



**“Point Compté,” or Lace Netting By the late Miss Caroline
Patience Ingram**

IN THE CONNOISSEUR for July, 1917, I wrote an account and description of some needlework of a century ago, viz., the pictures by Miss Linwood worked in wool and silk ravelings. The “point compté,” or lace netting, of which I now give some photographs, dates from much further back, as will be seen from the reproduction of a beautiful altar frontal given to Peterborough Cathedral by the late Lady Layard. It was brought by her from Italy, where Sir Henry Layard was Ambassador for England, and represents the Annunciation. On one side the angel salutes the Blessed Virgin, with the lily of Our Lady between them. The letters C.B.S. are worked above the angel, and the date, 1614, above the figure of the Virgin. These letters have been said to stand for the Confraternity of S. (Philip) Benizi, a branch of the Servite Order (sometimes called *Annunziata*), which had been established on Monte Senario, near Florence. He, however, was canonized by Pope Clement X. in 1671.

Smaller pieces of the same lace are to be found in collections of old needlework. Some given by

the late Miss Argles have been used to add length to the frontal, as it was not quite long enough for the high altar of Peterborough Cathedral, where it is always used on the Feast of the Annunciation, and is valued as one of the great treasures of the cathedral. The smaller specimens shown in the illustrations are of about the same date, and are in my possession.

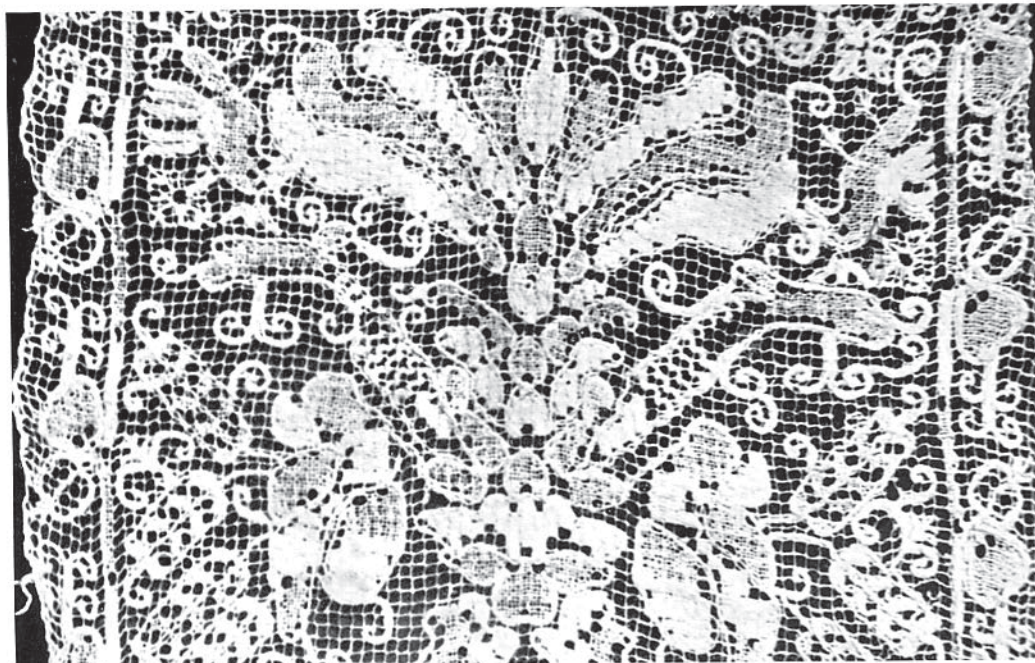
There are some very valuable pieces of this lace in Conway church, where they are very carefully kept under a glass case. Of somewhat earlier date than the Peterborough frontal, one piece is labelled A.D. 1400, and the other as having belonged to Conway church for four hundred years.

This “point compté,” or darned netting, is one of the earliest forms of lace-work. Much of it was executed for ecclesiastical purposes, and it is known that there was a cushion of net-work in St. Paul’s Cathedral so early as 1295. The two pieces in Conway church were certainly both for usage in the church: one is an altar cover, and the smaller piece is a corporal with which to cover the Eucharist.



