

coloured embroidered laces, and its gold and silver points, have always enjoyed a certain reputation. Of the latter, during the seventeenth century, we have constant mention in the wardrobe accounts and books of fashion of the French court. The description of the celebrated gold bed at Versailles, the interior lacings of the carriages, the velvet and brocade coats and dresses, "chamarrés de Point d'Espagne," the laces of gold and coloured silk, would alone fill a volume of themselves.¹⁵ Narciso Felin, a writer of the seventeenth century, says there were at that time many women occupied in the making of lace of gold, silver,¹⁶ and thread (Fig. 42), with a perfection equal to that of Spanish Flanders. Company, another old author, carries the number of lace-makers to 12,000. The Spaniards, nevertheless, are said, in

P. R. O., we have a charge for bobbin lace of Spanish silk, "cum un tag," for the mantle, 10s. 8d.

In a letter from Prestwich Eaton to Geo. Willingham, 1631, the writer sends 1000 reals (25*l.*), and in return desires him to send, together with a mastiff dog, some black satin lace for a Spanish suit.—*State Papers, Domestic, Car. I. P. R. O.*

¹⁵ 1697. Marriage of Mademoiselle and the King of Spain. The queen, says the "Mercure," wore "une mante de Point d'Espagne d'or, neuf aunes de long."

1698. Fête at Versailles on the marriage of the Duc de Bourgogne. "La Duchesse de Bourgogne portoit un petit tablier de Point d'Espagne de mille pistoles."—*Galérie de l'ancienne Cour, ou Mém. des Règnes de Louis XIV. et Louis XV.* 1788.

1722. Ball at the Tuileries. "Tous les seigneurs etaient en habits de drap d'or ou d'argent garnis de Points d'Espagne, avec des nœuds d'épaule, et tout l'ajustement à proportion. Les moindres etaient de velours, avec des Points d'Espagne d'or et d'argent."—*Journal de Barbier*, 1718-62.

1722. "J'ai vu en même temps le carrosse que le roi fait faire pour entrer dans Reims, il sera aussi d'une grande magnificence. Le dedans est tout garni d'un velours à ramage de Points d'Espagne d'or."—*Ibid.*

1731. Speaking of her wedding-dress, Wilhelmina of Bayreuth, the witty sister of Frederick the Great, writes, "Ma robe étoit d'une étoffe d'or fort riche, avec un Point d'Espagne d'or, et ma queue étoit de douze aunes de long"—*Mémoires*.

1751. Fête at Versailles on the birth of the Duke of Bourgogne. The coats of the "gens de cour, en étoffes d'or de grand prix ou en velours de toute couleurs, brodés or, ou garnis de Point d'Espagne d'or."—*Journal de Barbier*.

¹⁶ In the reign of William and Mary, we find, in a laceman's bill of the queen, a charge for forty-seven yards of rich, broad, scalloped, embossed point de Spain; and her shoes are trimmed with gold and silver lace. B. M. Add. MSS. No. 5751.

At the entry of Lord Stair into Paris, 1718, his servants' hats are described as laced with Spanish point, their sleeves laced with picked silver lace, and dented at the edge with lace. "Edinburgh Courant."

In 1740, the Countess of Pomfret, speaking of the Princess Mary's wedding clothes, writes, "That for the wedding night is silver tissue, faced at the bottom before with pink-coloured satin, trimmed with silver Point d'Espagne."—*Letters of the Countess of Hartford to the Countess of Pomfret*, 1740.