



Cover illustration: 'The Reading Lesson' by Samuel Barling Clarke (fl 1852-78), oil on canvas.

Illustration courtesy of Clarke Gammon, auctioneers, 45 High Street, Guildford, Surrey

The lacemaker in the illustration is making Bucks point lace, working on a lace pillow. Bucks lace is a continuous ribbon made a yard or two at a time as opposed to a small decorative motif. The pillow is sitting on a pillow horse which may be of regional significance. On the lace pillow are what are called Bucks thumpers bobbins – this lace was made in the East Midlands ie Bucks or Bedfordshire. Her bonnet is edged with lace which may be the same as she is making in the picture. Such work was made in the early 19th century.

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