NO. I.—LACE FRONTAL FOR THE HIGH ALTAR OF PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

"Point Compté," or Lace Netting



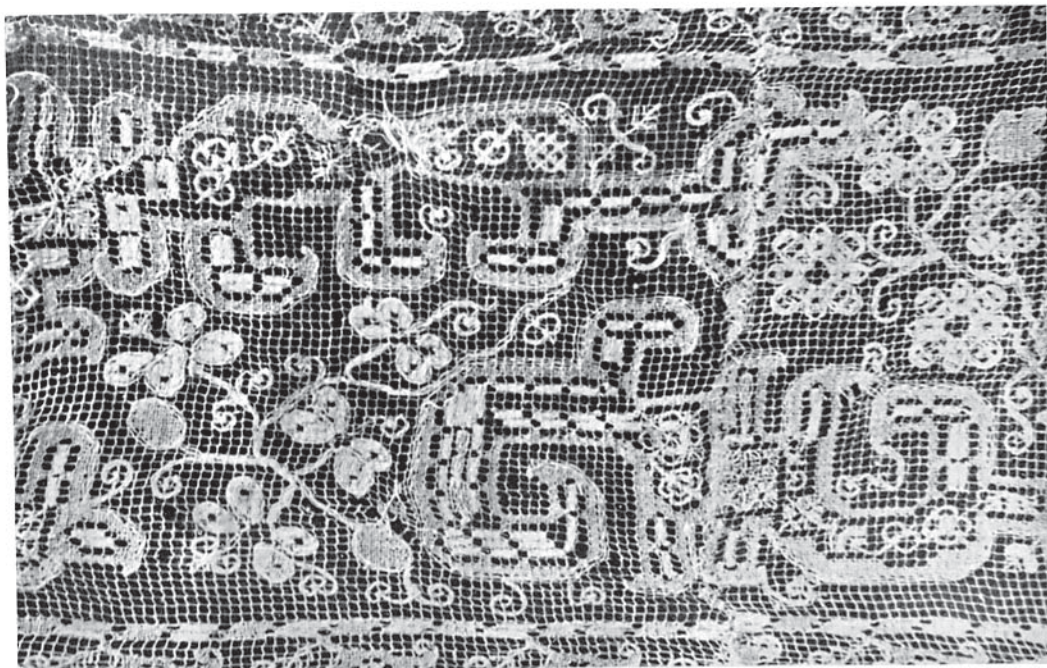
NO. II.—EXAMPLE OF "POINT COMPTÉ"

In an Exeter Cathedral inventory for 1327 there is a note of "three pieces of darned netting for use at the altar."

In the Peterborough Museum there is a small piece of this darned netting made by Mary Queen of Scots while in prison at Fotheringay.

[Miss Ingram died in her house in Peterborough precincts September 6th, 1921, after many months

of failing health. Daughter of the Rev. William Ingram, Rector of Chedburgh, Suffolk, and younger sister of the late Very Rev. William Clavell Ingram, Dean of Peterborough 1893-1901, of the late Mr. Walter Rowlands Ingram, sculptor, and of the Rev. Arthur Ingram, late Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral, she was maternally a member of the Clavell family, formerly of Smedmore,



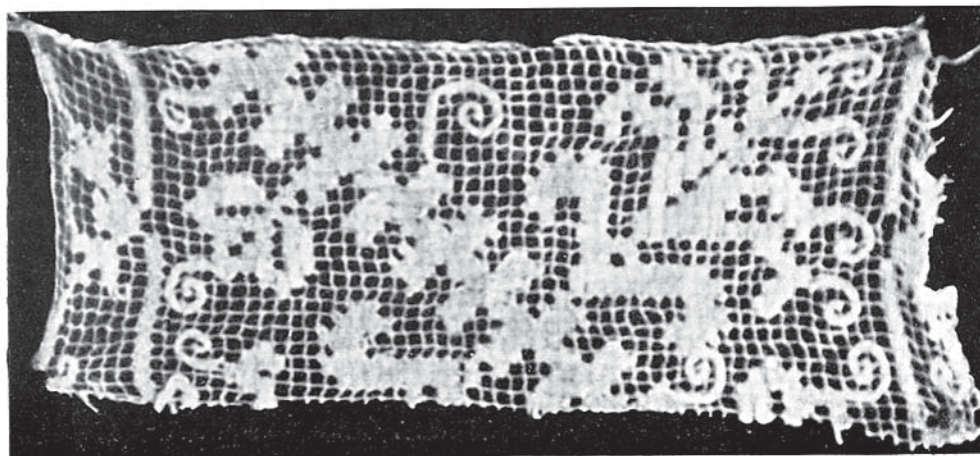
NO. III.—EXAMPLE OF "POINT COMPTÉ"



NO. IV.—“POINT COMPTÉ” PANEL, SAID TO HAVE BEEN WORKED BY MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS AT FOTHERINGAY

Isle of Purbeck. Miss Ingram was widely known for her knowledge of and skill in church embroidery. It was her ambition that no church in the diocese should be without beautiful altar fittings. To this end she worked devotedly, both personally and through a Guild of Church Needle-

work, which she organised and directed, so that over fifty parishes benefited by altar frontals alone. The Congress banner, made for the Church Congress held at Northampton in 1902, was executed by Miss Ingram from the design of Mr. Bodley, the architect.—C. H.]



NO. V.—EXAMPLE OF “POINT COMPTÉ”