

AN OLD SAMPLER BOOK

ON the following twelve pages are shown the leaves of a little Sampler book in the same order as that in which they come in the original, so that in turning these pages one can get the impression which is given by the book itself.

The book seems to have been brought from Portugal, and was probably made there or in Spain during the seventeenth century.

The patterns are mostly such as one finds on Italian or Spanish work of that period—the colored work using the “punto scritto” or stroke stitch, sometimes worked as double running and sometimes like a back stitch, the easier but less perfect way. There is the ordinary cross-stitch and also “punto spina” the “long-legged cross-stitch.”

The colors used are blue, in three shades—dark, medium and light; yellow, in two shades, “old gold” and canary yellow; red, and a sort of dull salmon pink; bright green, and blackish brown, which is crumbling away.

In the white work, there are some bits with a small bullion stitch or knot-stitch, and there are examples of reticello, combined with other types of drawn-work, some the “punto stuoja” or matting stitch, and some in a looser stitch such as is sometimes found on English samplers of the later part of the seventeenth century. The outside covers of the book are of sheepskin, with the patterns sewed on quite haphazard as on the inner pages. These inner pages are made of several thicknesses of paper, some with bits of old writing visible between the embroidered scraps, and in several places dark brown silk, now crumbling away, has been laid between the paper and the linen, in order to make a dark background for the openwork.



FRONT COVER
CROSS STITCH AND STROKE STITCH.



SECOND PAGE

CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH, RETICELLO, SQUARE STITCH AND DRAWN WORK.



