Crafts Completed by Bettina von Schweinitz Pre 2022

By

Bettina von Schweinitz

Introduction

This book is a pictorial of craft items that Bettina (Tina) von Schweinitz completed. Helga encouraged her young children to express their artistic ability and taught both several art and craft skills. Both children continued using these skills into their adulthood.

Luckily, her mother, Helga, kept all of the handmade items made by both her children, Tina and Chris. While younger, Tina did a lot of needlepoint and very small needle crochet. Her eyes could see details. Most of these items were made as gifts for family or friends.

In 2014, Tina moved in with her parents, and helped her mother take care of her father, Hans. After her father's death, Tina took care of her mother. By 2014, Tina's eyes were not so good, so she switched to knitting and crocheting. Most of these yarn items were donated to local charities for distribution to homeless or needy. These charities needed hats and scarves, so she made hundreds over the next five years. By working in yarn, Tina could continue to work on the items while sitting in doctor's offices or sitting bedside to her parents. Yarn work travels better than needlework, and can also be worked on in poor lighting. Tina became proficient in knitting with the only light coming from the medical monitoring equipment.

In 2019, Helga passed away. Then came the COVID pandemic with its associated lock-down. By 2022, the lock-down was lifted and Tina moved into a Senior Living facility. There she rekindled her desire to create new patterns and more items. The information from 2022 and on is included in another book.

This book does not contain the patterns or instructions. Some of these items were invented by Tina and their instructions are included in another book.

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Afghan: Granny Square Afghan

Unknown start date, but completed about 1990

These squares were done by both Tina and her mother, Helga. Most by Helga. Helga showed Tina how to crochet squares, and some of Tina's are included. Tina always had problems with turning while crocheting, so the squares that are more of parallelograms belong to Tina.

This afghan was often on the guest room bed. Often Helga would get offers from guests to buy this afghan. She always refused.



Afghan: Burgundy wave light and dark

Completed in winter of 1986-1987

In 1986, Tina moved to Maryland. After living so many years in hot climates, Tina really felt the cold temperatures in the Maryland winter. To stay warm, she would snuggle under the comforter in her bed, and crochet afghans. As the afghan got bigger, it would help keep her warm. This was her first full size afghan.

1n 1987, Tina still had her English Spring Spaniel, Lady. Lady would supervise by snuggling on top of the afghan. Some her hairs are still entwined in the yarn.



Afghan: White Complicated Pattern for Heirloom

Completed in 1987

After completing her first afghan, Tina got ambitious and tried a more complicated pattern. Her office mate was getting married and wanted a heirloom afghan. She picked out the pattern instructions and bought the yarn. Tina spend over three months, crocheting every evening to complete this afghan. Although it looks extremely complicated, it really was not. It is very repetitive, which makes it easier to get into a rhythm.

A couple of years later, Tina made another afghan from this pattern for her brother, Chris, marriage to Jill.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Alt Raudten

Completed in 2007

Based on a painting of Tina's father's childhood home (estate Mansion), Tina developed a needlepoint pattern. She used this pattern to make two mouse pads.



Each mouse pad used a different color scheme. For her father, she stayed with the original gray facade color.



For her brother, Chris, she used a more reddish color scheme. Hans told Tina that the color of the facade would change over time, on the whim of the current "Lord" of the manor.





Arm Rest: Arm Rest, Star pattern

Completed 2006

Tina made this from a pattern in a crochet pattern book. Although they are the identical pattern, they came out different lengths. Therefore they were not good enough as gifts. She used them on her own easy boy.

But this project gave her an idea about using the holes in the crochet pattern to create the design. Based on this idea she came up with the peacock and rose arm rests for her parents.





Arm Rest: Arm rests and head rests, Peacock and Rose

Completed in 2006

This is done by crocheting, and the holes make the pattern. The peacock design was for her father's, Hans, lazy boy. The rose pattern was for her mother's, Helga, easy boy.







