

Hand Knitting: Past and Present

By Mary Corbett and Fiona Kelly



The earliest history of knitting



History

The first knitting needles were two sticks, pulling the wool through loops. The first knitting was found in a wool sock in Egypt.



Knitting was originally a men's hobby, with knitting clubs being in Paris for men only.



Aran sweaters

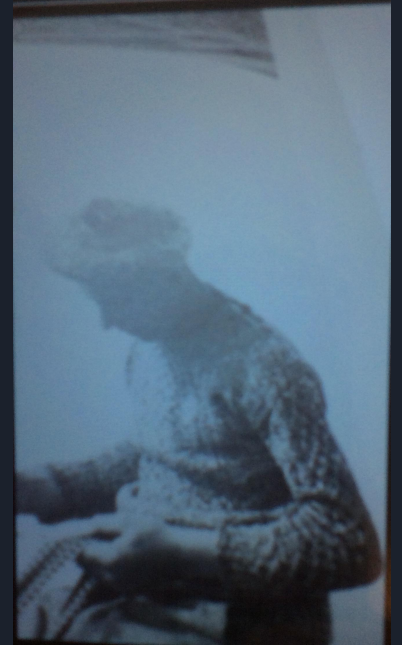
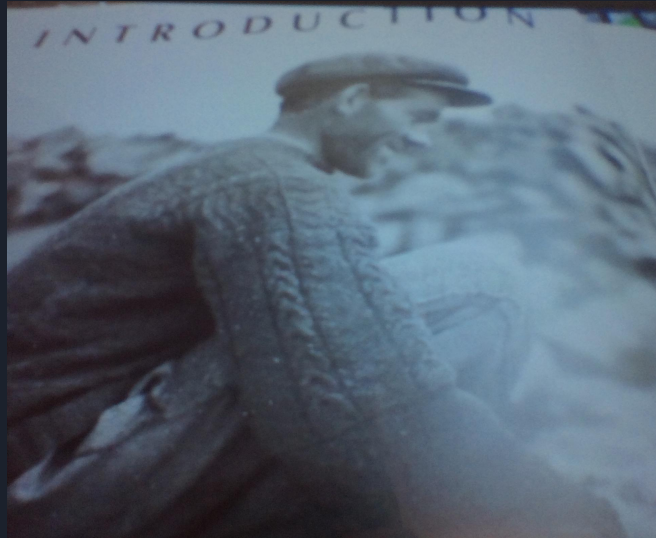


Aran wool came from sheep. Wool was sheared and spun on spinning wheels.

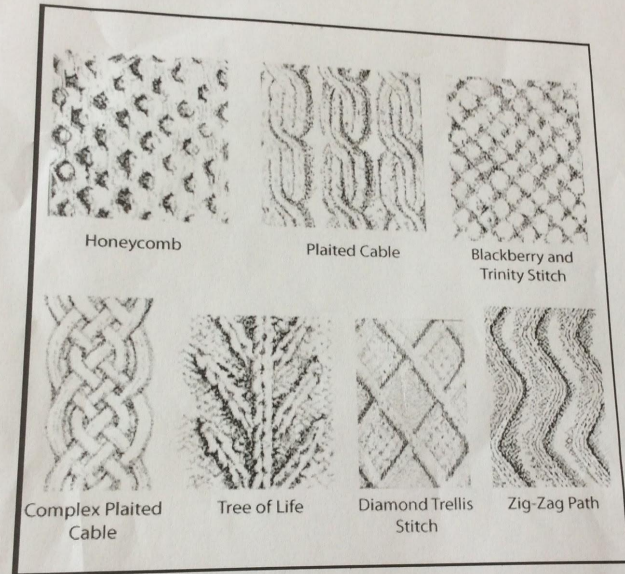
‘Ladder of Life’ and ‘the holy trinity’ were Aran knitting patterns. Aran sweaters can have up to 8 different patterns.

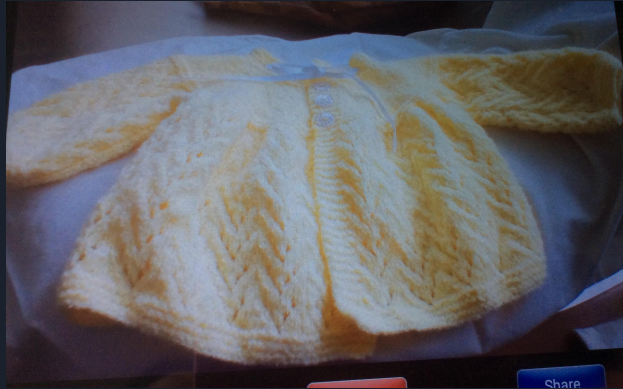


Knitting in the olden days



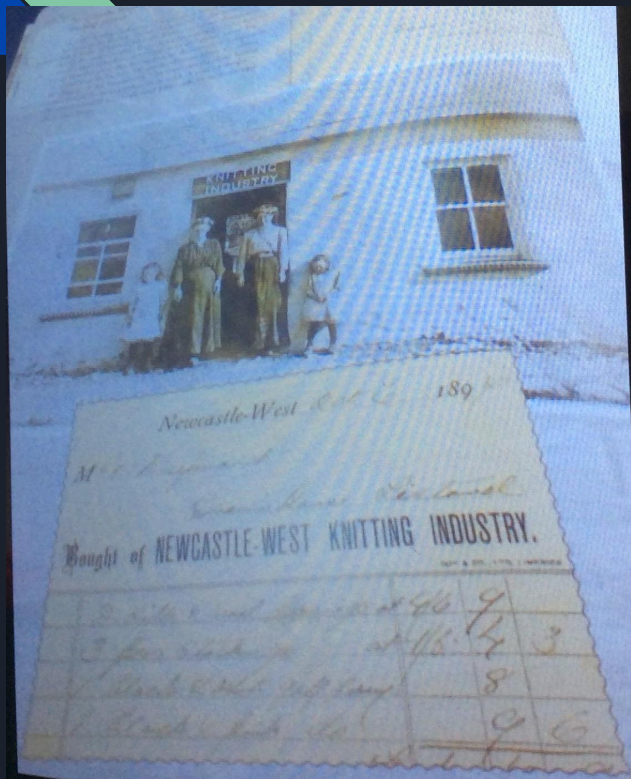
Aran stitches





Knitting done by Mary Corbett

Newcastle West Knitting Industry, Bishop Street



In 1911 Census Johanna O'Connor is listed as a machine knitter at 30 Bishop street. Also listed in the house were John Kelly (Dublin) his wife Katie, and their daughters Mary Ita and Cecilia. There is a photograph of the house with a sign 'Machine Knitting' over the door. Mary Ita and Cecilia were the last to live in the house, Cecilia was a seamstress in St. Ita's Hospital whereas Mary Ita was in charge of the household. On their deaths their house and long garden was sold. A row of shops (Scanlon's lane) was built and FBD offices now occupy their dwelling.

Video with more information on knitting

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=rDDE-ZwCaZo>