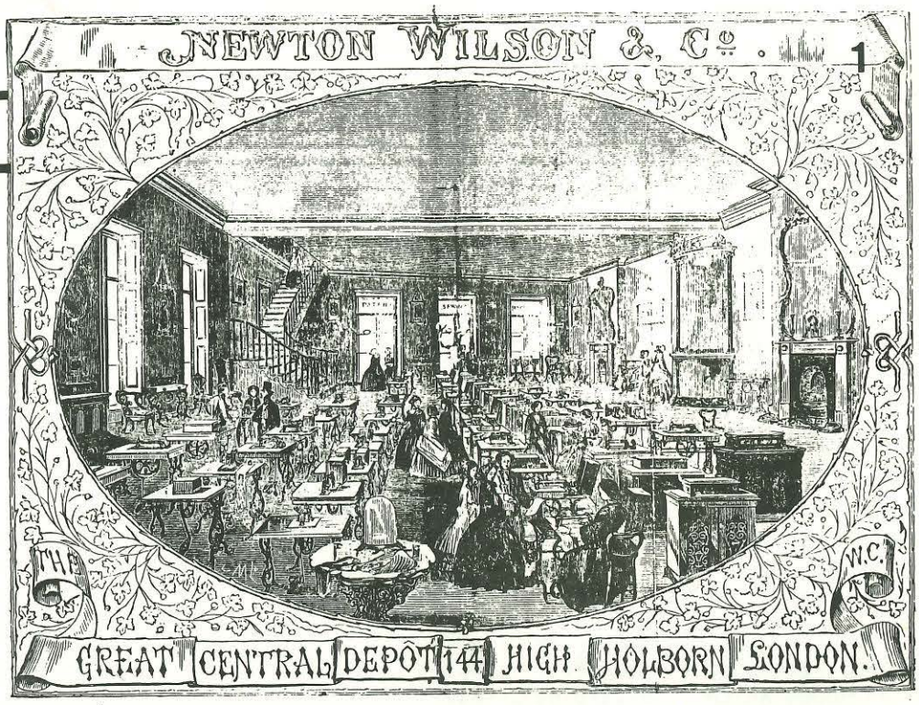
A S.M.C.S.

EXTRA

By Carol Head

NEWTON WILSON & CO.





WILLIAM NEWTON WILSON opened his first sewing-machine depot in December 1856 at 144 High Holborn, London. As trade at that time was limited, he was also offering a variety of other domestic inventions.

In 1858 he became an agent for the 'Boudoir' machine, made by Harris & Bigelow of Boston (page 82, Grace Cooper) which produced both single and double-thread loop stitches (chain). In order to sell this machine Wilson would hire rooms in the town halls of large cities and send out invitation cards to the public, inviting them to an exhibition of the machine and its products. Cost of this exercise worked out at a cool £5 for each £14 machine and the few that were sold certainly didn't justify the expense.

In 1859 William Newton Wilson visited the Grover and Baker company in America and was appointed the sole importer of G&B machines in Great Britain. These were advertised and exhibited like the 'Boudoir' and offered for sale through agencies and branch offices throughout the country.

In 1864 G&B opened a showroom in Regent St in direct competition with NW & Co. This led to considerable unpleasantness and NW purchased Campion & Johnson of Nottingham, retaining Mr Campion as foreman, to manufacture the Howe, Singer No. 2 and Duplex machines. NW was later sued by Singer and Thomas for infringement of patents.

On 14 February 1866 NW patented the 'first practical SMs of any value' -- with the trade names of 'Queen Mab' and 'Cleopatra'. The invention consisted of 'the combination of a revolving looper with an internal-geared wheel, the teeth of which were cast in composite metal by a second process, which gave to the machine a speed double that of any arrangement previously known, while ensuring a degree of quietness that had never before been attained.' It was a great success.

The Dorcas and Penelope were patented in 1868. The Penelope was larger and gave five stitches per revolution and was more ornamental in design. NW & Co exhibited at the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1867 and recived a medal.

