NORWEGIAN KNITTING DESIGNS - 90 Years Later - **



A New Look at the Classic Collection of Scandinavian Motifs and Patterns

Wenche Roald, Annichen Sibbern Bøhn, and Trafalgar Square Books

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FOREWORD

In the 1920s, **ANNICHEN SIBBERN BØHN** carried out the enormous project of collecting knitted patterns from all over Norway. One result was her book, *Norske strikkemønstre*, first published in 1929 and translated into English as *Norwegian Knitting Designs* (1952). It has been a source of inspiration ever since. Countless garments knitted from the motifs in her book have warmed generations of children and adults. What a lovely thought!

I don't remember when I first became aware of her book, but afterward I often popped into used bookstores I happened upon, hoping to find a copy. When I did finally find one, I was thrilled. My copy is both stained and loosened from its binding, but nothing has diminished my joy at finally becoming the owner of this treasure.

Then, suddenly, I was given the opportunity to become part of this collection, a project that will breathe new life into Annichen Sibbern Bøhn's little book and bring it back into the public eye. It's almost too good to be true, and I feel blessed! Producing this book is one of the most exciting projects I've ever worked on as a designer. My challenge and my goal is to inspire a wider use of Annichen's classic. Some of the patterns here are almost identical to those in the original book—with a few small tweaks. Others are much more different, serving as examples of ways to adapt the traditional motifs and create something new. In the hope that all knitters will find something to tempt them, I've arranged a varied selection of patterns based on different yarn qualities and knitting tensions. Many designs are also shown in different color combinations to illustrate how color choice can influence a look. This book shows only some of the doors Annichen opens for us with her fine little book.

Remember, the only boundaries here are set by your imagination! Use the charts for all they're worth: combine different bands, motifs, and cable patterns. Turn them upside down, sideways, or mirror-image. Pick small or large elements from the same chart or different charts, and rearrange them in new patterns. Use sock patterns as ideas for mittens, or use a mitten pattern as an idea for socks. Take a band of patterning from a

jacket design and knit it on a hat. Use the thumb chart for an adult mitten for baby mittens or egg cozies. Knit a baby blanket with the pattern from a jacket body.

Enlarge or reduce the patterns by using different yarns and needle sizes. Changing, adjusting, and developing old patterns is absolutely allowed and sometimes even necessary. This is how our knitting traditions are protected and evolve.

Early knitting patterns often had sparse directions and could be rather imprecise. Knitting was important, and many people—both men and women—were accomplished knitters. Not everyone was an expert, but they all knitted as well as they could, and generally their work was pretty good—not always perfect, but does it have to be?

Look through old photo archives, at museum collections, and in drawers and closets, and you'll soon see that many variations started with the same motifs or instructions. They could have been the result of, among other things, abbreviated directions or perhaps no directions at all; varying degrees of skill and access to materials; and, not least, creativity. Although people often had to knit to have warm clothing, I choose to believe that inspiration and the pleasure of creation were also strong motivators.

I'm both humbled and proud to have been given the opportunity to produce this book. I hope it brings happiness and insight, and is useful to many. It's important that we carry our wonderful knitting heritage into the future—and uplifting, too, to think of later generations doing the same. It warms a knitter's heart.

Best wishes for your knitting!

Wenche Roald































WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Annichen Sibbern Bøhn's timeless and beloved *Norwegian Knitting Patterns*, first published in 1929 (and then in English in 1952), has been a guiding light and a source of inspiration for knitters around the world for decades. Now, working from Bøhn's original set of charts, talented

knit designer Wenche Roald has created brilliant, vividly rejuvenated patterns for everything from wrist warmers to sweaters, mittens to baby blankets, for children and adults. Dive in and explore as what's old is made new again, in a stunning pattern compendium no knitter should be without.









Inside Find

A glimpse into the life of Annichen Sibbern Bøhn, the Norwegian knitter famous for collecting and preserving detailed motifs from multiple regions, and reviving Norwegian handcrafting traditions.

Expert advice on handling tension, working in multiple colors, constructing and finishing sweaters in particular, knitting short rows, and more.

Over 30 exquisitely adapted patterns for pullovers, cardigans, hats, mittens, neckwarmers, and socks, in multiple sizes, for children and adults.

Plus

The 1929 classic republished as a fully-translated booklet, including the original foreword and introduction, and all of Bøhn's pattern charts and black-and-white photographs as they first appeared!



