

**MIRIAM'S CUP AND DOILY CELEBRATE WOMEN'S ROLE IN PESACH**

**Rita C. Altman**

**Middle Atlantic Region**

Reprinted with permission, the Paper Pomegranate

All rights reserved 1993-5753 Pesach

The doily for Miriam's cup was inspired by a discussion of Miriam's role in the exodus and her relative absence in the Haggadah of Pesach (Schnur, 1992). Since I had designed, made and used doilies for Elijah's cup; it seemed appropriate that at Pesach, 1993, I introduce a recognition of Miriam at the Seder table. The doily underlined a lovely crystal goblet filled with spring water. The spring water was chosen in recognition of Miriam's Spring (well) that miraculously watered the desert sojourn. With Miriam's death, the waters disappeared. (a Midrash)

Legend recounts that "rivers flowed from Miriam's well" and so, the choice of a desert flower that grows in the dried river beds seemed most appropriate as the floral design for the doily. The flower is the toothed pheasant's eye (*Adonis dentata*), an annual of the buttercup family that grows in the dried river beds of the desert through which our ancestors passed. It blooms in the spring with a bright, sunny yellow flower.

**SOURCES:**

1. Schnur, Susan (1992, Spring). THE CULT OF MIRIAM, LILITH
2. Alon, Azaria, FLOWERS AND TREES OF THE HOLY LAND, Palphot Ltd., Israel, n.d.

**TECHNIQUE:** Counted cross stitch

**MATERIALS:**

- Ready made even weave doily of Aida (14 ct.) or Linen (28 ct.) or a 10 by 10 piece of 14 count aida or 28 count linen to make your own doily
- 1 yard of pre - ruffled lace
- DMC Embroidery Floss (see color chart)
- #26 Tapestry Needle

**DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING THE DOILY**

- Made a 6" circle as a template inscribing the circle on a 10 by 10 inch piece of 14 count aida or 28 count linen. Be sure that the fiber weave is vertically and horizontally balanced.
- Cut the fabric circle and sew your lace around the border. The lace border may be machine or hand stitched.

## DIRECTIONS FOR STITCHING THE DOILY

1. Locate the vertical middle and horizontal middle of the doily. Fold the doily on the vertical to locate the middle of the doily surface. With a light color thread, baste a horizontal axis. Fold the doily on the horizontal to locate the middle of the doily surface. With a light color thread, baste a horizontal axis.
2. Go to the chart and locate the vertical and horizontal middle axes on the chart. These will be indicated by an arrow.
3. Start your cross stitching at the center point, the point at which the two axes cross. Work from the center outward in either direction. Remember, each square on the chart represents one cross stitch
4. Work the entire piece using two strands of floss.
5. Complete the design using the color key for the symbols. Remember to count your stitches following the charted design.
6. Keep your work clean by covering your work with either tissue paper or a cloth wrapper when you are not working on the piece. Be sure your hands are clean and washed when you are stitching on the piece
7. If you choose to use a hoop, be sure to do the following:
  - Made sure the hoop is large enough to encompass the entire design.
  - Remove the hoop each time you stop working on the piece.

# Color key for Miriam's Cup Doily

DMC	Symbol	Element	DMC	Symbol	Element
310	.	Flower Center	742	7	Flower
444	.	Flower	783	x	Letters/Flower Center
469	3	Flower	991	a	Leaves
472	o	Stems	3051	6	Leaves
581	+	Leaves			