The following is an 1868 report from the English Woman's Domestic Magazine 1868

' The Cleopatra and Queen Mab machines worked with a single thread, and require no fixing to a table, being quite steady with their own weight; they are remarkably simple, requiring little or no personal instruction, and we believe that they are not liable to get out of order. We worked the Cleopatra on moire antique, long-cloth, flannel, cloth, linen, holland and jaconet: it worked beautifully upon all. Having tried this machine in every way, we can recommend it to our readers.

The Queen Mab makes two stitches to each revolution of the handle, while the Cleopatra makes four, the speed of the Cleopatra rendering it a more desirable machine than the Queen Mab. These machines make the single-thread chain stitch, with which embroidery can be done by employing coarse silk.

The hand lock-stitch machines -- the



This beautiful machine is the most complete machine ever produced. The stitch is the twisted loop, the speed the most rapid known, the simplicity perfect, the capacity everything that can be required for use in a family. It requires no screwing or clamping to the table, and has included with it without extra charge a complete set of apparatus, comprising tools and needles, four hemmers different sizes, braider and braid carrier quilter, self-sewer, tucking guide, tuck-marker, binder, oiler, and friller. This complete collection makes it the cheapest machine ever known.

PRICE £3 3 0 complete.

Dorcas and the Penelope -- are exceedingly simple, and having tested both machines with dressed longcloth as well as other materials, we can speak of their merits. These machines work with two threads, and make a lockstitch, the work on both sides being alike.

The Dorcas is the same speed as the Cleopatra while the Penelope, which is a larger machine than the Dorcas, makes five stitches to each revolution of the handle. We prefer the Penelope to the Dorcas and consider it a better machine as, indeed, its higher price entitles it to be.

These two machines braid, sew, bind, quilt, hem and gather and trip nicely; they can be fitted to a table and worked by a treadle if desired. The tables are ornamented and can be had with or without covers for the machine. The mechanical means used for obtaining the high speed at which the Cleopatra and Penelope can be run are most simple and effective: a braider is attached to the presser foot of the Penelope, which is exceedingly useful for children's dresses, petticoats, etc.

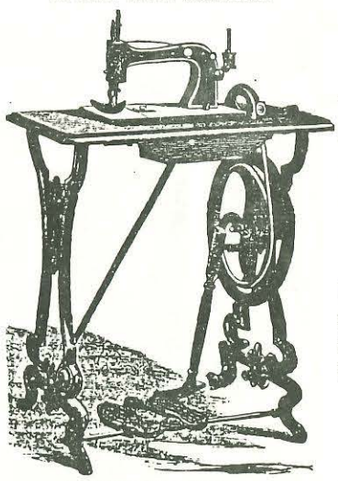
These machines are all to be obtained of Messrs Newton Wilson and Co, who also have the 'workbox' machines, price 10, 12 and 14 guineas respectively.

* * *

A NEW WORK FOR LADIES: Messrs Newton Wilson and Co, 144 High Holborn, have introduced to our notice a very ingenious and pretty machine for making braid for trimming dresses. This useful invention enables ladies to make, with cotton, braid of any colour at the rate of two yards a minute. the braid is flat and is formed by a 'pump' movement. It is worked by turning a handle, the same as a hand machine is worked. It is arranged to fit on the treadle machine supplied by this company, and braid can then be made with surprising celerity. The price with stand is £2 2s.

* * *

BUTTON HOLE MACHINE.



TWENTY GUINEAS.

The American Button Hole Machine. Makes 100 Button Holes per hour; changed in a minute to plain sewing. The most complete machine ever invented. Price 20 guineas

Messrs NW & Co of 144 High Holborn have a machine which appears to combine three SMs in one. Imprimis, there is an ordinary, or rather a very good, lockstitch SM; secondly, there is a buttonhole-making apparatus; and thirdly, there is over-seaming machinery, which produces a fine satin-stitch embroidery. The alteration of parts, etc. for these various kinds of work is adjusted in a few moments, and this machine, by combining in one the necessities of work as well as its elegant requirements, is highly appreciated by ladies.

The price is apparently high -- namely £21 -- but cannot be really expensive if we consider that the price of an ordinary button-hole making machine is £14, a good lock-stitch £12, and then the embroidery mechanism would cast as much more if, indeed, it could be bought. All extras are included in this price. This ingenious machine is called the American Buttonhole, Overseaming and SM, and is certainly a most complete lady's companion.