Bag: Crochet shopping bag Completed in 2018

This is a variation of a store bought crochet pattern. Tina made five bags for her brother's, Chris' family in different colors. Then modified the design to make one for her mother's, Helga, walker. Having a bag attached to the walker is a requirement. You always need somewhere to keep the tissue, wallet, and other hands on necessities. Having a bag that is easy to see into, really helps to find items. And the airiness also help to keep things clean and dry.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Bag: Dye Train Completed 2015

Right after Tina's father, Hans, died, both Tina and her mother, Helga, attended a craft class at the local library. Tina made this spray dye shopping bag with the train. Somewhere in the house is the one that Helga made. But Helga collected (Hoarded) bags of all kinds and somehow in the hundreds of bags, her handmade bag got lost. Think of the Scarlet Letter concept of hide-in-seek. Helga used flowers as her pattern.



Bag: From Plastic grocery bags

Completed about 2005

What to do with all those plastic bags from the grocery store. Tina found a set of instructions on how to turn those bags into plastic yarn that could be crochet into another bag. This one plastic bag requires about 30 of the grocery bags to complete.



Bag: Yarn holder bag Completed 2004

In 2004, Tina's father, Hans, had a massive stroke. Both Tina and her mother, Helga, spent hours at his bedside in the hospital and in rehab. Knitting or crocheting granny squares for another afghan was a good way to occupy the time. Most of the yarn was rolled into a ball, which would roll everywhere while being used. So what to do. Helga had found an over the arm yarn bag at a local arts/craft shop. Helga used the store bought bag. Tina reverse engineered that bag and created her own. Now the balls of yarn could be controlled while being used.



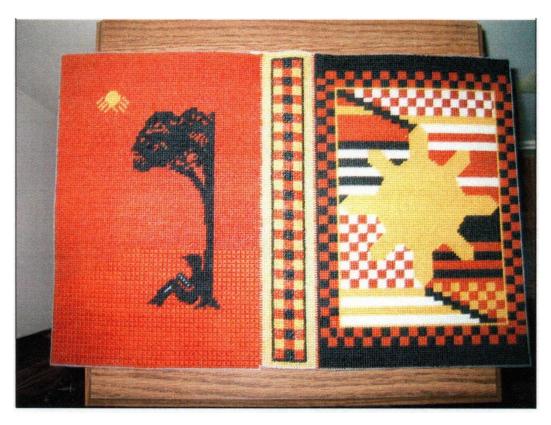
BookCover: His and Hers bookcovers

Completed 2009

Hans and Helga enjoyed reading books. Many times they would read books that were signed by the author and still used dust covers. Especially since Helga was an Author, and they had many friends that were also authors. Both would attend book signing events. To preserve the original dust covers, they used book covers. So Tina developed a needlepoint pattern and made each, their own book cover.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Book Markers: His and Her book markers

Completed 2009

Before trying the more complicated book covers, Tina found a pattern for the traditional silhouette of a person sitting under a tree enjoying a book. Tina modified the design to distinguish from a boy (hat and pants) to a girl (hair and skirt). Tina made quite a few of these for friends and family as gifts.



 ${\bf Boxes: Boxes\ with\ Princesses, Guitar, and\ Ball\ motifs}$

Completed 2006

For Christmas of 2006, Tina made from needlepoint, boxes to store nick-nacks, for each of her niece and nephews. Each design was inspired by patterns found in books, or from simple diagrams found on the internet. Tina then converted each into a needlepoint pattern. Elena received the Disney Princesses, Mathew received the guitar theme, and Michael the ball sports.













Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz Tina also made more designs that never made it to a finished box.







 $\label{lem:conditional} \textbf{Dried Flowers: Bunny surrounded by flowers}$

Completed September 2002

On 2 September 2002, Tina was layed off from a job that she had since March 1986. As a separation package and because of her long time with the company, the company continued way her for six months. And because of the unemployment laws in Maryland, Tina also received unemployment payments at the same time. Flush with cash and emotions, Tina attended several craft classes conducted by the County Parks Department. This one consisted of gluing dried flowers onto paper. Tina had captured a photo of a bunny using the old style Single Reflects Lens film camera, and had the film developed. She brought this photo to the class, anticipating being able to surround the bunny with colorful flowers. The dried flowers were provided by the Parks Department and are all local to Maryland parks.



