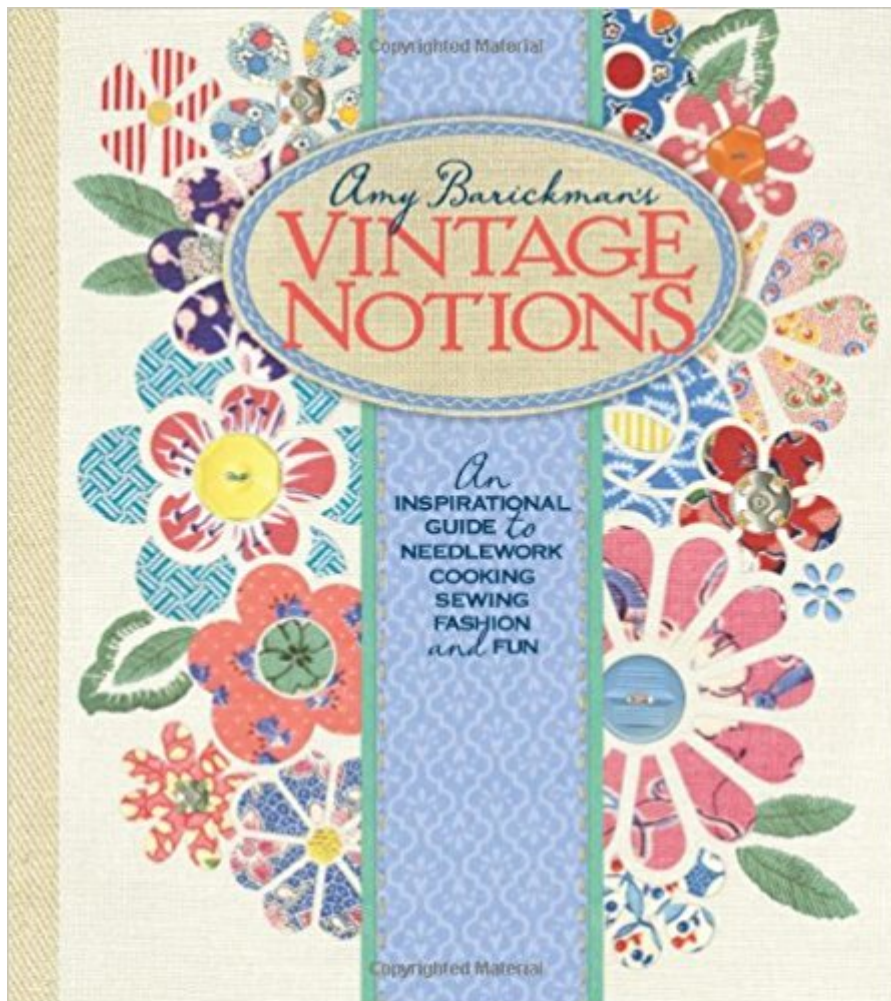


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Vintage Notions: An Inspirational Guide To Needlework, Cooking, Sewing, Fashion And Fun



Synopsis

Amy Barickman's Vintage Notions is an inspirational guide and creative collection that features needlework, cooking, sewing, fashion, and fun. This book was inspired by the wisdom of Mary Brooks Picken, a pioneer in the domestic arts and international authority on dressmaking and fashion. Mary's sole purpose, which resonated so deeply with Amy, was to educate women, encourage their entrepreneurial spirit, and elevate the value of their work. Mary's name may not be familiar to you now, but in these pages you will be charmed by her vision and inspired by her blueprint for living a simple, fulfilling life. In Vintage Notions, Amy Barickman joins creative forces with a previous era to preserve Mary's work and showcase it alongside her own extensive collection of vintage textiles, needlework, illustrations, and memorabilia, for a new generation of sewing and crafting sisters. The book features:

- *Inspirational essays and projects for each month of the year
- *Seasonal recipes and decorating ideas
- *Four storage pockets one for each season
- *Twelve Magic Patterns easy-to-make, chic sewing projects
- *Vintage timeless advice on health, character, beauty, style, fashion, parenting, communication, friendship, spirituality, community

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book after reading the review and article in the spring 2010 Stitch magazine. They included the Magic Apron pattern. Based on the review, I expected a lot more in the way of sewing techniques and patterns. This book is really just a reprint of Inspirations, a booklet put out by the Women's Institute and Mary Picken. The information is fun to read and much of it still applies today.