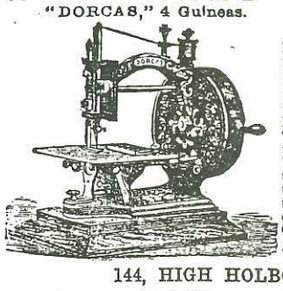
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PRINCESS OF WALES



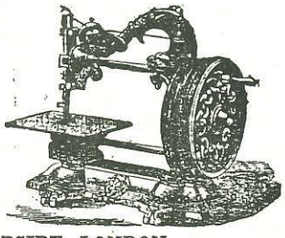
NEWTON WILSON AND CO.'S
NEW HAND SEWING MACHINES.

"DORCAS," 4 Guineas.



In addition to their now celebrated Machines, "Queen Mab" and "Cleopatra," which work with a single thread, Messrs. Newton Wilson & Co., have now ready their New Hand Lock-Stitch Machines, "DORCAS" and "PENELOPE," working with two threads, the stitch on both sides being alike. Nothing more exquisitely beautiful than these machines and their results can possibly be desired. Apply for Illustrated Catalogues which are sent post free from the Depots,

"PENELOPE," 5 Guineas.

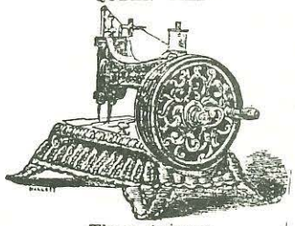


144, HIGH HOLBORN, and 144, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

Newton Wilson advertisements from the late 1860s. They claimed of the Princess of Wales that it was the most perfect lock-stitch machine every invented

NEWTON WILSON AND CO.'S
NEW HAND SEWING MACHINES.

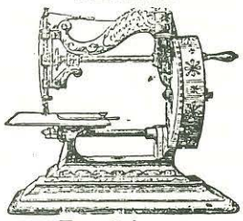
"QUEEN MAB."



Three Guineas.

These beautiful Machines stitch, require no fixing to a table, are perfectly steady with their own weight, and yet perfectly portable. They require no personal instruction whatever; any child can operate them at first sight. They will stitch any fabric; the needles are not liable to break; and they are almost impossible to get out of order. *Note.—The "Cleopatra" is double the speed of the "Queen Mab."*

"CLEOPATRA."

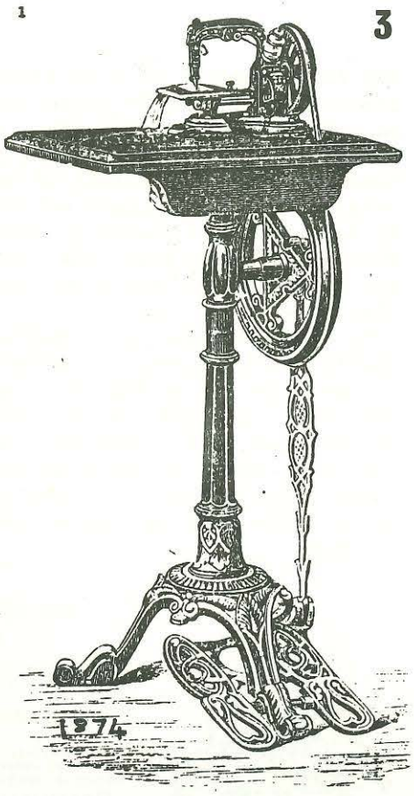


Four Guineas.

DEPOT: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.



The Boudoir machine advertised by NW in 1860



From the Blackburn Standard, Dec 2 1858

The Boudoir SM -- We had the pleasure yesterday of witnessing the operation of this truly wonderful machine, which is as simple as it is ingenious. A contemporary correctly describes it as a 'marvel of despatch, strength and beauty of execution in the art of sewing and certainly one of the greatest of modern triumphs in the way of invention. the velocity and, at the same time strength, with which seams are united appears incredible, while by the mere moving about of the work under the needle, the most tasteful and ornamental embroidery can be worked into the texture'.

The machines at work are exhibited and will be all Saturday in the reception-room at the Town Hall, where all should make a point of gratifying themselves with the sight of so wonderful an invention. The machine really fulfills the statement of the inventor. Every visitor can satisfy himself or herself that the powers enumerated are no exaggeration of the truth.

