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This is a superb piece of knitting and in good condition. There is a small amount of fading at the neck. Five small points of damage, two 8 mm holes in one gusset that look like moth in the past (mirror imaged, repaired by darning in black wool), one 4 mm hole in the other gusset (not repaired), one 3mm hole in a diamond (third row down below shoulder strap, visible inside, repaired by darning in black), one nick on a cuff and one nick on the welt. Otherwise, perfect. Proof it is original, and it has been worn.

Tension: 12 spi, 18 rpi

It might be assumed, as it came via a Bishop family member, that GP90 was knitted by Mrs Bishop, wife of Robert Tar Bishop, who knitted the gansey collected by Michael Harvey GP38 (SHMMT : 2021.1.2). Or even by Annie, wife of Henry Bishop. However, it is too small for Henry Bishop and was said by the owner to have been a 'replica' given back to the family after 'a researcher' had borrowed it for study. More than a dozen aspects of the design are similar or identical to Eliza Tabitha West's gansey for her husband Harry Billy West (GP100):

- the motifs are both columns of meshes with double moss columns between
- both use meshes that share the stitches on the points of the meshes
- both have identical double false seams of garter stitch, two stitches wide and two knit stitches in the centre
- the treatment and size of the gusset is identical
- both have tall, narrow necks (though GP100 has buttons, after the Scottish style)
- they are both a small size (34 in and 35 in chests) and could have been knitted for the same man
- both are incredibly neat, even knitting
- similar quality yarn
- same tension 12 spi, 18 rpi
- the average aspect ratio of the stitches in GP90 is 0.67; in GP100 it is 0.68: almost identical
- both have a very short section of stocking stitch at the start of the arms
- both arms start with either one round or two rounds of purl, before the plain
- the very many ends of the yarn (12 in GP90, 23 in GP100) are sewn-in in the same manner (she was evidently thrifty and used up ends of balls of wool to knit this gansey)

I conclude that GP90 was knitted by Eliza West, probably for Harry Billy, her husband in about the same period, but it has somehow been muddled with a Bishop family gansey when the researcher returned it after study. It is not a replica. One wonders where the correct Bishop gansey that was borrowed has ended up. Michael Harvey did acquire a Bishop gansey (GP38, now in Sheringham Museum) and published it in Gladys Thompson's Patterns for Guernseys, Jerseys and Arans (fig 82) that also has meshes in columns. Perhaps it was Michael Harvey, the researcher, who borrowed a gansey from Annie and Henry Bishop and mistakenly returned this one.

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