Card: Mother's Day card with Rose Needlepoint Completed 2003

Tina found at a local craft store, this card designed with a blank needlepoint canvas, just waiting for something. She added this rose. It was given to her mother for Mother's day.



Cat in the Window Needlepoint Completed in the 1980's

This pattern just spoke to Tina. It was in a book and worked nicely on this blue needlepoint canvas. She eventually did put it in the frame, and it hung for years in her home.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Coin Purse: Scotland Coin Purse by Needlepoint

Completed in 2006

In 2005, Tina went with her friend, Pat White, and another friend on a hiking trip to Scotland. They did the Cateran Trail in East Scotland. The trail marker was the Heart. What was very noticeable in Scotland, was that they used coins a lot, and not so much paper money. And nobody had a coin purse.

In 2006, Tina went with again with Pat White and another friend on another trail in Scotland. This time it was the Speyside Way. Pat picked this trail because it passed lots of different distilleries of whiskey. Tina cannot drink alcohol, so on each distillery tour, Pat would get her sample and also Tina's. Before this second trip Tina made this Scotland coin purse for herself (in memory of the first walk) and also a coin purse for each friend. The Speyside Way used a thistle as a trail marker, and their purse had the Scottish Thistle along with their name. That was so that we could tell everyone's coin purse apart.

In 2007, Tina went again with Pat White, and two other friends to Scotland and did the West Highland Way. Again Tina made coin purses for everybody. They came in real handy.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Coin Purse: Coin Purse with Rose and Strawberry flower

Completed 2004 and 2005

The craft store had many of these projects where the needlepoint canvas was already sewn into a project such as coin purses, eyeglass cases, purses, bags, greeting cards, and many other ideas. Instead of using the suggested pattern that came with each kit, Tina developed her own. Tina developed a rose design as Christmas gifts to her mother, Helga. The strawberry flower design was given as a gift to a friend.





original photo

Needlepoint

Crest: Family von Schweinitz crest in Needlepoint

Completed in 2005

Based on a photo of the family crest from Tina's father, she created a needlepoint pattern. Tina stitched two copies, one for her father, Hans, and one for her brother, Chris.



Cup: Cup with Alpine flowers in Needlepoint

Completed in 2005

By just using stiff plastic canvas, Tina came up with a design of a cup that could hold pens. The flowers are favorites of Tina's mother, Helga which are rose, blue corn flowers, and poppies in a simple style good for needlepoint.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Cup: Ceramic AF mug
Completed between 1972-1974

While in Montgomery Alabama, Tina was only about 13 years old, and she attended a few classes in how to finish and paint ceramics on the local Air Force Base, Maxwell AFB. Tina made several different items. One was this mug with the Air Force eagle logo in Air Force royal blue, which she gave to her father, Hans, as a gift. Hans was a Sergeant in the Air Force.



Completed in 2006

Of the many items available in the local craft store that used needlepoint canvas was plastic cups. Instead of using the design included in the kit, Tina invented her own pattern. For her mother, Helga, she used bunnies in the pattern. For her father, Hans, she used bucks (deer).





Doilies and Snowflakes: Various

Completed: various over time from 1980-20014

Tina enjoyed looking through magazines and books for doily designs that she could crochet. She made several over time using standard size white yarn. Most were given away as gifts.

In the 1980's, Tina would use the same doily patterns, but crochet with a very fine hook and sewing thread. The result was a very small doily, or what could also be called a 'snowflake'.





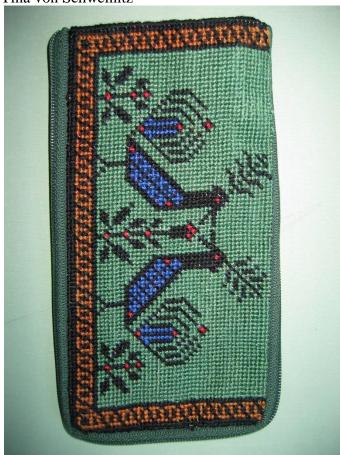


DoorStops: Amish, Alpine flowers, and Welcome doorstops.

