



Venetian Needlepoint

Part II.

By M. Jourdain

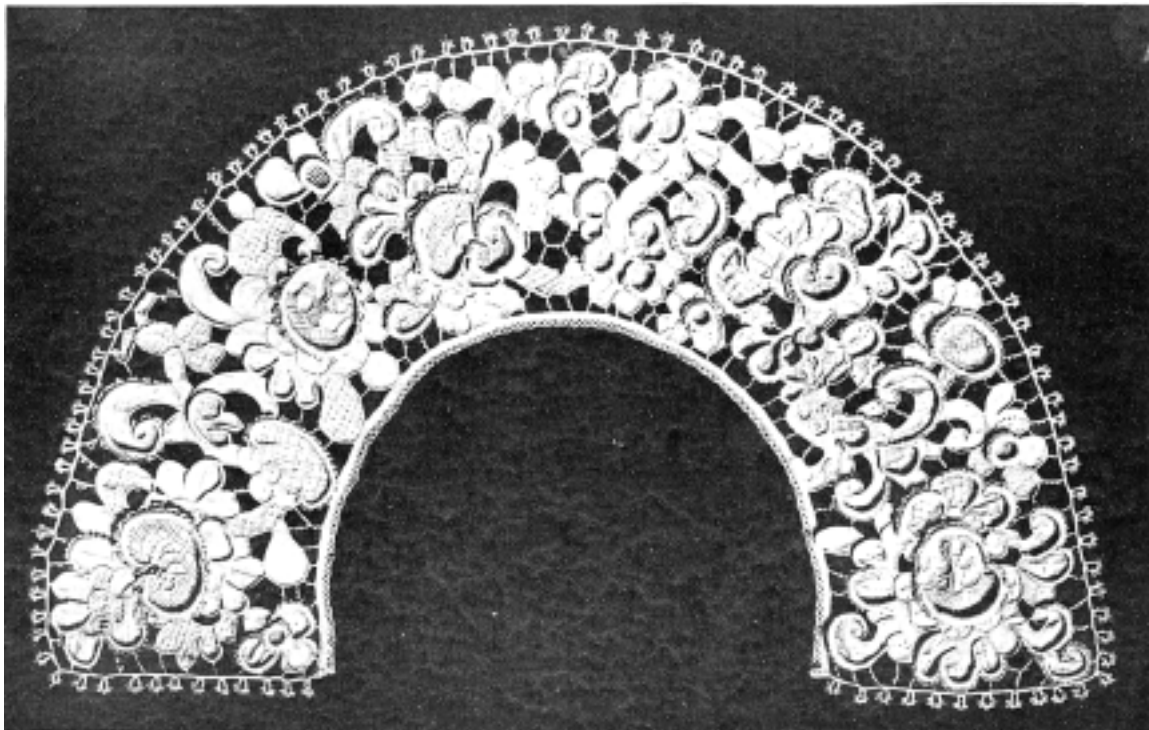
THE brides, simple in the heavy points, become highly ornamented in the finest specimens, and in *point de neige* are ornamented not only with picots, but with circles and semi-circles, *picoté*, and S-shapes, and star devices. Sometimes the brides are single—sometimes two or three meet together, and are ornamented at the point of section.* Very rarely there is a ground of

cross-barring or trellis-pattern, the effect of which is a very open square mesh, ornamented at the points of section and in the centre of each side with an ornamented device or loop.

In certain late specimens, the brides form an irregular hexagonal mesh, richly *picoté*. This mesh is never, as in Argentan, a perfect hexagon, but is richer in effect, owing to this slight

* In three square inches of a very fine specimen of rose point the following varieties of brides are to be found:—(1) A single bride ornamented with picots. (2) Double brides joined in the centre and ornamented at the sides by a circle four times *picoté*. Small picots also ornament the brides between the circle and the extremities. (3) Three double brides meeting in a small

triangle, each side of which is ornamented with a circle five times *picoté*. (4) Three brides meeting in a point in the centre. Each is ornamented in a different manner. The shortest bride is ornamented with two picots upon each side, and by two semi-circles, joining the two other brides, and ornamented with six picots. The second bride is decorated at one end by a similar



