

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Harriet R. Harrington

Medium

Plied and flat silk thread on natural linen

Description

A square sampler worked on a gauzy natural linen panel in both plied and flat silk threads in black, dark brown, medium brown, light brown, medium green, light green, golden tan, and off white. The embroidery is worked in cross, satin, chain, stem, and plait stitches. Six rows of alphabets are worked in dark brown cross stitch, beginning with a large 3/4 inch upper case italic alphabet,

from A through N on the first line, O through Z on the second. On the third line starts a half-inch upper case alphabet, from A through R, finishing with S through Z, ampersand, and numerals 1 through 9 and 0 on the fourth line. On the fifth line runs a half-inch lower case alphabet from a through x, finishing on the sixth and final line with y and z. Immediately following is the inscription "Shrewsbury Aug. 7 1825," with a single heart motif worked after the year in off-white flat silk. Each alphabet row is delineated by a simple band motif, with a stepped dagged edge band beneath the last row. On the lower portion of the sampler is worked a pictorial scene, with a sturdy house featuring a front door with fanlight, door handle, and door knocker, shuttered windows, and a pair of chimneys. A very large bird perches atop the right corner of the roof. A large and stylized floral plant grows along the right side of the house. To the left of the house stands a leafy tree, with two small birds resting amid the branches. a small picket fence runs along the front of the tree, with an arched gateway on which another bird perches. A large single tulip blossom grows to the left of the tree. Under the scene are three clusters of leafy sprays, below which runs the signature line "Harriet R. Harrington Aged 15 years." A second single heart motif is worked at the end of the line. A lush and leafy floral and foliate vine border is worked along the left, top, and right edges in glossy flat silk thread. A narrow outer border consists of a dagged band worked in off-white flat silk thread highlighted with an edging of tiny light blue cross stitches in plied silk thread.

Dimensions

Sight: 17.5 × 15.75 in. (44.5 × 40 cm)