

In Plate LI are shown two circular medallions, which in the originals are of leather stitched with a coarse thread. These patterns were taken from Coptic shoes of the fifth to seventh centuries now preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum. They are naturally somewhat dilapidated in appearance, but the beauty and fitness of the decoration remains definite enough to give still further proof of the very high standard of workmanship achieved by the Copts, which is already so well recognised in their woven materials. These patterns, interesting as they are, would not have been included in this book if they had not suggested a practical application to modern embroidery. To work them again on shoes would, of course, be quite possible, particularly if the shoes were of felt, but to push a needle through two thicknesses of leather might become rather an irritating process; applied to a strong face-cloth, patterns such as these cut out in leather would make most suitable decoration for bags, cushions, boxes, or any article which had to stand hard and constant wear.

