

R.E.D. project

ROOTS OF THE EUROPEAN DESIGN RESEARCH

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COLOURED EMBROIDERIES

This part covers ornamental forms on tablecloths of various kinds. The ornaments and a Christogram, sometimes joined with a monogram of Mary, are arranged in different ways on such tablecloths. Some tablecloths, such as those used in Holy Communion, have only one half decorated, while others, e.g. Easter tablecloths, have ornaments all over. In the past, such tablecloths were used on different occasions, for example to cover the table when someone ill received communion, or hoisted out the windows during Easter processions or the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The motifs used in such embroideries are taken from plant life and are either naturalistic or stylised. Even stylised caterpillars can be seen sometimes. The motifs are stitched with wool or cotton. The colour of the thread is generally red or blue, but some embroideries are stitched with threads of various colours. Many stitching techniques are used.