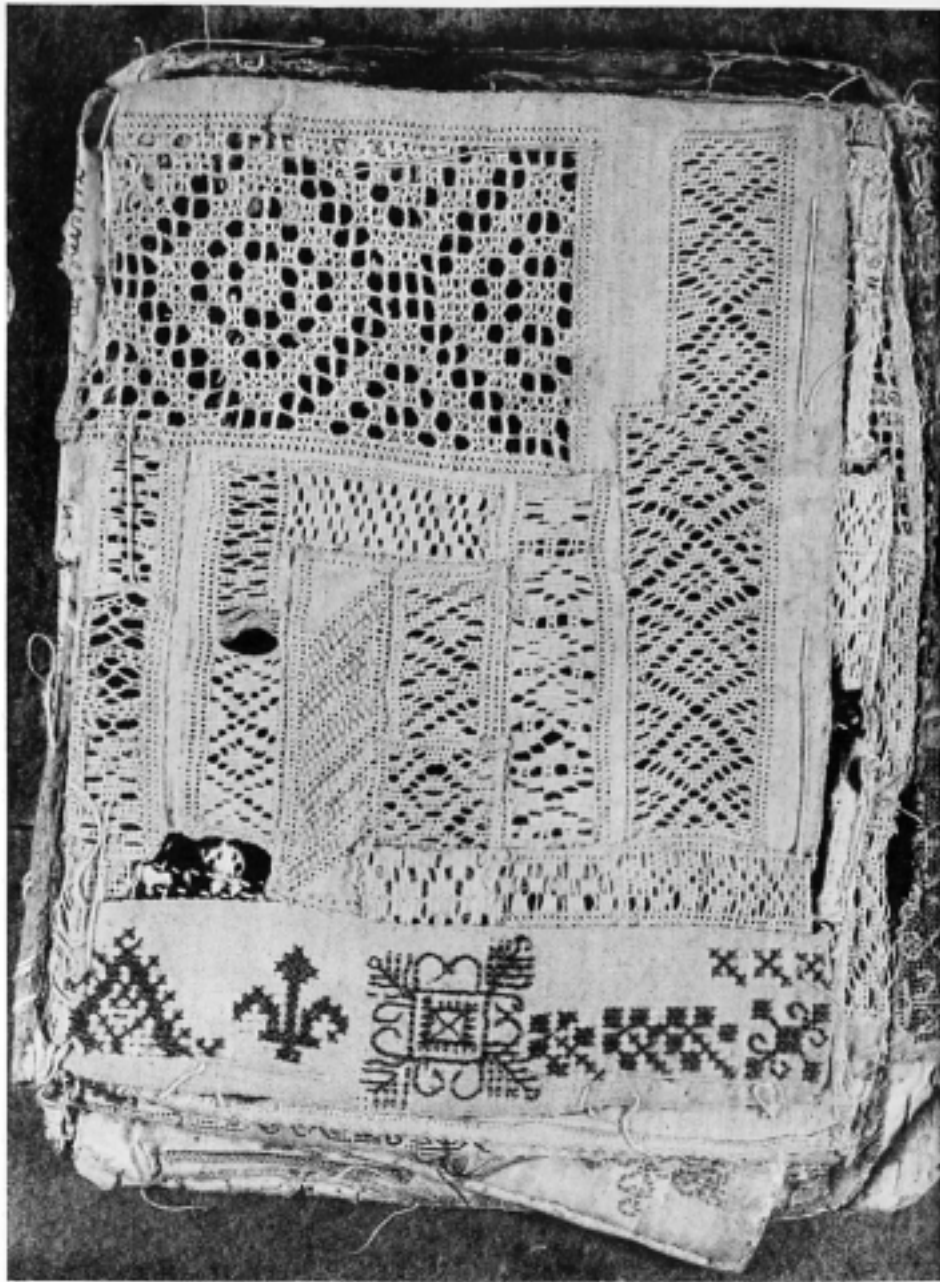
THIRD PAGE

CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH, MATTING STITCH, THREE FORMS OF DRAWN WORK.

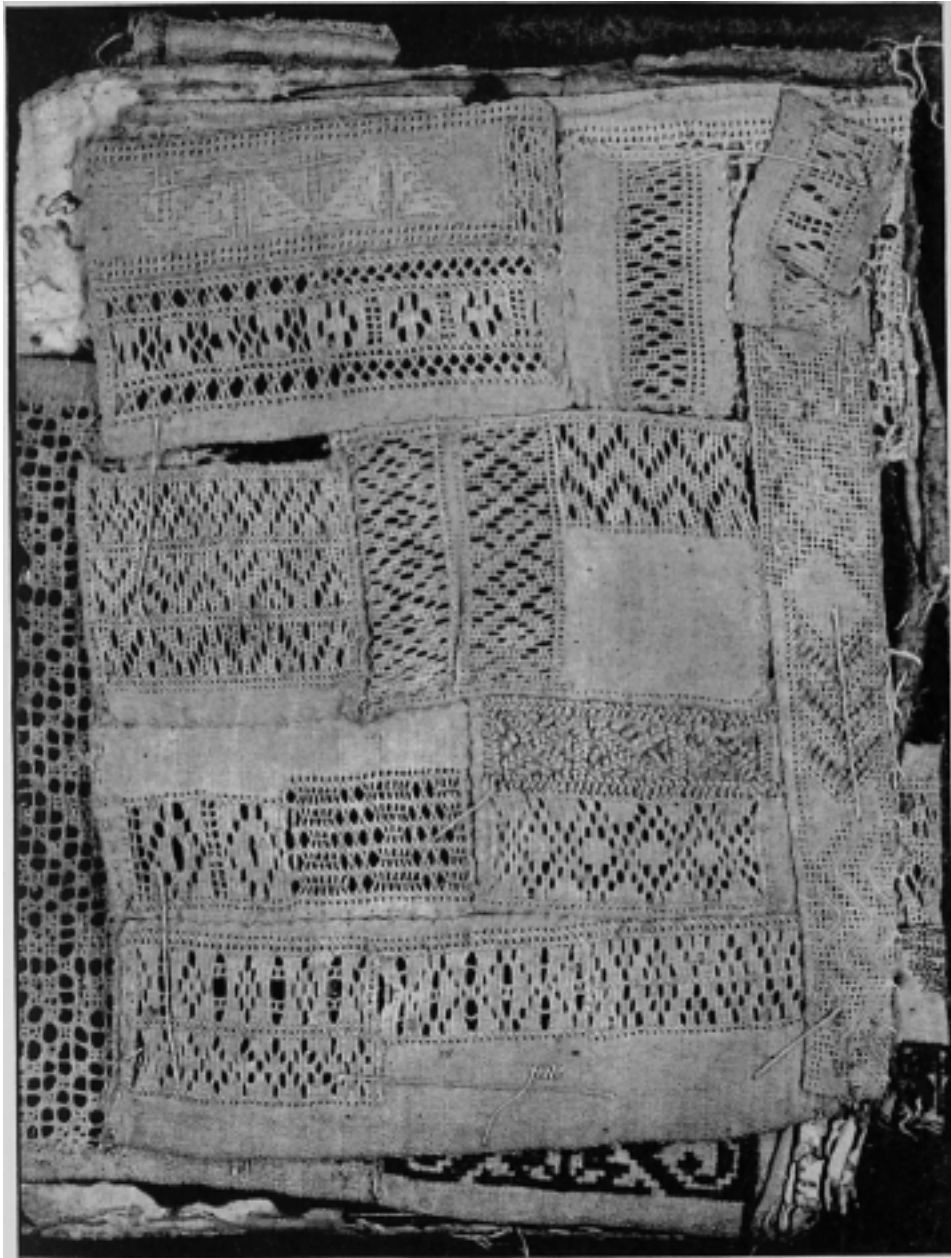


FOURTH PAGE

CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH, SQUARE STITCH, SATIN STITCH, MATTING STITCH, A KNOT STITCH.