COLLAR COMPOSED LARGELY OF CUT LINEN, TO IMITATE ROSE POINT
THE DIRECTION OF THE THREADS

THE LINEN CAN BE RECOGNISED BY
MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, BRUSSELS



BORDER OF ROSE POINT OF CROWDED DESIGN, AND WITH FEW BRIDES, BUT PERFECT, AS THE PATTERN REPEATS, AND THE CURVE OF THE SCROLL IS NOT FORCED



BORDER OF ROSE POINT, MUCH PADDED AND RAISED



FINE ROSE POINT, SHOWING VERTICAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE CENTRAL ORNAMENT

Venetian Needlepoint

irregularity and to the enrichment of the picots, than the plain Argentan mesh.*

The raised points are divided into *gros point de Venise*, *punto neve (point de neige)* with its ground of ornamented starred brides resembling snowflakes, and *coraline point*. *Gros point de Venise*, which was elaborated from 1620-50, and which was designed to lie flat and ungathered,

which are mostly horizontal; its scrolls are heavier than in *point de neige*, the brides simpler and less ornamental, the border or edge is usually straight—a single line of button-hole stitched thread enriched here and there with semi-circles *picoté*—while in *point de neige* the edge of repeated small vandykes is highly elaborated. In *point de neige*, which was to hang fully or to be gathered, and



DETAIL IN A FRESCO IN THE PALAZZO PUBBLICO, AT SIENA
AMBROGIO LORENZETTI SEE OPENWORK ORNAMENTATION ON CUSHION

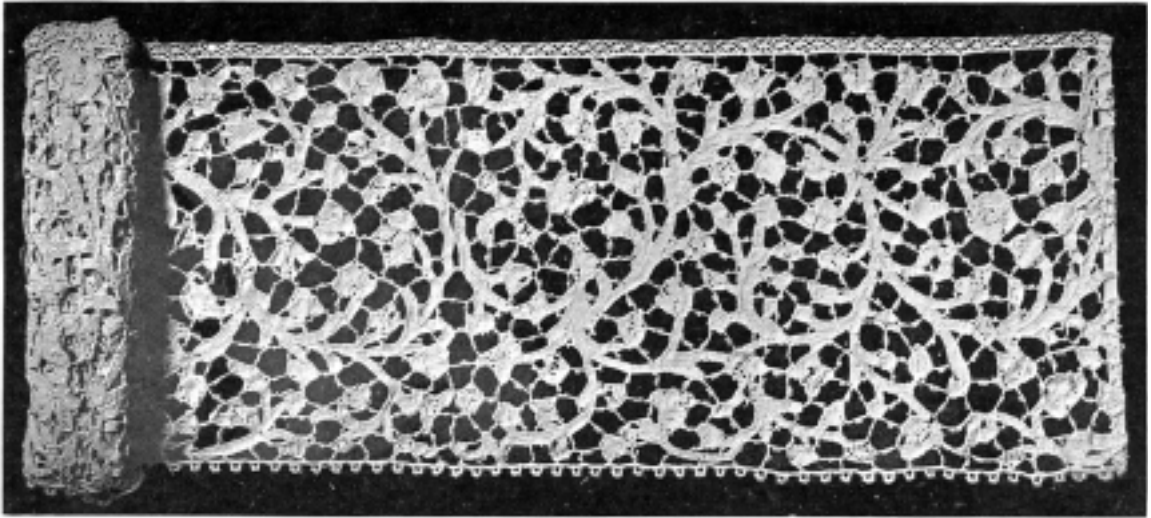
is distinguished by the continuity of its designs,

semi-circle *picoté* eight times, which joins the semi-circle previously described, thus forming an S-shaped figure. Upon the opposite side is a small semi-circle ornamented with three picots, forming the head of the S. The third bride, at the point of intersection, is ornamented with a segment six times *picoté*, which forms the tail of the S. The foot of this bride is also ornamented with a small circle *picoté*. (5) A straight double bride ornamented at either end by two picots on either side, and in the centre by two semi-circles joined, and connected by another semi-circle, forming a trefoil. Each semi-circle has three picots. (6) A double bride ornamented on either side by two picots; in

