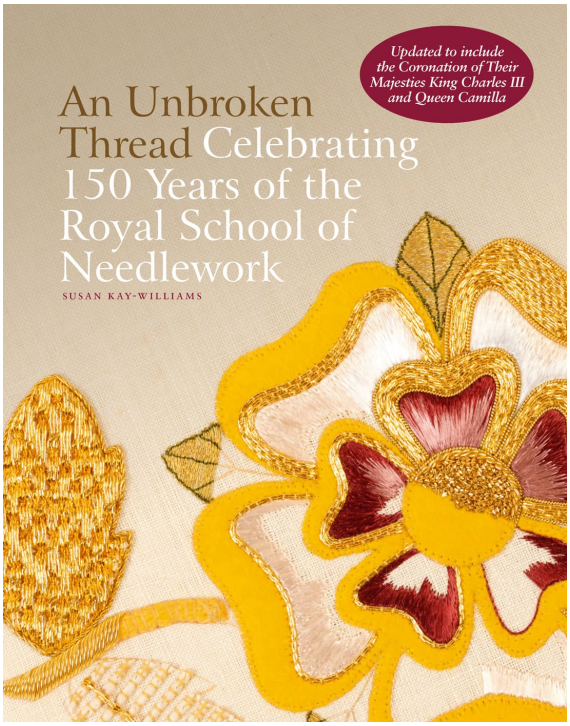
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An Unbroken Thread

Celebrating 150 Years of the Royal School of Needlework - updated edition

Susan Kay-Williams

ISBN	9781788842600
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- Showcasing regalia for the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla
- Covering the remarkable history of the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) from inception to the present day
- Illustrated with historical pictures and documents
- Original edition published to coincide with the RSN's 150th anniversary

"The RSN has worked on regalia for every Coronation since 1902, when Edward VII was crowned, and most recently designed and embroidered the robes of state for their Coronation last year. Its patron, Queen Camilla, has written a charming foreword to this beautifully illustrated book." — **The Lady**
"Bees, butterflies, beetles and 24 different plants – the astonishing sewing secrets behind the gorgeous Coronation robes of the King and Queen." — **The Mail Online**
Many initiatives to support women were begun in the late 1800s, but the Royal School of Needlework (RSN) is one of the few that remain. This initiative was born from the desire of three women – Princess Helena, Lady Victoria Welby and Lady Marian Alford – to popularise the lost art of ornamental needlework and place it on a par with other decorative arts, such as painting and sculpture. Their other, yet no less important goal was to provide employment for women compelled to earn their own livelihood. Though women are no longer so limited in occupational options, the RSN has been keeping traditional embroidery techniques alive for a century and a half.

An Unbroken Thread tells the story from the RSN's founding in 1872 to the current day. It highlights key people, royal and other special commissions, the changing fortunes of the school as fashions changed and the approach to teaching hand embroidery, as well as bringing attention to the role and position of the RSN historically and today, associating with everyone from society ladies and theatre impresarios in the late 19th century to working with fashion designers Patrick Grant, Nicholas Oakwell and Alexander McQueen, and architects in the 21st century.

First published to coincide with the RSN's 150th anniversary, this revised edition details the most recent projects worked by the RSN, showcasing their skilful work on regalia for the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla – The King's Robe of State, The Queen's Robe of Estate, The Anointing Screen, The Stole Royal and Girdle, The Chairs of Estate and The Chairs of State.

Dr Susan Kay-Williams has been chief executive of the Royal School of Needlework since 2007. She is also a curator and archivist. She has spent a lot of her spare time researching the RSN's history because she believes more of its remarkable history needs to be known. In her own right, her research interest is in the history of dyes and textile dyeing. She published *The Story of Colour in Textiles* in 2013 (Bloomsbury).





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