

sheets with open border of cutwork, towels with cutwork and with the king and queen's arms in each corner, blue curtains with cutwork seams," &c.

The style of Wadstena lace changed with the times and fashion of the national costume. Those made at present are of the single or double ground, both black and white, fine, but wanting in firmness. They also make much dentelle torchon, of the lozenge pattern, for trimming the bed-linen they so elaborately embroider in drawn-work.

In 1830, the products in value amounted to 30,000 rixdollars. They were carried to every part of Sweden, and a small quantity even to foreign parts. One dealer alone, a Madame Hartruide, now sends her colporteurs hawking Wadstena lace round the country. The manufacture, after much depression, has slightly increased of late years, having received much encouragement from her majesty Queen Louisa. Specimens of Wadstena lace were sent to the great international exhibitions.

Hölesom, or cutwork, is a favourite employment of Swedish women, and is generally taught in the schools. At the various bathing-places you may see the young ladies working as industriously as if for their daily sustenance; they never purchase such articles of decoration, but entirely adorn their houses by the labours of their own hands. It was by a collar of this hölesom, worked in silk and gold, that young Gustaf Erikson was nearly betrayed when working as a labourer in the barn of Rankhytta, the property of his old college friend, Anders Petersen. A servant girl observed to her master, "The new farm-boy can be no peasant; for," says she, "his linen is far too fine, and I saw a collar wrought in silk and gold beneath his kirtle."

Gold lace was much in vogue in the middle of the sixteenth century. Entries of it abound in the inventory of Gustavus Vasa, and his youngest son Magnus.

In an inventory of Eriksholm, 1536, is a pair of laced sheets. It is the custom in Sweden to sew a broad border of seaming lace between the breadths of the sheets, sometimes wove in the linen. Directions, with patterns scarcely changed since the sixteenth century, may be found in the "Weaving Book" published at Stockholm in 1828.¹⁸

¹⁸ Weber, "Bilderbuch," Leipzig, 1746. "Handbok for unga Fruentimmer," by Ekenmark, Stockholm, 1826-28.