* * *



The 'Family Knotted' advertised by NW in 1867, was clearly a Grover and Baker imported and sold under licence from the American manufacturers

THE "QUEEN BESS."

THE "QUEEN BESS" is the daintiest little thing ever produced in the shape of a Sewing Machine. It gives room and portability, along with a lightness before unknown. It will be a little companion for ladies that can go with them to the seaside—out to tea—or anywhere. The stitch is the same as the *Willcox and Gibbs*, but the speed—by the hand alone—is double that of the *Weir, Wanzer, Willcox and Gibbs*, or almost any other hand machine. The total weight of the machine, enclosed in its little cabinet, is about 6lbs. While capable of all ordinary work, it is designed as an addition rather than a substitute for existing Machines; but every operation known to the most expensive Machines, such as hemming, quilting, braiding, tucking, tuck-marking, gathering, binding, and trimming, can be performed with delightful ease, by this most perfect little Gem.

Price of Machine only . .	£2 2 0
,, in Walnut case . . .	£2 12 6

NW was advertising the 'Queen Bess', the Queen O' Scots' and the 'Princess of Wales' machines in 1874. The Princess of Wales won The Grand Medal of Merit in Vienna in 1873.

From the English Woman's Domestic Magazine, 1867

The 'Newton Wilson' Machines-144 High Holborn (£8, £9 9s, £10 10s, £12 12s, £14 14s)

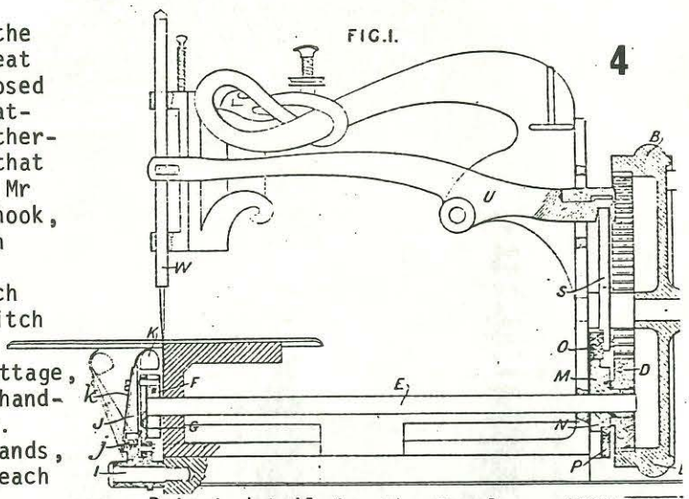
Mr Newton Wilson appears to be an adaptor as well as an inventor, his 'great central depot' being an excellent place to examine the merits of various machines.

His 'Royal Elliptic Lock-stitch' machine is made with an under spool on which there is a tension, and works extremely well and lightly, making a lock-stitch on the 'Wheeler and Wilson' plan, the rotating hook moving, however, in an ellipse; hence the name elliptic.

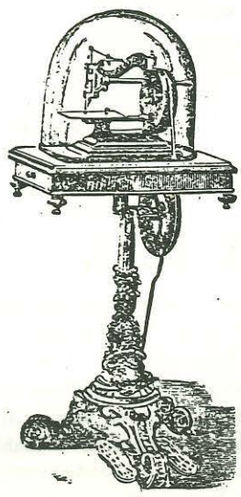
We have been informed that the 'Elliptic'

was the invention of a Mr Sloat, but the intricacies of the SM trade are so great and the accounts of inventors or supposed inventors so various, that we cannot attempt to prove the claims of one or other- only it is without doubt established that Mr Howe invented sewing by machinery, Mr Wilson the celebrated 'W&W' rotating hook, and Messrs Grover and Baker the stitch that bears their name.

Mr Newton Wilson has a knotted-stitch machine making a regular stitching stitch on one side and on the other the Grover knotted stitch. He has cottage, boudoir and family machines, besides hand-machines, which we shall notice later. These hand-machines are sold by thousands, their price placing them within the reach of most.



Patent detail for the Penelope, 1868



NEWTON WILSON & CO.'S
NEW HAND
SEWING MACHINES.