which was in vogue from cir. 1650-1720, the style

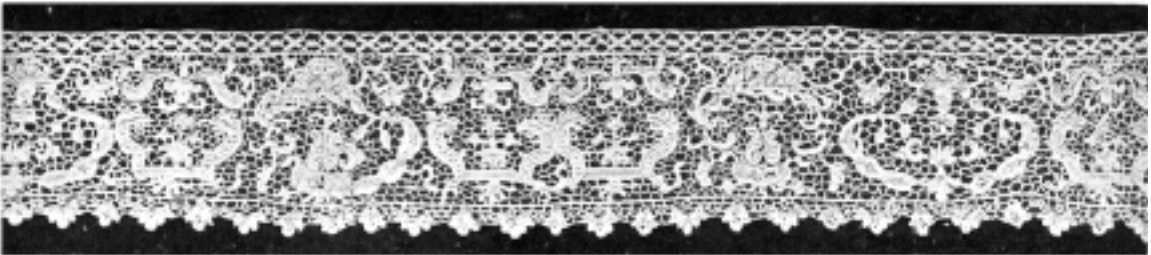
the centre by two semi-circles, each four times *picoté*. (7) Two single brides and one double bride meeting in a point, the single bride ornamented on one side by a semi-circle four times *picoté*, the double bride ornamented in the centre with a circle four times *picoté*. At the point of section the three brides are united by three semi-circles five times *picoté*, forming a rosette. (8) Three curved brides meeting in a point, each bride being ornamented by a scroll-shaped ornament which crosses it, and ornamented with thirteen picots.

* The early specimens of Alençon preserved the mesh *picoté*. See specimens in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

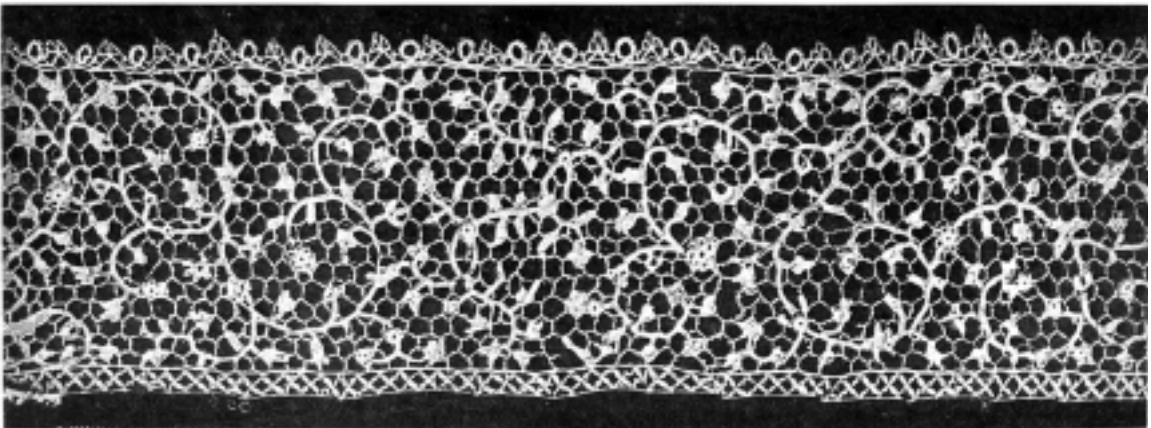


FLAT NEEDLEPOINT

MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, BRUSSELS



BORDER NEEDLEPOINT LACE THE GROUND CONSISTS OF IRREGULAR HEXAGONS THE PATTERN IS MADE UP OF REPEATED GROUPS OF POORLY-SHAPED ROCOCO DEVICES OR BROKEN SCROLLS, PORTIONS OF WHICH ARE MARKED WITH RAISED WORK ITALIAN (?) LATE 17TH CENTURY



TRANSITIONAL PIECE BETWEEN ROSE AND CORALINE POINT

MUSÉE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, BRUSSELS



FREDERICK III. OF DENMARK

BY JUSTUS SUSTERMANS

The Connoisseur

is modified ; the designs are composed on a smaller scale, and the groundwork of brides becomes a more important element, the scrolls are no longer continuous ; detached sprays, consisting of slender leaves and minute renderings of the flowers of *gros point*, covered with a profusion of flying loops, which altogether cover the form it enriches, spring from a vase-like ornament and are arranged in many specimens symmetrically on either side of a vertical line. This change was probably owing to French influence. S-shaped motifs are frequent, and upon details of the pattern knot-work is used as ornament. This type is always ornamented with a hanging pattern, or one in which the arrangement of the details is conspicuously vertical, which was more appropriate to the folds of cravats and full flounces than are the horizontal and continuous scrolls of the *gros point de Venise*, which requires to lie flat.