Completed between 2005-2006

Using just plastic needlepoint canvas, and her own designs, Tina make several doorstops. They were all size around the common household brick. They were all given away as gifts. The only one to survive is the "welcome" which was a gift to her parents, and it is still used to hold the front door open as needed.





Eyeglass Case: In Rose and Peacock.

Completed in 2004 to 2005

Another kit available in the local craft store with blank needlepoint canvases was the eyeglass case. Tina designed the Rose pattern for her mother, Helga, to go with the coin purse. The peacock design was a gift to her father, Hans.



Herford

Completed in 2009

Based on photos and memory Tina developed a needlepoint pattern to represent her mother's childhood home in FuerstenauStrasse 10, Herford Germany. Helga grew up in this house. Later, Tina would spend summers with her Great Tante Hilde (sister to Helga's Mother, Ella) in this house living on the second floor.





from the 1970's

from the early 2000's





Horse: Horse in Latch Hook method

Completed in the 1970's

In the 1970's it was all the rage to do latch hook rugs, pillows, and wall hangings. The horse with a bridle was a kit. But that gave Tina the confidence to make her own design using her current favorite horse as a model. While living in Montgomery Alabama, Tina leased a horse during the summer months, with the name of "Spright" although he was a bay with a white strip on its forehead. The result was this wall hanging.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Horse: Ceramic Horse Completed 1973-1974

While in Montgomery Alabama, Tina was only about 13 years old, and she attended a few classes in how to finish and paint ceramics on the local Air Force Base, Maxwell AFB. Tina made several different items, this horse was one. This Tina kept for herself. After Alabama, the family moved several times, and Tina also moved several times during her own career. This figurine survived each move until the last move back from Maryland to Austin Texas. For some reason that move was too much, and although it was well protected in its packaging material, it still arrived in pieces. This style of figurine is still a standard with ceramics, so may be Tina may remake this horse.



Hot Plate: Hot Plate Needlepoint with birds

Completed in 2005

Another type of kit found at the local craft store for needlepoint was plastic hot plates. Instead of using the suggested pattern, Tina modified a pattern that included some interesting birds.

Tina actually made several different hot plates with different patterns that she developed herself. These were given away as gifts and she forgot to take photos of the completed projects.

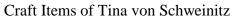


Krippe: Christmas Nativity scene in Ceramics

Completed in 1973-1974

While in Montgomery Alabama, Tina attended several ceramic class at the local Air Base, Maxwell This is the largest project that Tina completed. Tina had looked at several other nativity scenes and could never find one that was done to represent realistic figures. So she spent several months smoothing the casts, then mixing the different colors of paint and very carefully painting the figures. After being painted the figures were still very flat. But after adding some patina after the baking, brought out the life in each figure.







Light Cover: Night Light cover with Angle

Completed in 2005

This depiction of an angle always intrigued Tina. When Tina found this night light kit at the local craft store, she immediately thought of using this pattern. Then Tina gave this as a gift to her mother, Helga. Helga like to collect angles and put them near her bed so that they could watch over her at night. Helga put this night light in her bathroom, so that she could safely see her way during those night trips.



LightSwitch: Light Switch covers with flowers, tulip, and Aztec designs Completed between 2003-2006

This was another needlepoint kit available at the local craft store. The kit included a basic large hole plastic canvas which was good enough for the Aztec design below. This matched the kitchen wallpaper in Tina's house in Maryland. But Tina used smaller hole cloth canvas with her own designs for the flowers and tulip.





Mousepad: Mousepads with various designs

Completed 2004-2007

Making mousepads was one of Tina's favorite kits. The local craft store sold the mousepad kits, but with large hole plastic canvas. Luckily, a smaller hole stiff material canvas would also work. Tina searched various magazines, books, and internet sites for ideas to use in her own designs. This is just a sample of her completed mousepads. They were always given away as gifts.



