



OIDFA

Member Lecture Series

Gratitude in Lace: tribute pieces made in Belgium during WWI

Evelyn McMillan, USA

Sunday, 4 February, 2024 15:00 CET; 9:00am-EST



The talk will focus on several pieces of Belgian lace that were made to express appreciation for aid received during World War I. Locally designed, these pieces frequently contained words of gratitude, along with dates, names, coats of arms and other distinctive elements unique to their places of origin.

Our speaker will also discuss her role in helping a tribute piece make its way back to its town of origin. Evelyn was contacted by the family of Millard Shaler who held a pivotal role in the food relief efforts and was the recipient of a magnificent lace tablecloth that became a treasured heirloom. One hundred years later, his grandchildren generously wished to return the cloth to Belgium. After all the connections were made, the cloth was returned last April at a ceremony held in Bruges. It is now proudly displayed in Hoogdele.

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