

THE ORNAMENTS OF THE MINISTERS

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The Ornaments of the Ministers by Percy Dearmer

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PERCY DEARMER

**THE ORNAMENTS
OF THE MINISTERS**

Plate 3.



OLD WESTMINSTER COPE.
Purple and Silver, 17th century.
(See page 74.)

THE ORNAMENTS OF THE MINISTERS

BY

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*WITH FORTY-SIX PLATES AND THIRTY-FIVE
FIGURES IN THE TEXT*

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PREFACE

THE subject of ecclesiastical costume, about which so many misconceptions used to prevail, has been made enormously simpler and more secure by the researches of many English scholars, the results of whose work continue to appear in various monographs and transactions, and especially in the publications of the Alcuin Club ; and by two Continental writers,—Joseph Wilpert, whose great discoveries in Early Christian art have been enshrined since 1903 in the two priceless volumes of his *Roma Sottterranea*, and who in 1898 published a special book on Early Christian dress, *Die Gewandung der Christen in den ersten Jahrhunderten* ; and Francis Xavier Braun, who, in 1897-8, published two small books on Christian vestments, in 1907 followed these up with his greater work, *Die liturgische Gewandung*, and in 1912 with his *Handbuch der Paramentik*. Erudition and judgement, such as have now at last been brought to this subject, could not fail to settle many ancient controversies ; the more so for us, since in 1908 the Sub-Committee of the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury presented its *Report on the Ornaments Rubric*, drawn up by five of our most learned bishops, in which the new knowledge was ably summarized. After

their work, we may reasonably hope that the foolish vestiarian warfare of three centuries and a half has been laid at rest.

I have tried to arrange this book so that it may be of use to the student as well as to the general reader. For this reason foot-notes are given to the newer or more crucial points, so that it will be possible to follow these up in the authorities. For the rest, and where it is not otherwise stated, the facts concerning the more ancient ornaments will be easily found in Wilpert or Braun. It would have been difficult to condense the material into a little book without this general reference, and still more without the illustrations, which enable me to spare the reader many pages of description.

For the New Edition in 1920, a new chapter (IV) with much other fresh matter and many new illustrations have been added. The book has also been revised throughout, with the very kind assistance of Dr. Brightman.

As many people have for years past written to me for practical information about such matters as are dealt with in this book, I would take this opportunity of saying that I am glad to send the addresses of suitable artists or craftsmen to any who care to enclose a post-card when they write.

PERCY DEARMER.

OAKRIDGE LYNCH,
STROUD.

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