

# ‘Knitting has formed a favourite employment for odd moments...’

Like knitting patterns today, many early patterns were written in code. Coding was not standardised and the smallest error in pattern or execution could render a garment impossible to complete. Many Victorian patterns contain errors. We asked participating knitters to comply with the original pattern, but some also sent in corrected versions.

110. *Shetland Pattern.—Single Leaf.* Divide by 15. Allow 3 over at the beginning and 2 at the end of the front row.

All the back rows are purled throughout.

§1st Pattern Row :: S K and take over K3 O T O K O T O K3 T ::

2nd :: S K and take over K2 O T O K3 O T O K2 T ::

3rd :: S K and take over K O T O K5 O T O K T ::

4th :: S K and take over O T O K7 O T O T ::

5th :: O T O K3 T K4 O T O T † ::

§6th :: K O T O K3 T S K and take over K3 O T O ::

7th :: K2 O T O K2 T S K and take over K2 O T O K ::

8th :: K3 O T O K T S K and take over K O T O K2 ::

9th :: K4 O T O T S K and take over O T O K3 ::

10th :: T K3 O T O T O T O K4 ::

E. Copley, *The Comprehensive Knitting Book*, 1849.

## Mrs Henry Owen, 1844

Mrs Owen published *The Illuminated Ladies' Book of Useful and Ornamental Needlework* in several editions. She included only one ‘Shetland’ garment, a scarf knit in the round. The pattern is a variation of the Shetland classic ‘Da Print O’ Da Wave’ stitch.

Knit by Judith Hodgkin on 2.0mm needles in Blacker Yarns ‘St Kilda’ 2-ply laceweight yarn.

## Elizabeth Jackson, 1845

Based in York, Elizabeth Jackson ran a number of wool shops from the 1830s to the 1860s. She published several editions of her *Practical Companion to the Work-Table*, which include patterns identified as ‘Shetland’. She also wrote a short section on ‘Directions for Washing Shetland Shawls’.

### ‘An Open Stitch for Shetland Shawls and Scarfs’

The pattern is a variation of others published by Lambert, Cooper, Copley, and Warren.

Knit by Catherine Paul on 4.0mm needles with Jamieson and Smith’s Shetland Supreme.

### ‘A Beautiful Shetland Pattern’

This pattern has elements found in the popular Shetland ‘Da Print O’ Da Wave’ design. It may have been a crude attempt to copy that motif.

Knit by Aisling Doonan on 3.25mm needles with 4-ply sock wool.

## **Miss Watts, 1845**

Miss Watts published a pattern for 'Shetland Wool Ruffle', to be made in a pair and worn at the wrist.

Knit by Susan Freeman on 2.5mm needles with Shetland 2-ply lace yarn.

## **Marie Jane Cooper, 1847**

Cooper published two patterns she labelled as 'Shetland'. This pattern for a 'Shetland Shawl' is almost the same as Warren's 'Shetland Scarf' pattern and others from Lambert and Copley. It may have been common in lace garments made in Shetland in the 1840s.

Knit by Janis Steele, on 5.5mm needles with 2-ply jumper-weight wool.

## **Mrs Warren, 1848**

Eliza Warren's pattern for a 'Small Knitted Shetland Scarf' has a motif similar to Copley's Patterns 83-86. Warren's pattern recommended white Shetland wool and coloured wool to make horizontal stripes, a popular convention in Victorian knitting.

Knit by Alison Evans on 5.0mm needles with 3-ply wool.

## **Esther Copley, 1849**

Esther Copley wrote religious and personal improvement tracts, as well as *The Comprehensive Knitting Book* in 1849. She advocated knitting as a pastime for country women, remarking 'it may be done at any light or with a child in the arms'.

'Patterns 83-86, Small Shetland Pattern (sometimes called Spider-net)'

These four patterns are variations of each other, with changes in stitch and row sequences. They also contain errors. They are similar to Lambert's Number 10 Spider Web pattern. Copley stated in her preface '...a considerable number of the patterns...are entirely original', indicating that authors copied from each other.

83. Knit by Jean McKie on 3.25mm needles with Jamieson and Smith jumper weight yarn.

84. Knit by Sophie Tynan on 3.75mm needles with Little Grey Sheep 'Stein' lace yarn.

85. Knit by Mhairi Lavender on 3.0mm needles with wool lace yarn.

86. Knit by Marina Moskowitz on 3.0mm needles with Jamieson and Smith Heritage yarn.

'Pattern 110, Shetland Pattern – Single Leaf'

This pretty pattern is not found in Shetland lace knitting. There is an error, which keeps the tops of some leaves 'open'.

Knit by Siún Carden on 3.25mm needles with Jamieson and Smith 2-ply wool.

## **Elvina Mary Corbould, 1878**

E. M. Corbould published a pattern for a 'Shetland Veil', which had a rounded shape achieved through short rows. The design included an edge, a border and a centre motif, but none of the motifs are found in lace knitting from Shetland.

Knit by Mhairi Lavender on 2.5mm needles with Rowan Cotton-Wool 4-ply.