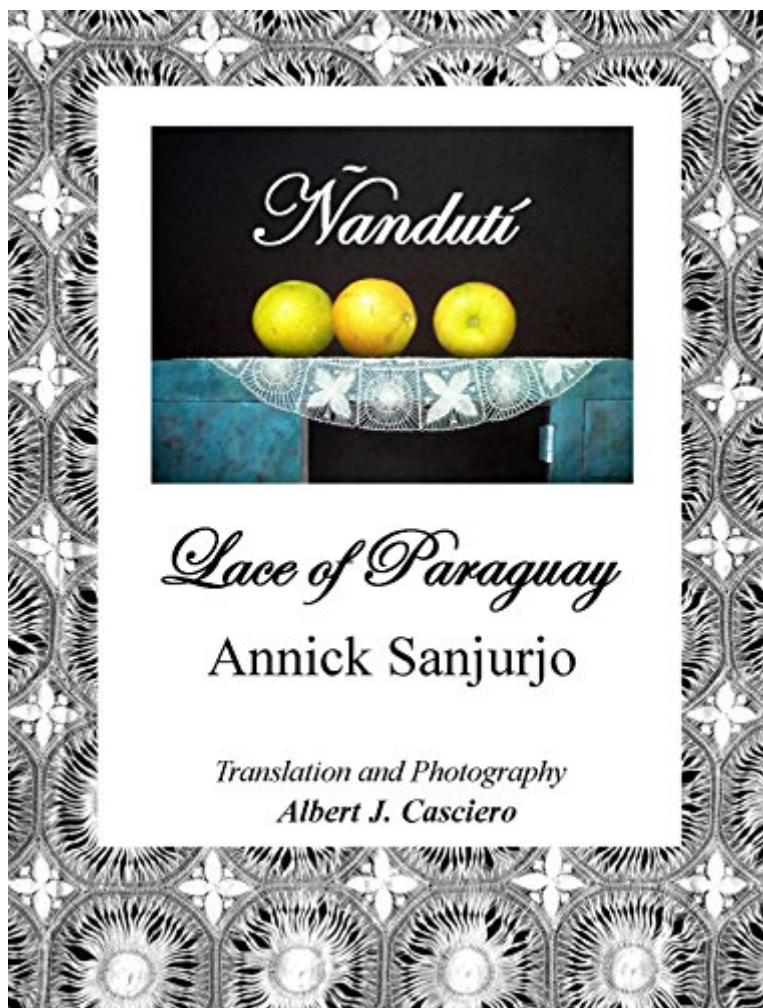


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Ñandutí, Lace Of Paraguay



Synopsis

It happens rarely that a foreign craft is so intensely identified with a region to the extent that it becomes its symbol. However, that is exactly what happened with the old Spanish lace from Extremadura, which in Paraguay even lost its name and was baptized with another that does not corresponds with the concept of its original name: a sun became a spider's web and in that in long evolutionary process *Arandú* was born. This process of acculturation is documented and expertly narrated in this book, which also includes a chapter describing the technique of this lace; comments on its many motifs with a list of them; as well as the life of a *Arandú* lacemaker, her world, her daily travails; that of a peasant woman for whom the making of each lace is a creative act that is renovated with the start of each new piece which throughout its process demands constant imagination. As with every creative act, the intrinsic beauty of *Arandú* is revealed, without a doubt, by the aesthetic sense of each lacemaker as she recreates her own world in her work. This volume also describes the technique for making *Arandú*, validates its cultural and economic impact, and includes an extensive catalog of one hundred and sixty four original designs, as well as well as illustrations of finished pieces. It summarizes the research carried out over a period of over thirty years from historical sources and in situ.

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Customer Reviews

I live in Paraguay and am taking lessons in creating Nanduti. This is an amazing resource. So happy I got it! And it arrived very quickly!!!

It is rare that a book on lace is as comprehensive and as well researched as this volume. This book is result of decades of research by the author into a type of lace made in Paraguay called Nanduti in the native language. She has traced history of this lace back as far as possible in Paraguay. This lace is often confused with Spanish Tenerife lace and has designs which are like spiders webs full of intricate circles or 'suns'. The actual name of the lace means spiders web in the native language in Paraguay and in fact this also a reflection that the very early laces were made from actual spider silk. The author provides a social history of the women which made this lace and takes the reader through the economic circumstances most of them lived in that made lace making a viable option to allow them financial freedom and artistic expression. Unfortunately today, even in Paraguay, hand made lace is a fading craft and it is fortunate that the author started her research so long ago as there are fewer makers of fine lace around today to ask questions about their craft and life. The back section of the book provides an illustrated list of the different lace designs, along with a name for each design and an explanation on what it is meant to represent. This alone is invaluable as only partial sections of this comprehensive list exists in other books on Nanduti lace. In the future this will be the go-to book on the history of Nanduti lace and the various designs and their meanings. If you have any interest in this unusual and intricate lace (especially in the older pieces as the modern Nanduti is very different from that produced in the 19th and early 20th century) get this book as soon as you can because at the moment its only available as print on demand.

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