

## 16<sup>th</sup> c Goldwork

Goldwork was a popular form of embroidery throughout our period, but the technique is most commonly found on pouches at the end of our period, from the early 16<sup>th</sup> c on. The example shown here is late 16<sup>th</sup> c, with gold on a silk ground. A velvet ground was also common. Goldwork was also found on burses and other ceremonial purses.

Animals in raised gold tend to be realistic or heraldic. The deer image here is taken from a 15<sup>th</sup> century source and is a very heraldic image.

### Materials:

- Red silk or velvet for the ground, stretched over linen or calico
- Gold jap or similar gold for laid work, fine brown silk for couching
- Felt for padding
- Linen or silk for lining
- Silk or silk-like woven cords

### Notes:

This is a project for an experienced worker! This must be worked in a hoop or frame. Pad the shapes first with felt, with an extra layer for the legs in the foreground, head and tail (see design). Couch gold thread over, following the dotted lines, emphasising the muscle flow using denser couching stitches in the 'shadows' (*or nué* technique). Alternately, use the flow of the gold to define the muscles. Work the stars from the outside in, following the star shape, or flat, with compass star shading in *or nué*.

For a late 16<sup>th</sup> c bag, the purse shape could be square – sweete bag shaped.



*MS français 616 c1407, Bibliothèque Nationale Paris (Bise p61)*



Chancellor's Burse for the Great Seal 16<sup>th</sup> c  
Laid gold on crimson velvet ground  
(*Digby Plate 40*)



Drawstring bag, late 16<sup>th</sup> c Fine Arts Museum, Boston. Silver yarn and wire on silk ground (*Wark p40*)

### Finishing:

The holes for the draw cords will need strengthening with embroidered eyelets to avoid wear. The sides of the bag are simply sewn together, with the hanging cords sewn at the sides of the opening. Three tassels would be common along the base and the draw cords could also end in tassels.

For a man, use very short draw cords. For a woman, allow enough length to reach mid calf.

16<sup>th</sup> c Goldwork design