Octopussy

Completed, unknown but sometime between 1974 and 1977

Helga and Tina found the instructions on how to make this Octopussy from yarn. They had fun making it. It was a good mother and daughter moment. Helga always kept it were children could not play with it. By 2020, it was still in the house, a little worse for wear just due to time a natural decay of the yarn. It did lose one eye in 2015, and new eyes were sewn on. The new eyes are now buttons, instead of the goggle eyes.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Owl: Ceramic Owl Completed 1973-1974

While in Montgomery Alabama, Tina was only about 13 years old, and she attended a few classes in how to finish and paint ceramics on the local Air Force Base, Maxwell AFB. Tina made several different items, this owl was one. The owl has a hole in the back for coins, so it is also a savings bank, therefore the saying. Again, Tina, used the realistic style when applying the paint. And finished it with a pentane to add depth and shadows.



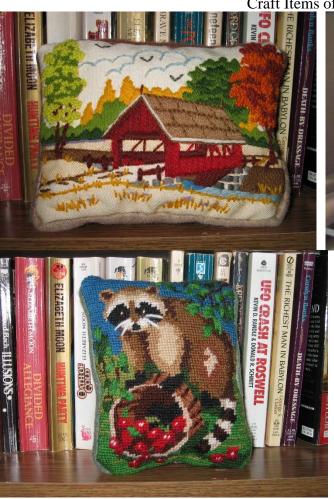




Penholder: Green and Red Penholder Completed in 2006 or 2007

These are made from stiff plastic needlepoint canvases. The patterns are based on art work from the Pennsylvania Dutch.



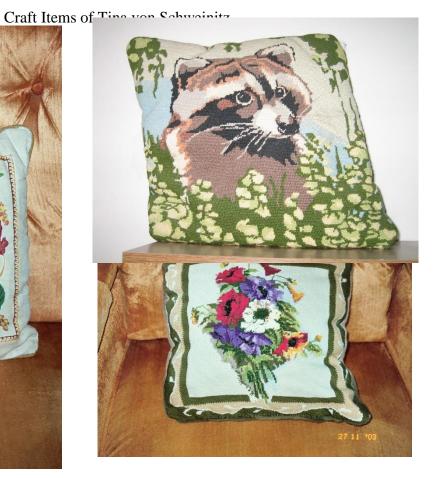


Pillow: Bridge, Raccoon, and owl

Completed unknown but one of the two first kits, so about 1972-1976

These are some of the first kits that Tina did in needlepoint. The bridge and Raccoon were turned into a pillows, but the owl became framed to hang on the wall.

Craft Item



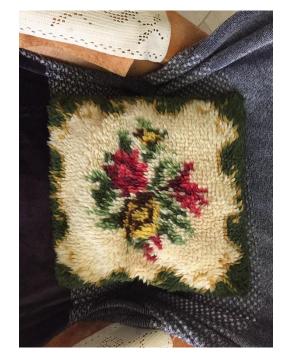
Pillows: various kits over the years

Completed from 1970-2014

There were so many good kits available for needlepoint and cross-stitch. Tina bought many herself, and many were bought by her parents. Most kits were sewn onto matching material so that they were pillows to be

displayed on shelves for protection.



















Pillows: Four Season set from Europe

Completed about 2000-2006

This set of four was a kit from Europe bought by Tina's father, Hans. It is needlepoint using yarn. These are some typical scenes in Europe, especially Germany. When Tina was done, she sewed them onto material and make pillows.





Pillow: Pillow "Them that Works Eats"

Completed 2006

Helga had made a pillow from a German cloth yearly Calendar. The pillow wore out, so she asked Tina if she could duplicate the pillow in needlepoint. The needlepoint stitches are larger than the tight weave of the cloth. Even so, the pattern that Tina developed was remarkably similar.







Pillow: Pennsylvania Dutch Pattern Pillow

Completed: sometime in the 1970's

Helga and Tina bought this kit and worked together over many years. Finally in the late 1970's the pillow was finally finished. The pillow was actively used in Helga's house. In the 2000's the pillow was worn out. Luckily, they still had the instructions, so Tina remade the pillow. Somehow in all the moves and time, the remade pillow has disappeared, but the worn out pillow is still in the house. Go figure.