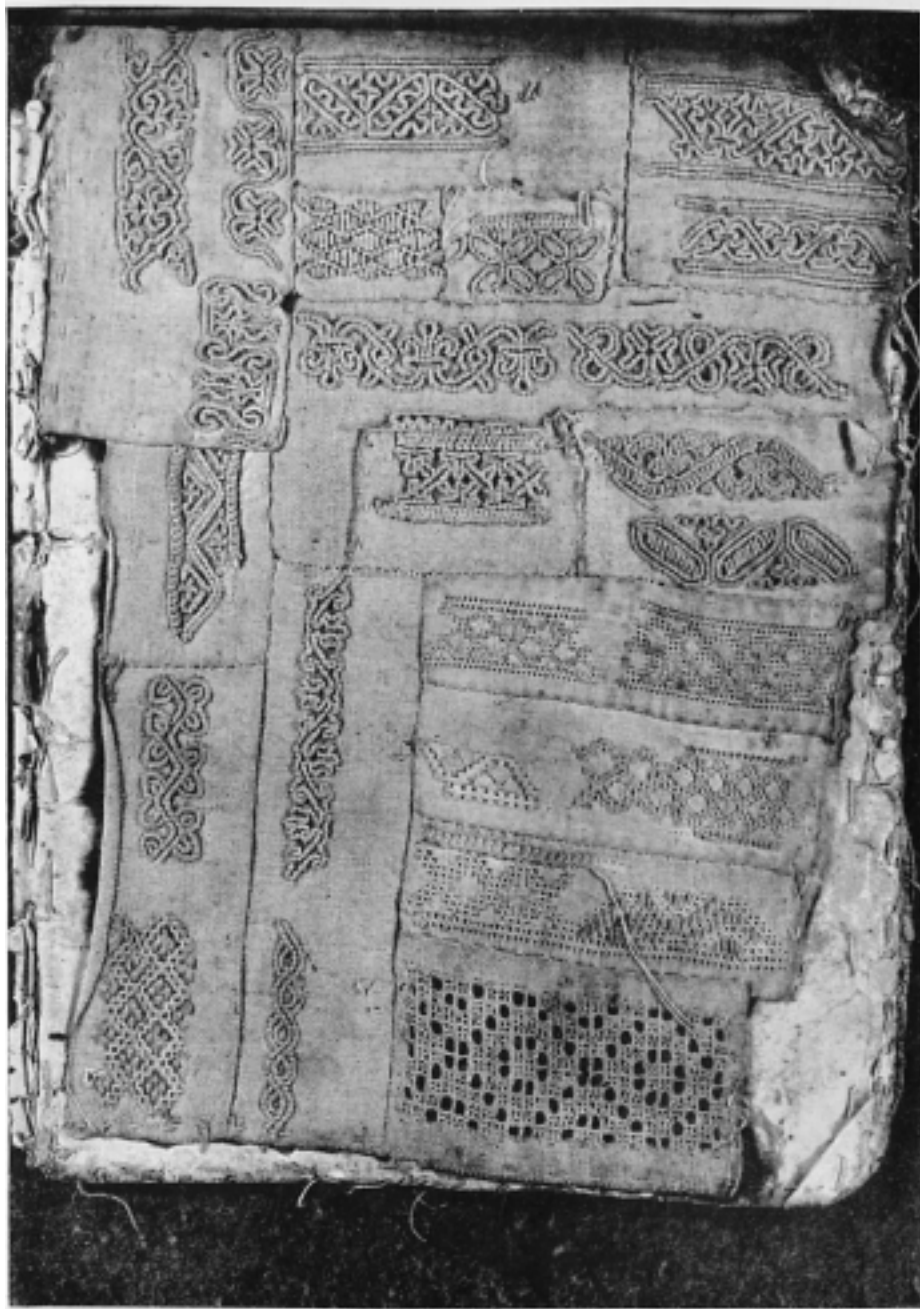


FIFTH PAGE
CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH, SQUARE STITCH, BULLION STITCH,
THREE FORMS OF DRAWN WORK.



