

FLEMISH BOBBIN LACE

THE CARY COLLECTION OF LACE.— Notable among the recent accessions are the rare antique laces, in all seventeen pieces, bequeathed by Mrs. Hamilton W. Cary. This munificent gift comprises not only examples that illustrate the best period of the art of lace making in Italy, France and Belgium, but adds to the Museum collection several specimens of historic interest.

One of the finest pieces in this rich col-

lection is an exceptional flounce of Point de France, twenty-five inches in depth and some three yards in length. This is especially welcome, as the Museum has heretofore owned no rare specimen of this lace. The design, with its pavilion and sheaf of wheat, suggests the decorative work of Bérain, designer to Louis XIV., although the frequently recurring bow-knot, heart and broken scrolls, with the

oak leaf in the edge, are more of the time of Louis XVI., when the Trianon motifs were much in vogue in designs for lace and textiles.

Another flounce of Flemish bobbin lace, shown in the illustration, is rich in historic interest. This specimen is said by Blackburne, the English collector, to have been made for Elizabeth Christine of Brunswick, wife of Charles VI., Emperor of Austria, at the time of his inauguration as Duke of Brabant in 1718. The design is distinctively French, having for its central motif two medallion portraits surmounted by the imperial crown of Austria beneath a draped canopy. Near the lower edge and below the medallions are two arrow-pierced hearts, and the *flamme d'amour* with groups of trophies on each side. An alternating device consists of a blazing sun over a peacock, emblems associated with Louis XIV., the *Roi soleil*. A similar standard, a heron beneath a blazing sun, was adopted by Marc Antonio Colonna, Duke of Paliano, as well as by the Duke de Guise, and appeared with his portrait in the Palais Royal.¹ This lace is illustrated by Mrs. Palliser² and also Seguin.³

One of the most attractive pieces is a scarf of Burano needlepoint of unusual width, and another rare example is the lace of Venetian Point à bride *pico'ée*, of charming design, as is also the lace of Venetian

needle-point with its geometric scrolls and ornaments.

A cap crown of Old Brussels, once owned by Queen Charlotte, wife of George III., is an exquisite bit of bobbin work, but is excelled in delicacy by a barbe of the same lace that is wonderful in technique, the *œil de perdrix*, or star-like device scattered through the pattern being of marvelous beauty. A barbe of *Point de Venise à réseau*, a rare example of needle-point, is a most valuable acquisition, very few specimens of this work being now available.

Two deep flounces of *Point de Milan* and a *berthe* of the same are a great addition to the Museum collection, and much finer than any specimens of the kind heretofore exhibited.

The two remaining pieces have, like the others, each of them a distinctive charm that impels the attention of even the untrained eye—one, a dainty cape of Flemish bobbin lace of the early seventeenth century, and the other the unusual band of tape-lace insertion of the same period. This is splendid in design, being, like all of the early lace, geometric, the Persian sun alternating with a five-lobed ornament in two circular repeats of conventional scrolls, the pattern held together with short *brides* or bars.

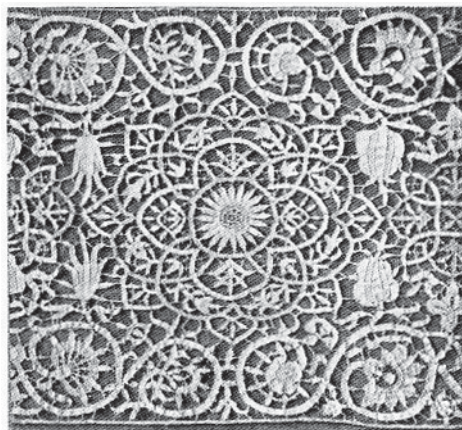
The collection will, after January 1st, be placed in a central case in Gallery 33, where it is hoped it will prove an incentive to other friends of the Museum to be equally generous.

F. M.

¹ Historic Devices, Badges and War-cries. Mrs. Bury Palliser, p. 77.

² A History of Lace. Mrs. Bury Palliser, p. 210.

³ La Dentelle, Joseph Seguin, Pl. vii.



NORTH ITALIAN GIMPURE LACE