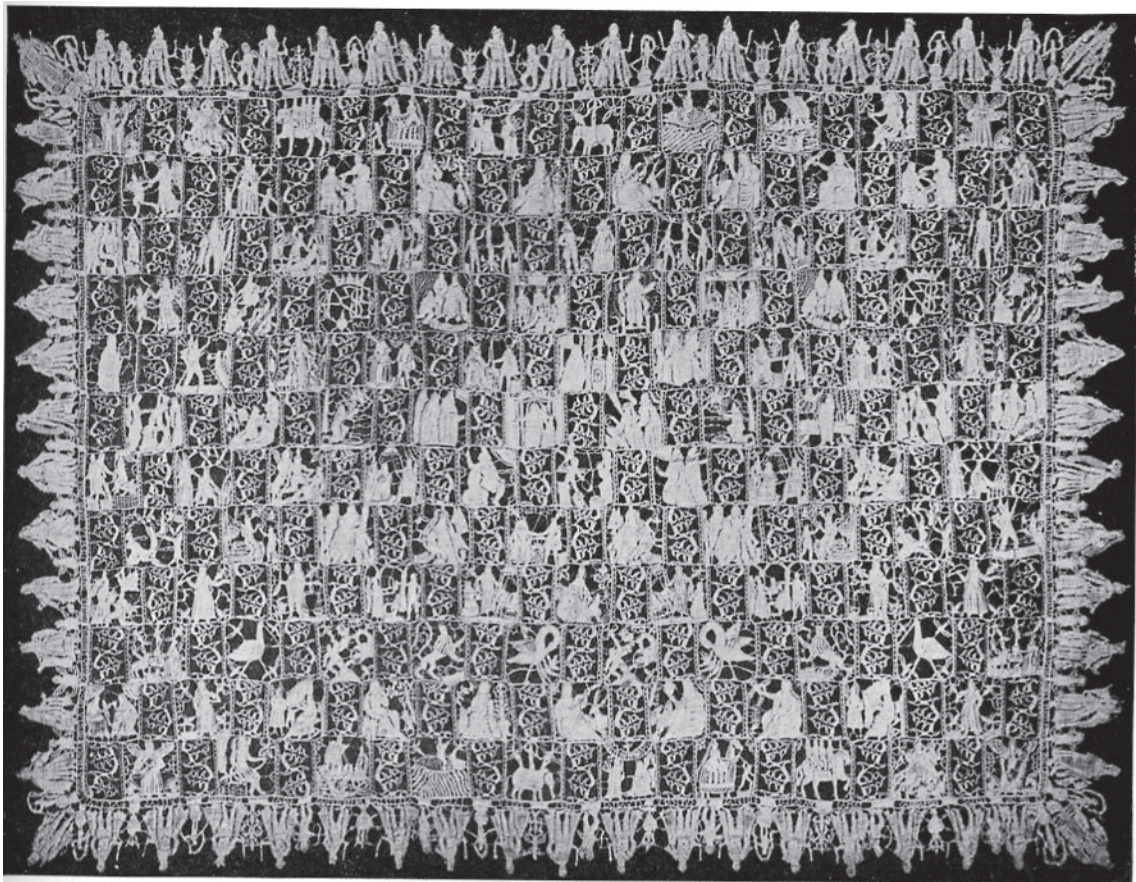


It was Madame Hortense Montifiore who, within a few days of her death, presented this remarkable piece of lace to the Musée du Cinquantenaire in Brussels. Measuring $1\frac{3}{4}$ yards by $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards, it was probably made as a covering for a bed of state or for a cloth on the occasion of the marriage of Albert Archduke of Austria with Isabella of Spain. Their arms and initials appear in the design, as well as the clasped hands which are so

**A
Remarkable
Piece of Lace**

frequently seen in lace and embroideries specially designed for wedding gifts. The Archduke governed the Netherlands from 1598 to 1621, so that in this example we see one of the earliest bobbin-made pieces of very elaborate pattern.

There are 120 squares, which picture with varying elaboration stories from the Jewish records, from the New Testament, from lives of the saints, and old legendary history of the Netherlands. Amongst these latter the four sons of Aymon perched on one horse,



A REMARKABLE PIECE OF LACE

The Connoisseur

the magic Bayard, appear in the first and last rows. Several times Adam and Eve, with the tree of life between them, are shown, while still more elaborate groups of four and five figures are depicted with telling effect in the tiny squares. Horses richly caparisoned, elephants, lions, monkeys, birds, the pelican in her piety, and other emblematic or heraldic animals are to be found.

The border is of extraordinary beauty, and is no less intricate. The characteristic vandyked edge of the period is formed by means of standing figures, whose heads form the extreme point of the scallop. Crowned kings with sceptre and regal robes are worked at each corner, and superbly dressed figures, each one different, make a continuous procession round the cover; smaller symbolic figures, such as that of Cupid, a crowned heart, or other trophy, stand between each figure.—MRS. F. N. JACKSON.