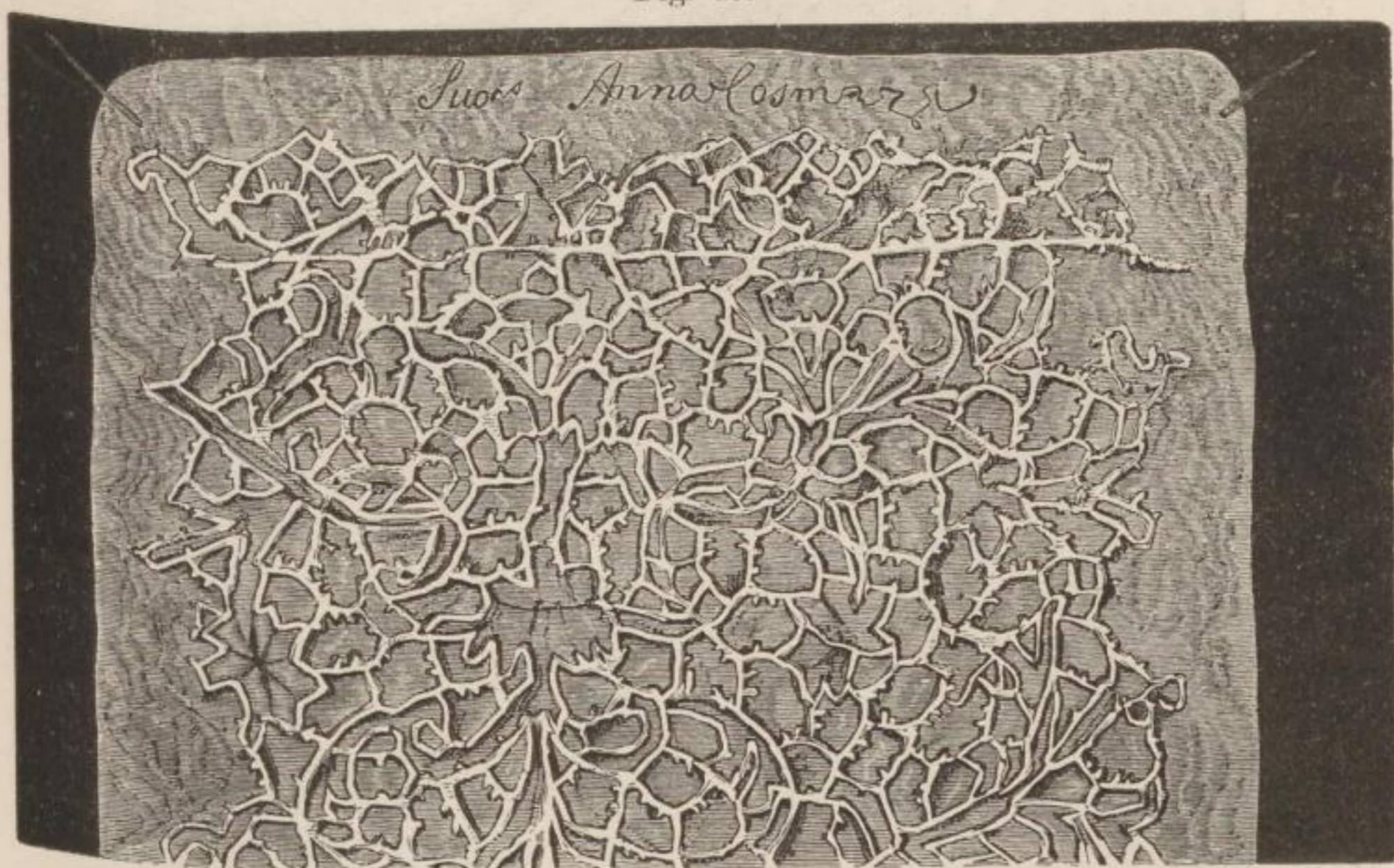


from Rome photographs of some curious relics of old Spanish conventual work—parchment patterns with the lace in progress. They were found in the convent of Jesù Bambino, and belonged to some Spanish nuns who, in bygone ages, taught the art to the novices. None of the present inmates can give further information respecting them. The work, like all point, was executed in separate pieces given out to the different nuns, and then joined together by a more skilful hand. In Fig. 39 we see the pattern traced out by two threads fixed in their places by small stitches made at intervals by a needle and aloe⁷ thread

Fig. 40.



Unfinished work of a Spanish nun.

working from underneath. The réseau ground is alone worked in. We see the thread as left by Sister Felice Vittoria when last she plied her task.

Fig. 40 has the pearled ground, the pattern traced as in the other. Loops of a coarser thread are placed at the corners, either to fasten the parchment to a tight frame, like a schoolboy's slate, or to attach it to a cushion, as in Fig. 6, page 18. In Fig. 41 the pattern is first worked.

The ordinance of Philip III. against the wearing of lace, dated 1623, enjoining "simples rabats, sans aucune invention de point

⁷ The aloe thread is now used in Florence for sewing the straw-plait.