Paris Exhibition, 1867.—Two Prize Medals.

These Machines require no fixing to the table; they will perform all domestic work, and are so simple as to require no personal instruction.

There are two classes, and two varieties in each class—the 'QUEEN MAB' price 3*l.* 3*s.*, and the 'CLEOPATRA,' price 4*l.* 4*s.*, which work with single thread only, belong to the first class.

The 'DORCAS' price 4*l.* 4*s.*, and the 'PENELOPE,' price 5*l.* 5*s.*, belong to the second class; they work with two threads, and make the lock-stitch.

Ornamental Stands and Tables can be had if desired. Price 1*l.* 1*s.*, 2*l.* 2*s.*, and 3*l.* 3*s.*

TREADLE MACHINES, Lock-Stitch; the best in the market. Complete, with all accessories, 5*l.* 5*s.* and 10*l.* 10*s.*

TREADLE MACHINES, Knotted-Stitch; the most elastic stitch. Complete, with all accessories, 8*l.* 8*l.* and 10*l.* 10*s.*

THE DOMESTIC BRAID MAKING MACHINE. A new work for ladies. With a reel of silk or cotton makes 100 yards of braid per hour. Price 2*l.* 2*s.*

THE AMERICAN BUTTON-HOLE MACHINE. Makes 100 button-holes per hour; changed in a minute to plain sewing. The most complete machine ever invented. Price 20 Guineas.

Advertising poem for the Boudoir from the Blackburn Standard, December 2, 1859.

I come from the realms of thought; I come!
Oh! give me a welcome in every home,
For I bring in my trail a stranger guest, --
A friend to the weary-domestic rest;
And my iron hand has a gift for all --
The slave to the needle I disenthrall.

I come the child of genius; I come!
And lo! what a treasure I bring to some,
to the weary housewife an hour from care,
An hour for improvement, for thought, for prayer,
An hour for repose; I've thought it no crime
To pluck such feathers from the wings of time.

I come with a cheerful song; I come!
And I hope ere long through the world to roam,
'Neath the sun of the tropics I'll lift my wing --
In the icy halls of the north I'll sing,
And the trumpet of fame from main to main,
The triumph shall sound of my useful reign.'

WNW took out several patents, some with provisional protection only, from 1860 to 1882. The last one in 1882 was for a running-stitch machine, and the previous one, in 1877, was a pleating attachment for a SM. In the 1870s, NW & Co were selling the Horograph' or clockwork pen and the 'Wilson' Stylus -- a fountain pencil pen.

It was in 1874 that NW discovered Thomas Saint's drawings of the idea of a SM. the model of Saint's machine was constructed for the exhibition at the Centennial Show in Philadelphia in 1876. It was subsequently exhibited at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1878. Later it was exhibited at the Aquarium and the Agricultural Hall, and its final destination was the Museum of Patents, South Kensington (now the Science Museum). It was presented to the museum in 1894.

William Newton Wilson will be remembered for his contribution to the history of the SM by building the model of Saint's machine but the most well-known machine he manufactured is undoubtedly the Princess of Wales.

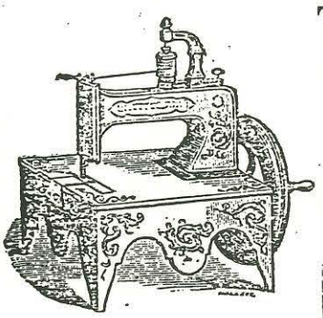


Detail from an NW advertisement featuring the Elliptic.

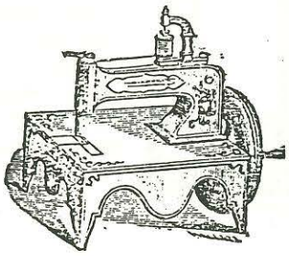
THE EARLY IMPORTS



Lock Stitch. For Tailors, Shoe-makers, and Stay makers £10 10 0



For Carpets, Carpet Bags, Tents, Heavy Cords, Moleskins, &c. Knotted Stitch £14 14 0



For Stay-making, Upholstering, Skirt-making &c. Knotted Stitch £12 12 0

Three of the machines advertised by Newton Wilson & Co in 1863