

## LACE COLLARS AND YOKES AS GIFTS

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ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS



SIMPLICITY in design and unity in the working out of it are essential points in hand-made lace-work. Many charming articles for gifts or for personal use may be made, which are useful in this holiday season, if one has some patience and a little skill and pays attention to the details. Among the many varieties of braids and designs considerable ingenuity may be displayed.

The large collar shown here is made of Bruges braid, using No. 500 linen thread.



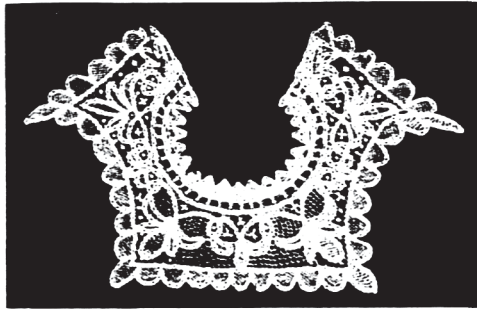
RENAISSANCE STOCK-COLLAR

This collar is particularly handsome when made up; and is to be used almost exclusively with heavy broadcloth or velvet jackets. The stitches are the plain Russian, taking up a stitch in the open part of the braid exactly as you would to button-hole, crossing over

diagonally, picking up the braid in the same manner, and so on until the entire leaf is made. The centre leaves and corners are the Sorrento bars, running two parallel threads from stem to tip of leaf, weaving in and out until the thread is completely covered. The veins are a single thread, which is button-holed—being careful to have the button-holing run in the same direction, laid perfectly smooth. The entire filling should be cobwebs, which have been already described.

Too much stress cannot be laid on this. Make all your leaves alike, flowers the same, buds, and filling. Many lace-makers use such a variety of stitches, which cheapens the work. The beauty of the intricate labor is lost in this endless variety, which is a hodge-podge, standing for really nothing. Take a rose leaf, bud, and background; the centre of the rose naturally is a cobweb, the leaves one fine stitch, after the Valenciennes school, the background a cobweb. Now fancy, as I saw to-day, the daintiest collar imaginable, each thread so carefully done, a piece of elaborate work; every leaf had a different stitch, each petal might have stood for a rose or a cabbage, and the background was a little of

every stitch in the calendar of needle-work. The poor soul who had exhausted months of patient labor "to have a real lace collar to hand down to her grandchildren," had succeeded in handing down a sampler of stitches, but nothing to show whether she had made a guipure, Valenciennes, or point-lace collar. She was triumphant over the fact that "she could make stitches with the best of them." So do, do, if you wish to put any value into your work, keep within the confines of a certain type,



RENAISSANCE COLLAR OR YOKE.



LACE BRAID IN FLOWER FORMS.

and you certainly will be gratified with the result.

Beginners in lace-making make a mistake in attempting big designs. A tiny tie end or the little two-inch collars have enough stitches on which to do the first practising; for an article once started, of large design and handsome braids as the first outlay, is



OF HONITON AND RENAISSANCE BRAIDS.

more apt to be laid away in disgust. A bolero jacket, if properly made, takes two or three months of the most infinite care. Whereas, if you take as a design any of the little collars pictured here, you will have finished after a day or two of work something dainty and pretty. You will have learned several stitches, and then be in a position to do something on a larger scale.

Every housekeeper has bits of embroidery left from her white sewing. Little bags made from ends of open-work embroidery are one of the greatest essentials for keeping your thread immaculate. It is no trouble to contrive them. Four inches in length, by two to three in width, is sufficient. Sew the edges together to form a bag, and run a quarter of a yard of baby-ribbon through the open embroidery. The daintier and finer this is, of course the better. You should let the thread pass through one embroidered eyelet-hole. When the thread is in the bag, tie the ribbon securely. This not only keeps the thread perfectly im-

maculate, but in place as well. The most effective work is ruined by using soiled thread, which is a standing reproach to the worker.

The pretty collar here shown is designed for a child. It is an open-work Renaissance braid, easily made and wearing very well. No. 500 thread is used for the stitches, the



COLLAR OF BRAID AND COBWEB STITCH.

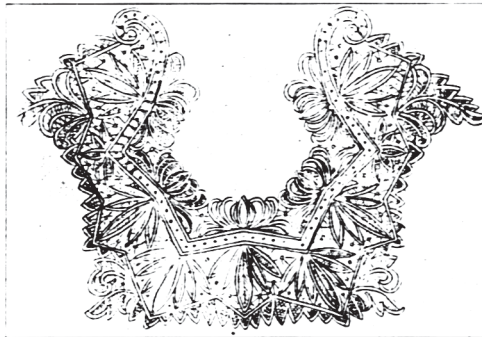
French twist, cobweb, and an open mesh being used for the outer leaves. A week's careful work will give you a dainty little collar, lovely for either house or out-door wear.

The cobweb stitch makes it light and dainty. The design is quite as good for a yoke for a child's frock or for a young woman; in the latter case, however, the design



HONITON LACE COLLAR.

would be drawn a bit larger than for the former. Any of these designs adapt themselves to Christmas gifts.



BRUGES LACE COLLAR FOR VELVET COAT.