



Who's Who In Crochet

A focus of interest on those that have inspired crochet

Annie Potter

Annie Potter, Founder and President of Annie's Attic Inc in Big Sandy, Texas is recognized throughout the world as a master of crochet. As the creator of Annie's Attic Inc., the most expansive crochet mail order house in North America (1990), she has earned the respect and admiration of needlecrafters, artists and collectors alike.



“Known affectionately by most as simply, *Miss Annie*, she was born in Ada, OK, but was raised in Palco, a small town in KS, where her family moved when she was only 6 months old. Her father worked in the oil fields, and her mother was a member of the Ladies Missionary Society. While her older brother attended school at a one-room schoolhouse down the hill from their home, Annie would watch with fascination as her mother and the other ladies would quilt and sew; at a very young age, she began to develop a love for needlecraft, especially crochet. ‘I have so many wonderful memories of my mother and the things we did together’, she recalls.

When some children might have been setting up lemonade stands, delivering newspapers, or mowing lawns to earn spending money, Annie was making baby booties to sell for \$1.25 per pair; and they always seemed to be in demand. She always enjoyed making them, and it never once seemed like work. To this day, Miss Annie believes, ‘Do something you love and you'll never work a day again’.

It was a few years down the road before Annie began designing her own original patterns. In fact, it was in her eighth-grade year at school. ‘My piano teacher had a baby boy, and there were no patterns that looked like little boy's shoes. So, I designed a little pair of oxfords and thus began my designing career.’



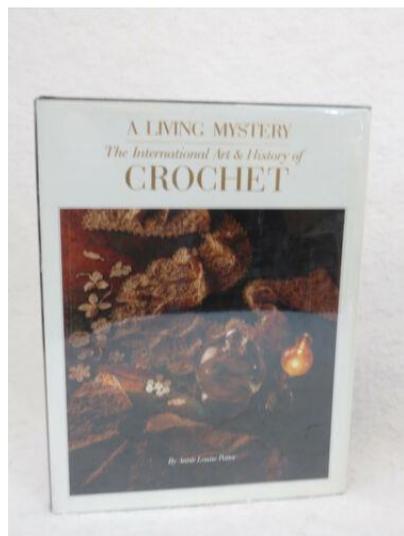
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Annie Potter continued to enjoy crocheting, needlecraft, and creating original designs as she grew up; but it was at her kitchen table in Big Sandy, TX, in 1974, that her love of these things became something much more. She decided to run a tiny ad in the back of *Woman's Day Magazine* for pillow patterns she called Sunbonnet Sue and Overall Sam. After returning from a family trip, they discovered that thousands of orders had come to the local post office requesting the patterns. For months, family and friends hand addressed and stuffed patterns in simple brown paper bags. So, from the humblest of beginnings, her kitchen table, *Annie's Attic* was born in 1975. It quickly became known for the originality of its designs, and as a favorite source for creative inspiration and supplies.



Her book, *A Living Mystery ~ The International Art and History of Crochet*, represents a first step in Annie's dream to share with the world her passion, love, and appreciation for the art and history of crochet worldwide! She was dedicated to the research, promotion, and presentation of her beloved crochet. Working with a research team, she spent many years to probing the history and mysteries of crochet, traveling thousands of miles through many countries to uncover the secrets held by different cultures that helped develop crochet as the recognized art that it is.



Her book is the result of that exciting investigation, of talking to world renowned experts and designers, and people around the world who have crocheted on the same doorstep for generations. She searched for clues about the origins of crochet in recorded documents and rare books held in prestigious museums, libraries, cathedrals, cloistered convents and remote villages. It is a story she had long wanted to tell her many friends and loyal customers – a dream that is now reality!

Annie's Attic flourished for many years and eventually included Annie's Victorian Village, which consisted of a gift shop, bed and breakfast, and Annie's Tea Room Restaurant; but the designs and patterns she created



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remained the core of the business. Ownership in the company transferred hands in 1997 after lengthy legal proceedings and was re-branded *Annie's*. It is part of the third generation Muselman family business based near Fort Wayne, Indiana since 1925.

Miss Annie started over and founded a new company, *Annie Potter Presents*, later that same year. She maintains a friendly working relationship with Annie's to this day, and currently sells her patterns to them, as well as on her own website.

Although semi-retired, Miss Annie continues to create new designs and patterns with the same love for the craft and standards as she always has. She remains the primary creative force behind *Annie Potter Presents*; however, management of the day-to-day business operations is a family affair

Images:

1-Sun Bonnet Sue pattern

2-Annie Potter Presents: Leggings & Lace pattern.

3-Potter, Annie Louise. *A Living Mystery ~ The International Art & History of Crochet*. A.J.

Publishing International; 1990.

Resources:

[Potter, Annie Louise. A Living Mystery ~ The International Art & History of Crochet](#). A.J. Publishing International; 1990.

www.amazon.com

www.anniepotterpresents.com

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