

# Tatting in Russia 1981-2017

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Revival of tatting in Russia started in 1980-81 in Leningrad (now St-Petersburg). In the first group taught by Natalya Egelskaya there were about 10 students, unfortunately I remember very few names: Anna Vecherskaya, Vera Alyoshina, Nina Libin. We all met in Egelskaya's class on bobbin lace, and talked her into teaching a few lessons in basic frivolite (tatting came to Russia from France and kept French name). After mastering double stitch, ring, chain, picot, and two basic joins we were so enchanted that decided then and there that portable and beautiful tatting had to be spread around and shared.

We (a few very enthusiastic women from that first class) have started looking for teaching material/instructions. In Egelskaya's class we used a bunch of separate pages (these pages, - our only available source in Russian at that time happen to be part of a Chapter on tatting) from *The Complete Encyclopedia of Needlework* by Thérèse de Dillmont, published in 1902.

We had to find, then re-write and/or write instructions, find people to make shuttles, put together comprehensive 'how to' instructions, and start teaching.

Someone found and brought photocopies from American Tatting books #183 and #207.

When we translated the patterns from these books all written in long-hand notation, we decided to use short hand notation instead, so a pattern for a ring written in long-hand: *R, 3ds, p, (2ds, p) 3 times, 3ds, close* became **R: 3 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 3**.

As it happens many tatters in various countries came to the same conclusion; short-hand notation works and easy to follow even if instructions are written in a foreign language.



When someone brought from Germany (then DDR) this issue of BURDA we discovered diagrams!

By mid 1980s my major interest has been in bead tatting.

Tatting proved to be an ideal technique to organize beads into open bead work, it allowed placing beads in a variety of shapes, not to mention that finished pieces held shape!

In 1985-90 I've organized numerous 'show and tell' events in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and Moscow, published an article about *BEANILE* (Moscow, 1988), and contributed the part on bead tatting to Vecherskaya's book; but it took me 10 years to put together and write the separate book/text book on Tatted Lace of Beads, and after 15 years to re-write it in Russian.

First regular course in tatting took place in Leningrad in mid 1980s, and A. Vecherskaya was the first teacher. After graduating from that course some students started teaching, then their students started teaching and sharing their skills, and so on. The material for and feed back from these regular classes was included into Vecherskaya's book **“FRIVOLITĚ – Practical Course of Shuttle Tatting”**, Moscow: "Starozhil Moscv". 1991, 23 pages, which made it the first contemporary tatting book in Russian.



In Moscow the first regular Tatting course based on Vecherskaya's method opened in 1990-91. People who graduated from this course, started teaching, designing new patterns, following their own ideas, and writing books.

Angelina Rozanova graduated from Tatting course in 1991-92. She and her daughter Rina (Ekaterina) Stepnaya realized the unlimited possibilities of combining tatting and beads, their ideas started ANKARS.

As it happens in 3 decades tatting has conquered hearts of Russian needle workers, and keeps moving on. There are dozens of new designers and the whole library of tatting books in Russian.

Georgia Seitz with the help from Anastasija Yelisejeva (a tatter from St.Petersburg), put together the list of Russian Tatting Books (see: [Russian Tatting Books.pdf](#))

It seems worth mentioning that two forms of Beaded Tatting **‘BEANILE’** and **‘ANKARS’** have originated in Russia within a decade of tatting revival.

### **1986 BEANILE**

Tatting proves to be an ideal technique to organize beads into open beadwork, finished pieces hold shape and look spectacular!

By 1986 bead tatting became my major interest and the technique got its name *‘BEANILE Lace.’*

The design possibilities seem (and are) unlimited; the ideas keep developing and to share this interest and discoveries in bead tatting I've organized:

- numerous ‘show and tell’ events in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and Moscow (1986-92),
- published an article about BEANILE in Decorative Art Magazine (1988) and
- contributed the part on tatting with beads to Vecherskaya's first book (1989-90), but it took me 10 years to put together and
- write the book ‘Tatted Lace of Beads, the Techniques of BEANILE Lace’ (LACIS 1998).

### **1994 ANKARS**

In 1991-92 Angelina Rozanova graduated from Moscow Tatting course and immediately started teaching. She and her daughter Rina (Ekaterina) Stepnaya realized the unlimited possibilities of combining tatting and beads, their ideas started ANKARS ().

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