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QUERIES

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embroidered with flowers (Plutarch, "Antonius," 26). This seems to be an old tradition, for the trireme in which Alcibiades made his triumphant entry into the Piræus in 408 B.C., had purple sails (Athenaios, xii., 535). The state ship of Ptolemy IV. had a white sail with purple edges (Athenaios, v., 124). Later on the Norse sagas often mention purple sails (Falk, "Altnordisches Seewesen," Heidelberg, 1912, p. 63).

2.—Sails of the Viking period often had coloured stripes longitudinally or diagonally. The saga "Olafs Konnungs hins helga" speaks of a white-blue-red (168) and a blue-red-green (155) striped sail. The coloured sails of the Bayeux tapestry are perhaps due only to the ladies who did the embroidery, but later examples show that stripes were not unusual. For instance, the seal of Stralsund, 1270; a fresco in the Nikolai Church of Mölln, 13th century; a miniature by Jean Touquet, 1458; and Nicholas, I., p. 371. In the 18th century Egyptian vessels often had sails striped brown and blue. At the present day we find this custom among the Italian fishermen and on the junks of the Yangtse.

3.—The Torlonia relief shows a ship's mainsail decorated with a picture of the she-wolf feeding Romulus and Remus. Viking ships often had pictures embroidered on their sails. There is an interesting story in the "Heimskringla" ("Sigurdar Saga Jorsalafara," 11-12). King Sigurd was returning from Jerusalem with his fleet (1110 A.D.) and had reached the Dardanelles. King Sigurd

lay there for half a month and every day he had a fair wind towards the north to sail into the Sea of Marmora. But he waited for such a beam wind as would let him pass the straits with his sails along the ships. For all his sails were ornamented with beautiful embroidery, both on the front side and the back side, for neither those forward nor those aft in the ship were willing to see the ugly side of the sails." In the old French poem, "Aye d'Avignon" (v., 1746) we read, "Loir voiles entaillies par pans et par giron et bien enfigurees a testes de dragon." The mediæval poem, "Kudrun" (1489, 3) has the line, "Ich sihe diu Hagenen wafen in eimem segele richen" (I saw the arms of Hagen on a rich sail). Royal arms were embroidered in gold. "Trojanischer Krieg," 25, 158, "Der Koenige wapen dringebritten was mit golde wunnerlich" (The King's arms were stitched on it with gold, wonderfully). Sails with coats of arms are rather frequent in late mediæval pictures (Nicholas, Jal, Hagendorn, "M. M.," II. 4, VI. 65, etc.).

4.—A cross was chiefly used by the crusaders, but afterwards Spanish and Portuguese ships often show it. When fitting out a fleet in 1428 the Hansa towns determined that light blue crosses should be stitched on both sides of all sails (Hanse Recesse, I. ser., vol. 8, no. 343). Finally may be mentioned the idea of V. Macchioro, "Mannus," Vol. 4, 1912, pp. 363-5, that the chess-board pattern on ancient Egyptian sails may be the symbol of the next life and the vessels themselves funeral ships.—H. Sz.

QUERIES.

54. ATKINS, MARINE ARTIST.—Can any of your readers give me any information about a marine painter named Atkins? I have a number of pictures of men-of-war dating apparently between 1780 and 1810, most beautifully executed in water colours, and I am anxious to find out something about the artist who signs himself "Atkins."—R. HARRINGTON.

55. H.M.S. "MINOTAUR," 1863.—I have a photograph of one of the five-masted broadside ironclads of the sixties, supposed to be the *Minotaur*, taken at the Jubilee Naval Review of 1887. She carries yards on all masts. Is she

really the *Minotaur*? I cannot find another picture of any of the three of her class square-rigged throughout. In "M. M.," Vol. viii., 1922, p. 123, E. A. D. quotes "The Times," of 30th March, 1865, for the *Minotaur* carrying yards on four of her masts.—H. H. B.

56. RIBS.—In the Mon type of Solomon Islands canoe the ribs are raised after the planking—they are tied to holed chocks on the latter. The practice of raising the ribs after the planking is said to hold in China also. Can any one quote other instances?—H. H. B.