Coraline point is a very attenuated variety of rose point, in which relief is almost entirely absent, the leaves of the scroll have entirely disappeared, leaving a winding tangle of narrow coral-like ramifications ending in a small unimportant circular flower. The ground is of *brides picotées* arranged in hexagonal meshes.

Point plat de Venise is similar in design to rose point, but, as its name implies, is entirely without relief. The diaper and chequer pin-hole patterns are more freely used than is rose-points, but the general appearance is that of unfinished rose point.

Fine examples of heavy rose-point are the large collar of the Musée de Cluny in Paris, and some specimens in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Rose point of a lighter quality was in use for the ends of the long cravats* or jabots, which, since the introduction of wigs, had replaced the falling collar ; for women's head-dresses,† tabliers‡ and collars ; for "canons," flounces and panels, ruffles, for the square insertion of silk lace in the Jewish talith, and for altar cloths, and various ecclesiastical vestments.

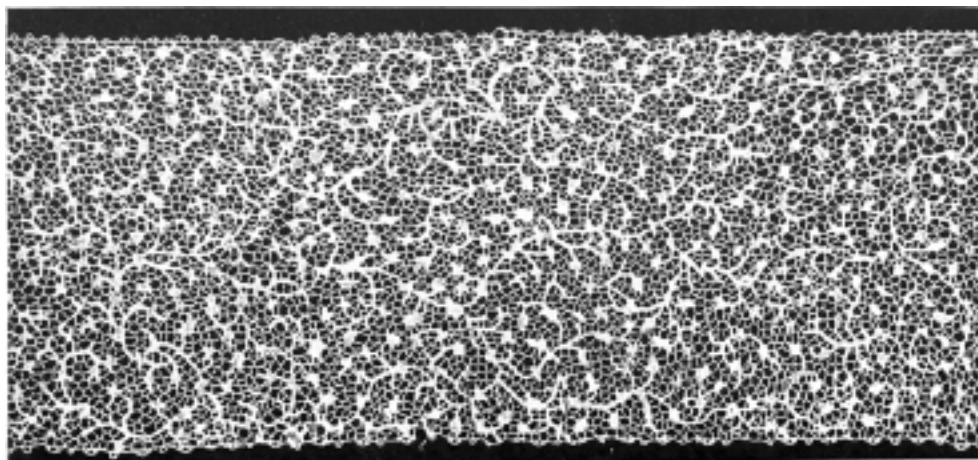
It is to be borne in mind that much of this lace was the produce of private individuals, or of the convent, and similar designs were often interchanged ; but with the exception of such private or conventual manufactures of lace, it is highly improbable that *Point d'Espagne* or Spanish point, a term applied to a heavier make of Venetian rose point, was ever made in Spain. The heavy and valuable point laces which unexpectedly came out of Spain after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1830, were in no way distinguishable from similar pieces of Venetian workmanship. It was from the great lace-making countries of Flanders and Italy that the valuable laces with which to dress the numberless images of the saints were brought.§

* The cravat all of lace, or of fine linen with ends of lace, is just seen at the close of the reign of Charles II. in England, by whom it is said to have been introduced from France, where it superseded the bands and falling collars of that period, and can hardly be distinguished from them in the early examples.

† *Coryat*, who travelled in 1608, says that "the Venetian women wear white vales, . . . whereof the greatest part is handsomely edged with great and very fair bone lace." *Evelyn* says of these veils that to their corners hang "broad but flat tassels of curious point de Venise."

‡ An entire dress, which is preserved at the Musée de Cluny, is made of rose point.

§ A. S. Cole.



CORALINE POINT



PORTRAIT BY SUSTERMANS

UFFIZI GALLERY