

Woman's Day Book of American Needlework
Rose Wilder Lane
\$25 Hardbound

This anthology examines American Needlework techniques from Appliqué to Weaving. The book opens with an excellent chapter on Embroidery and follows with another on Crewel Work. I had taken it for granted that the two were synonymous - apparently not. According to Ms. Lane, "embroidery" is the umbrella term for all forms of needlework, of which each technique is a subset. There are chapters on candlewicking, rug hooking, and rug making. Each chapter contains either a mini stitch dictionary, project directions, or an actual pattern.

The author's writing style can best be described as "quaint." Understandable, since the book was published in 1963 by a well-educated *grande dame*. If the author's middle name rings a very faint bell, you're onto something. **Rose Wilder Lane** is the daughter of **Laura Ingalls Wilder**— yes, THAT **Laura Ingalls Wilder**!

An Internet search of Ms. Lane sent me to a terrific article on Wikipedia. I was already aware that she was an expert needlewoman. What I didn't know was that she is considered one of the founding mothers of the **American Libertarian Movement**, along with **Ayn Rand** and **Isabel Paterson**. She also wrote the first biography of **Herbert Hoover**! She also had some involvement in the publication of her Mother's classic series. At the age of 78, she served as *Women's Day* correspondent from Vietnam!

This book is a one-of-a-kind addition to the library of anyone with an interest in the History of American Needlework. The work also represents a link to our heritage.