

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Hannah Matthews

Medium

Plied, flat, and unraveled silk thread on linen

Description

A large square sampler on gauzy linen, with selvedge edges along the left and right sides and narrow hemmed edges along the top and bottom. The sampler's embroidery is done in plied, flat, and unraveled silk threads in black, dark green, mint green, pale green, dark blue, pale blue, salmon, pale pink, pale lemon yellow, pale

golden tan, and pearly white. Several stitches are used, including cross, Algerian eye, queen, satin, and french knots. In the very center of the sampler is the maker's name and date "Hannah Matthews Work / 1814." Below the inscription is a stepped border, while above meanders a broad stylized vine with pale green leaves boldly outlined in dark green and pale yellow and pearly white blossoms. Along the top portion of the sampler is a large 3/4 inch upper case alphabet, worked in Algerian eyelet, from A through O. Below is a verse reading "Guide Me o thou Great / Jehovah, Pilgrim through / this barren Land. / I am Weak but though / are Mighty, hold / Me With thy Powerful / hand." Flanking the verse on either side, in mirror image, is a stylized urn with floral sprays, a small single floral blossom atop a narrow green band, and trios of black and yellow birds. Below the central name and date is a pictorial scene. A castle-like building appears at center, topped with a bird, depicted on a stepped hillside worked in flat silk thread while a hunter in plumed hat, black boots, and holding a musket, stands casually on the left. A small black dog stands alertly between the hunter and the castle. A pine tree and a nodding floral blossom grow on the stepped terrace at left. To the right, a large fruit tree, with a few scattered fallen fruits, grows near two smaller trees. On the grassy lawn, three white sheep, small blossoms, and a lush strawberry vine are shown. A narrow dagged edge band encloses alphabet, verse, and scene. A bold zigzag vining band is worked around the entire sampler. Along the top and bottom, stylized strawberries alternate with stylized carnation blossoms. Along the left and right edges, stylized dianthus blossoms alternate with a variety of small stylized floral sprigs worked in queen stitch. The linen panel appears to retain a portion of its original mounting, with a half-inch woven linen tape whipstitched around all four edges. The tape shows signs of old tack holes and resultant rust staining.

Dimensions

23 x 23 in. (58.4 x 58.4 cm)