Remade pillow





Pillow: His and Her Pillow cases

Completed 2000

Tina made these two pillow cases in cross stitch needlepoint. They are grammatically incorrect. But in Tina's mind, the use of Her and His (instead of Her's and His) is better balanced. Order and balance is more important to Tina than accuracy.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Pocket: Alpine Single pocket hanger

Completed 2005

Once Tina found the plastic canvas for needlepoint, there were several projects that she could develop. One of the first is this single pocket wall hanging. The design is based on Alpine based characters and symbols.





Pocket: Alpine Three pocket hanger, red and green

Completed about 2006

A big project was developing and creating these three pocket hangers. The design and symbols are again from

Alpine designs.







Poppies

Completed 2013

Helga really liked the German poppy flower and the German blue corn flower. She remembers see this flowers blooming in the wheat and rye fields that surrounded her home town of Herford, Germany. Tina found several patterns for poppies and corn flowers, combined the patterns to achieve this representation.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Raccoon

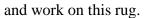
Completed in 1990's

This is from a kit. It uses the simple needlepoint stitch but also some more complicated stitches in the trees and whiskers.



Rug Hook Completed 1974

While moving from Montgomery Alabama and Austin Texas, the family had to live for a couple of months in trailer courts. And it was right during the cold December and January months. To keep everyone busy, Hans and Helga bought this kit. Doing hook rugs was all the rage at that time. This rug is about 3 feet by 6 feet. At least two people could work on this at the same time. Most evenings, Tina and Chris would next to each other





Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Toilet Completed 2013

In homes in Germany, the door to the WC (wash closet) is often identified by these two characters. Tina developed this pattern based on photos from Germany.









Toilet Roll coversCompleted in 2005
These are crochet in the round. They are still around and sit in various bathrooms in the house.











Towels with needlepoint Completed between 2004 and 2014 The local craft store had these towels with a strip of needlepoint canvas sewn in. Tina had fun developing the patterns and making the towels.

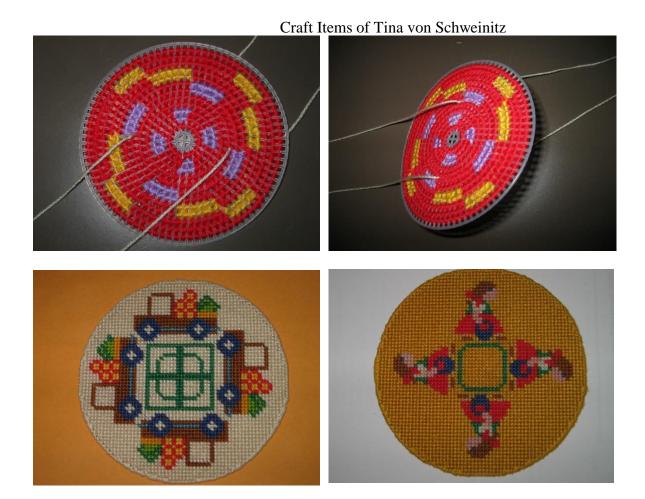


Tray with Alpine couple Completed 2005

As a gift to her parents, Tina developed this pattern of a Alpine couple dancing. The pattern is based on a pillow from a friend.







Twizzlers various

Completed around 2006

The local craft store had plastic canvas already cut and finished as circles discs. Tina developed these patterns. By running two strings through the disc, you can twist (or wind up) the strings and then pull. As the strings straighten out, the disc spins and the pattern with make a picture. Actually kind of fun.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Vase: Alpine pattern Completed around 2005

The local craft store also had kits with a plastic vase (like the cup) and the plastic canvas for needlepoint. Instead of using the suggested pattern, Tina came up with this pattern. But she forgot to take a picture of the finished project.



ViolinCompleted in 1980's

This project comes from a kit. It is basic needlepoint. Tina worked on this in her late teens and it took Tina years to complete. At first it was supposed to be a present for her brother, Chris, because he is so good with the violin. But Chris' interests took a turn to something else. And, Tina could not part with this, after spending so long making it.



Wall Hanging: Bell Pull Completed around 2002

This is from a kit and is called "Thread Pull". The base material is special. The thread that is in the weave are not glued together, they can still slide along each other. By using a thinner thread, and special stitches, the weaved thread is pulled together into patterns. The work is very exacting, but interesting. Tina had the idea of trying to develop her own patterns, but it is hard to find the base material, since most weaved material is sealed with a glue that binds the thread.



