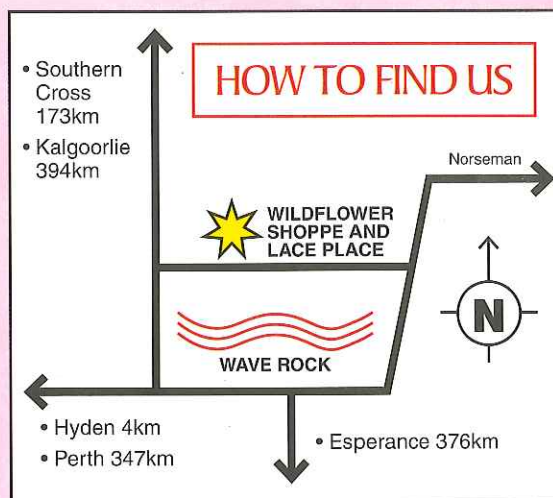


In the Lace Room, soft lighting is essential. Daylight and strong lighting are detrimental to fabrics, as are dirt, dampness and the natural oils and acids of the skin, so please do not handle the exhibits.



In the 17th Century, to be fashionable, one had to be christened, married, executed and buried in lace. Much priceless lace has mouldered in graves.

Nuns crocheted lace in the 1400s, and for a long time it was known as 'Nun's work'. The progress of Irish crochet was hastened by the Potato Famine of 1846-1850 when the Venetian Needlepoints were copied as a cottage industry. Irish crochet collars, as worn by the aristocracy, were abandoned rather hurriedly once it was realised that their making came within the art and means of every parlour and housemaid.

Thorns and fish bones were used before a type of pin was invented. Bobbin laces improved enormously after 1530 when the brass pin arrived.

Mary Queen of Scots designed and made bobbin lace and was wearing 'bone lace' at her execution in 1587.

Queen Elizabeth I of England 1558-1603 boosted the lace industry with her ruffs, cuffs and lace stocking fronts (the stocking machine was invented in 1559) although she decreed that no wife of less than a knight could wear lace.

The Flemish lace weavers, who brought their skills to England when escaping religious persecution, also brought seeds of cabbage, celery, carrots and turnips.

King Charles I in 1635 prohibited the import of foreign lace. This led to an increase in ingenious methods of smuggling – wrapped around dogs and replacing bodies in coffins. The number of English gentlemen who died abroad and wished to be buried in lace increased markedly. Weight wise, lace was more precious than gold.

Napoleon's decree that French lace should be worn at court could not stem the decline in the lace industry, as too many lace makers had been guillotined with their aristocratic employers in the French Revolution of 1789.

From the late Mrs Blackburn's historical notes

# The Lace Place

THE  
MARGARET BLACKBURN  
COLLECTION OF LACE  
SINCE 1650



WAVE ROCK  
WILDFLOWER SHOPPE  
HYDEN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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The Lace Place is a museum especially built in 1990 to house the Blackburn Collection.

Mrs Margaret Blackburn OAM JP of Perth (1920-1990) was keenly interested in history and lace. She added inherited

family pieces to her own collection from Australia and overseas, and was able to incorporate several smaller collections. Her Order of Australia Medal was awarded for service to Commercial Education.

The Blackburn Collection, offered as a bequest to the Western Australian Museum, was later purchased by the Mouritz family of Hyden. The Lace Place was officially opened on June 29, 1993 by His Excellency, the Governor General of Western Australia, Sir Francis Burt.

The cabinets designed by Mrs Blackburn and Russell Mouritz are made from Western Australian Jarrah. Information folios are provided.

The original collection is complimented by antique gowns and wedding dresses from the Valerie Mouritz Collection. Additions by gift and purchase are frequently made to both collections.

The display was arranged by lacemaker/curator Olwyn Scott, Valerie Mouritz and Sheenagh Collins.



Lace is named after the place it was first or principally made. Early laces were designed, made and worn by men – for the glory of the church, royalty and army officers. 17th Century lace even flowed from men's boots.

The oldest handmade laces are in the drawers under Cabinet 9.

You may like to look for the following:

**MOST SPECTACULAR PIECE**

Court Train in Cabinet 7.

**MOST BEAUTIFUL BOBBIN LACE**

Wedding veil with cream satin gown in dress cabinet.

**MOST BEAUTIFUL NEEDLE LACE**

Belgian and French lace in Drawer 2, under Cabinet 7.

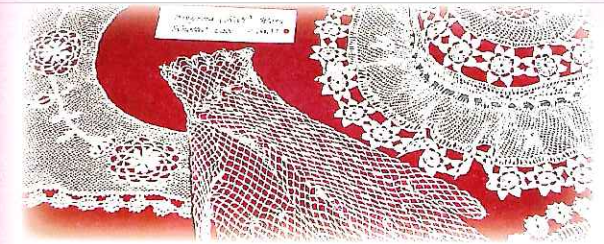
**MOST BEAUTIFUL MACHINE LACE**

Large collar in Drawer 1, under Cabinet 7.

**MOST INTERESTING MIXED LACE**

Large collar in Drawer 1, under Cabinet 9.

*(Use the magnifying glass to fully appreciate this)*



*Little Gems*

If you still have time, and the stamina, look for these:

**CABINET 5, DRAWER 2**

1902 Wedding Handkerchief

**CABINET 9, DRAWER 2**

1700 Fine Binche fragment

**CABINET 9, DRAWER 3**

Ayrshire Bonnet

**CABINET 9, DRAWER 4**

Late 17<sup>th</sup> Century Coralline  
look for the tiny padded rings

**CABINET 16, DRAWER 3**

1852 Butterfly Needlelace

*We hope you have enjoyed your visit*