However, the patterns are not as numerous as I expected, nor are they varied. 5 of the patterns are for aprons. Others aren't even patterns, just directions for monogramming or an article about cross stitch. The author could have deleted the 2-3 essays at the beginning of each chapter and added more crafting/sewing articles, which is what I purchased the book for. Including some of the lessons so often mentioned in the book would have added to it enormously. If you're looking for more of a historic peek into the time period, this is a great book. If you're looking for a vintage pattern/techniques book, this is not the book for you.

I enjoyed reading *Vintage Notions: An Inspirational Guide to Needlework, Cooking, Sewing, Fashion and Fun*, by Amy Barickman. Except it's not.... By Amy Barickman, I mean. It's by Mary Brooks Picken. Almost the entire contents of this book is reprints of 1920s magazine articles and essays from Ms. Picken's magazines and books, written by Ms. Picken and women under her direction. Ms. Barickman has added some commentary and essays on the months, but basically all the content is originally by or edited by Ms. Picken. This is essentially an assemblage of public domain reprints like the books Dover specializes in. Ms. Barickman primarily serves as an editor of Ms. Picken's work. I would have preferred to see Ms. Picken's name included on the cover somewhere, particularly since Ms. Barickman speaks so admiringly of her. That said, it is a visually appealing book, lovingly produced, without the spartan black-and-white quality of many Dover books. Ms. Barickman has retained the color where the original 1920s illustrations were colored, and added it where they weren't. She has not simply copied the magazine pages, but has rearranged them with new typesetting and dynamic page layout very to modern tastes. She includes a variety of appealing articles, including recipes of typically sweet, creamy 1920s desserts, essays on deportment and fashions of the 1920s, and cute little 1920s sewing projects. This is not a book for beginning needleworkers. The sewing instructions are reprinted from the 1920s, which means they are minimal and expect the reader to already have a great deal of familiarity with sewing techniques. Do not expect detailed instructions or full patterns. Experienced historical sewers could get some use from this book. For the rest of us it is a scrapbook of nostalgia.

Amy Barickman's *Vintage Notions* is a joy to read, and I'm going to have fun trying the recipes, advice and patterns written for the women of our grandmother's (or great-grandmother's) youth. Barickman has created a beautiful book; inspiring and in some cases, as relevant today as it was in the 1920s and 30s. If this seems unlikely, just look at the women embracing the personal satisfaction of learning to cook, create, gain independence, and make the best of themselves,

whatever that may mean to them. Read the book and you will understand what I mean.

Let me start out by saying the content is wonderful and it is great to see light brought to the creative ability and skill our mothers and grandmothers put forth. However, it is a bit disingenuous by Ms. Barickman to put herself as sole author on the cover as the author. She does have written content in the book, but a great deal of the text is from publications put out by The Women's Institute of Domestic Arts and Sciences, and Mary Brooks Picken. This is not a review to discourage purchase of the book...I bought it and enjoyed it as a window into the past and inspiration for my own sewing projects. I would just have preferred to see credit given to Mary Brooks Picken. She was quite an amazing lady and a pioneer in sewing and business.

Even though I am enjoying this book especially the illustrations but I think that it is mis-named. When I think of "notions" I think of sewing implements such as needle and threads and other sewing notions. It is beautifully put together and reminds me so much of the grandmother that I never knew and what she might have done. It is nice to just pick up a chapter at a time.....

I bought this book as soon as I found it, reading about it on Amy's site. It is such a fun and unique book, incorporating wonderful historic articles on daily living with updated projects and ideas. It is a book I've read over and over, and find something new everytime. There is really nothing else like it out there, and I am so glad I bought it!

I love this book. I love the 1920's and I love sewing, etc. In my opinion it's not exactly a guide to needlework, etc, as the subtitle suggests. It's more of a delicious read on woman's life in the 1920's. The book is divided into months and within each monthly segment there is an inspirational article on being the best you can be, an article on food (setting a table, making good soup...), something on the fashion of the day, beauty columns, and more. I am not reading this to learn new recipes or patterns. There are a few of those, but mostly I find it to be an entertaining read with lots of neat 1920's illustrations.

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