Wall Hanging: Taking a bath, Male and Female Completed in the 1980's

These two come from a pattern in a cross-stitch book. Tina had these two hanging in her bathroom in Maryland for years.





Wall Hanging: For the Kitchen

Completed in the 1980's

These hung in Tina's kitchen in Maryland. They are both from cross-stitch patterns in books. Tina then mounted them in finished frames that included pegs and rods for hanging practical items.



Wall Hanging: Neuschweinstein Castle in Bavaria Germany Completed in 1990's

This pattern comes from a cross-stitch book. Tina put it directly on this kit, which already included the stretch frame and blue rim skirt.



Wall Hanging: Hummel boy
Completed in 1980's
This was a complete kit that already came with the canvas, stretch, and rim skirt. Tina made this soon after she first moved to Maryland in 1986.

Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Wall Hanging: Townhouses

Completed in 1990's

This was a different idea by Tina. Where Tina lived in Maryland, there are townhouses just like these everywhere. It is the home of choice. Tina found some material at the craft store and bout two sections. She put some quilting batting between the material and a sheet. Then she sewed like a quilt pattern, stitches along the outline of each home and cloud. This added the three dimensional effect. Then she used an edging strip (ribbon) to bind each section onto the outside of a wooden frame. It worked.



Xmas Stockings Completed 2012

This was another kit from the local craft store. Elena, Matthew, and Michael are the niece and nephews of Tina.

Knitting and Crocheting from 2014-2019

In 2014 Tina moved from Maryland to her parent's house in Pflugerville Texas. Helga and Hans' health were failing and they welcomed Tina's help. Tina switched from needlepoint to yarn at this time. Projects using a knit needle or crochet hook, travel better and can easily be continued while waiting in doctor's offices.

Tina also joined a few knitting/crochet clubs. Many of these ideas came from socializing with others, and many from the internet. Almost all of the finished items were donated to various non-profit organizations. Because Tina was making items for donation, what she made was usually limited to variations of blankets, scarves and hats.



Blankets

Blankets were not easy for Tina. She never could get the hang of turning a crochet row. Then she tried to knit blankets. But the weight limited her to only making blankets for babies.













Dish Cloths: various and test squares

Tina used dish cloths to test various stitches, both with crocheting and knitting. Because these were test, many of the dish cloths came out in strange shapes.











Hats: Various knit and crochet

Tina made hundreds over the four years. Almost every hat was a different pattern.

















Leg Warmers: Green and Multi colored

Helga had diabetes and her legs would easily get cold. Tina tried to find leg warmers in the stores and on-line. But in 2018 and 2019, they were no longer in fashion. So, Tina came up with patterns and modifications so that Helga's legs would stay warm. These could be personalized to fit legs that were never the same.



Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz





Mittens: With fingers exposed, or not

Some of the non-profit organizations wanted mittens. There was a request for mittens without fingers. This was mostly driven by the need to use the cell phone. In 2014-2019, the stores were not selling fingerless mittens. So Tina came up with some designs that were easy to crochet. She also tried a pattern for a full mitten.





Scarves: Various and many

Second to only hats, the non-profit organizations needed scarves. Tina made hundreds for the homeless and Texas Special Olympics. Tina also created some patterns using the German flag colors and the USA flag



Craft Items of Tina von Schweinitz



Socks

Tina also had problems finding thick socks for her mother, Helga. The socks that were in the stores where too tight. Normally diabetics are supposed to wear tight socks to reduce swelling, but with Helga, the tight socks cut off the circulation and made her feet too cold. So Tina came up with a sock pattern that could be knitted. Tina had to modify some circular knitting needles. She bought bamboo needles and trimmed one needle (the active needle) to half the length, and this was enough to knit in the round. And she did not do any special rows to round the heel. She just knitted in the round and made tube socks.





Cocoon knit bag for baby

Some of the knitters in one of the clubs were making cocoon blankets for babies. Tina came up with a pattern and made one. That was it. Making scarves and hats was more enjoyable. Plus hats and scarves traveled better to the doctor's offices.

End