

CANVAS (OF. *canevas*, ML. *cannevasium*, from Lat. *cannabis*, hemp). A strong coarse cloth made of cotton, flax, or hemp. Canvas is used (1) on board ship for sails, awnings, hatch hoods, boat covers, tarpaulins, etc. Flax canvas is used for the sails of large vessels. It is woven in cloths 24 inches in width and 40 yards long, and is of several weights, denoted by numbers from 1 to 9. The heaviest, which is called number 1, is used for storm sails, courses (foresail and mainsail of square-rigged vessels), and topsails, but numbers 2 and 3 are also used for all of these except the storm sails. The lighter weights are used for jibs, upper staysails, topgallant sails, royals, etc. Cotton canvas is used for boat sails, hammocks, etc. The term "canvas" is used in a figurative sense for the sails of a ship, *under canvas* signifying 'undersail'—i.e., under way, propelled by sails. See SAIL.

2. The canvas used by artists is commonly of linen, varying in density and thickness according to the size of the painting to be made. This is stretched upon a wooden mortised frame, which is called a stretcher, in the four inside corners of which are slits for receiving triangular wooden wedges. These wedges are called keys, and after the canvas is stretched they may be driven in, in order to tighten the canvas itself. Certain sizes of canvas, being in greater request than others, are kept ready stretched on frames. Those used for portraits are known by the names of *kit-cat*, which measures 28 or 29 inches by 36; *three-quarters*, 25 by 30 inches; *half length*, 40 by 50; *Bishop's half length*, 44 or 45 by 56; *Bishop's whole length*, 58 by 94.