SIXTH PAGE

WORKED ALL IN WHITE, WITH SQUARE STITCH, MATTING STITCH, DRAWN WORK.



SEVENTH PAGE

WORKED IN WHITE THREAD WITH VARIOUS DRAWN WORK STITCHES, KNOT STITCHES
SATIN STITCH, ETC.



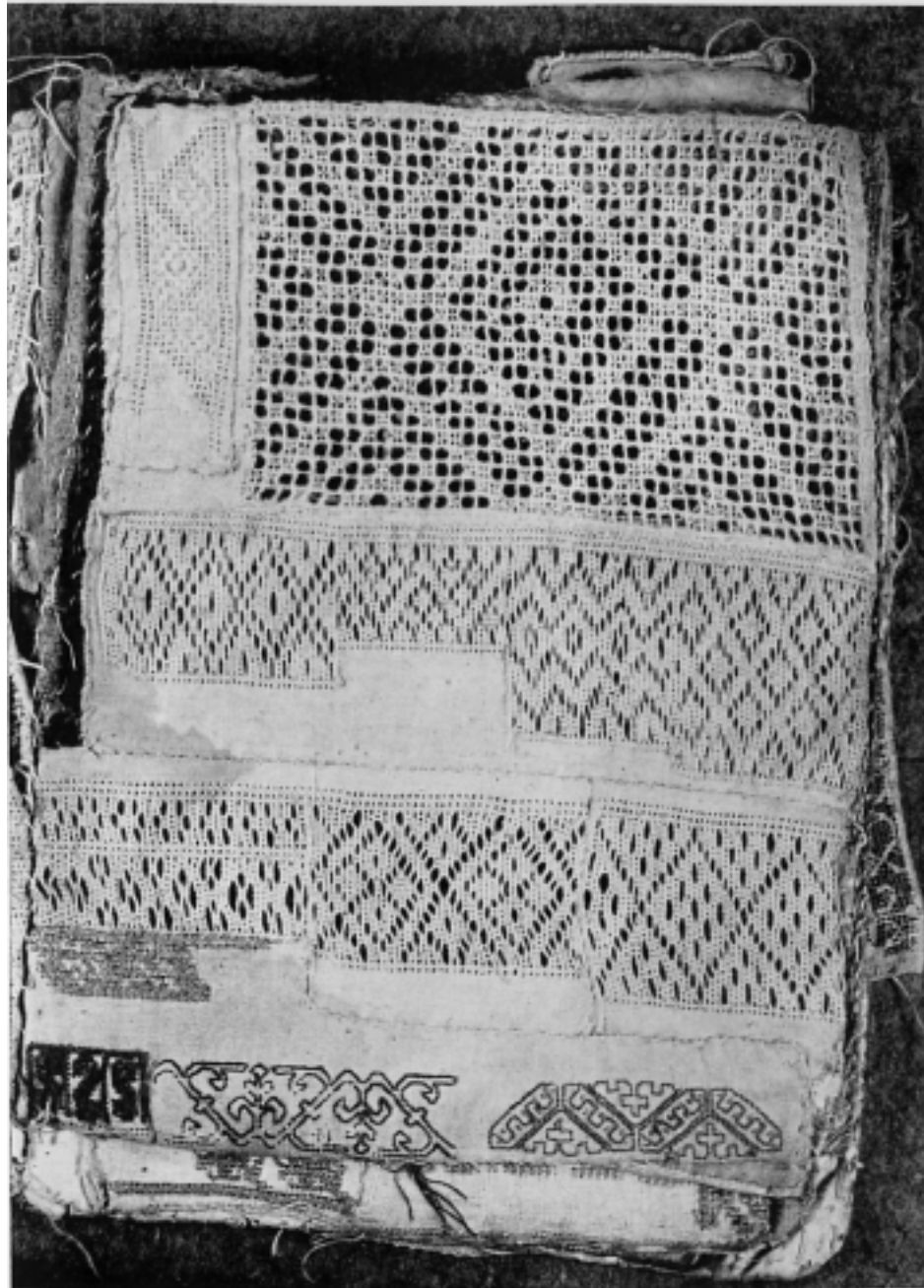
EIGHTH PAGE
CROSS STITCH, SATIN STITCH, SQUARE STITCH, SPANISH DRAWN WORK.



NINTH PAGE
CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH.



TENTH PAGE
CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH, SATIN STITCH.



ELEVENTH PAGE
STROKE STITCH, SQUARE STITCH, DRAWN WORK.



TWELFTH PAGE
CROSS STITCH, STROKE STITCH.