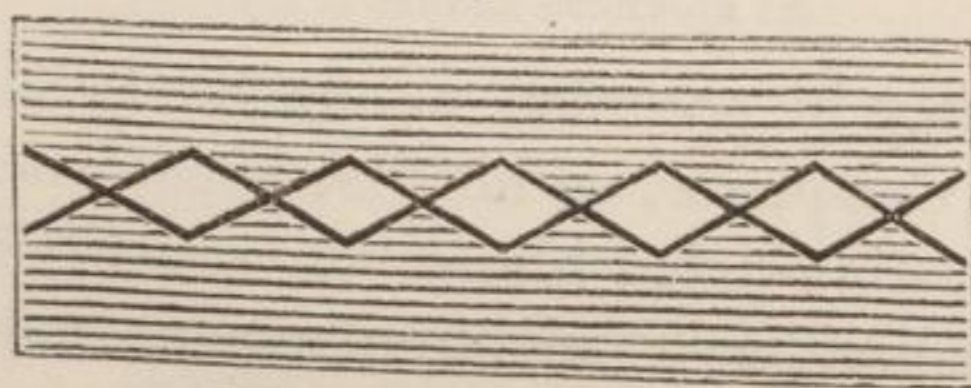


In the "London Chronicle" of 1767 will be found an account of the opening of a Scandinavian barrow, near Wareham, in Dorsetshire. Within the hollow trunk of an oak were found many bones, wrapped in a covering of deerskins neatly sewn together. There were the remains of a piece of lace of gold wire 4 inches long, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, Fig. 1; black and much decayed, of the old lozenge pattern, that oldest and most universal of all designs, again found depicted on the coats of the ancient Danes, where the borders are edged with an open or network of the same pattern.¹⁴ Professor Worsaae ascribes this specimen to the Iron age.

Fig. 1.



Gold lace found in a barrow.

Our Anglo-Saxon ladies excelled in this womanly accomplishment; and gorgeous are the accounts of the gold-starred and scarlet-embroidered tunics and violet sarks worked by the nuns. The "opus anglicanum" was sought for by foreign prelates, and made the subject of papal correspondence.¹⁵ Nor did our Anglo-Saxon kings ever fail, in their pilgrimages to Rome, to bestow on the sovereign Pontiff garments richly embroidered in gold and precious stones.

Royal and noble ladies plied their needles for the adornment of the church; and great St. Dunstan himself designed patterns to be executed by their hands.¹⁶

The four daughters of Edward the Elder were famed for their ability. Their father, says William of Malmesbury, caused them in childhood "to give their whole attention to letters, and

¹⁴ Strutt.

¹⁵ The richly-embroidered orphreys of the English clergy excited the admiration of Pope Innocent IV. (1246), who inquired where they were made, and being answered in England, he exclaimed, "Truly England is our garden of delight, in sooth, it is a well inexhaustible, and where there is great abundance; from thence much may be extracted." And immediately he despatched official letters

to some of the Cistercian abbots in England, enjoining them to procure a certain quantity of such embroidered vestments, and send them to Rome for his own use. —*Matthew of Paris.*

¹⁶ Ethelwynne, a noble lady, is recorded to have enlisted him in her service, to design the ornaments of a stole; and Dunstan sat daily in the lady's bower, superintending her work, together with the maidens.