

tion and arrangement of the details, and no doubt to our modern eyes accustomed to greater variety of line and form the whole design looks stiff and formal. Nevertheless much of this stiffness and formality is possibly due to the patchwork treatment so suitable in using such a material as kid or thin leather. It certainly appears that patchwork was more frequently used by Egyptians and Assyrians for several ornamental purposes than it has been with later people. Still patchwork was not the only form of ornamental needlework to which the ancients resorted. For we trace evidence of quite a different class of needlework which was employed concurrently. This was a species of darning or inwrought work. From the mere statement we might be led to think that such a method would give a special parallelism and squareness of effect to the ornamental devices expressed in it. But, from specimens of this work, we shall see that it lends itself well not only to the subtle blending of color in short and long strands of fine threads, but also depicting any variety of form with success. This characteristic of the method in question is convincingly proved by results obtained at the hands of Greeks (400 B. C.), of Egypto-Roman-Copts from the 1st to the 10th century A. D., of Flemings of the 15th century, and of French of the 17th and 18th centuries. This darning or inworking process is that to which in its climacteric we are indebted for the great storied tapestry wall hangings of the 15th and 16th centuries, and the most notable place at which one may become acquainted with the technique of the process nowadays is the celebrated Gobelins manufactory in Paris. Here, no doubt, the progress in the science of dye-making, and the realistic art of the picture painter, are responsible for those cunning and clever effects in modern French tapestry which seems to be foreign to the prescriptive results of making decoration and ornament in worsted threads. But the essentials of the progress as such are the same as they were hundreds of centuries ago. With the earlier of the ancients, the process was employed for small decorative work as in a costume of cloth. It was distinctively ornamental and non-pictorial in intention. Of such Greek needle darning or inworking, examples are few. I have had to be content with a tattered fragment (Fig. 124). Still it serves to indicate how Greek workers inwrought their linen cloths with diapering devices of colored worsteds. In the present case, ducks depicted in



FIG. 128 EGYPTO-ROMAN PANEL FOR A DRESS; A SPECIMEN OF INWROUGHT WORK WITH BROWN WORSTEDS.

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