



Crewel Embroidered Petticoat Border

Medium

Plied wool crewel yarn on linen

Description

A narrow petticoat border of closely woven, fine quality bleached linen, embroidered with a continuous border. The linen strip is pieced in five sections, measuring 28 1/4 inches, 31 3/8 inches, 31 3/8 inches, 31 inches, and 9 1/2 inches in length. The edges of each piece are butted and whip stitched together, with the left and right ends double folded and hemmed with whip stitching. The top and

bottom edges of the strip are finished with simple quarter-inch turned hems, sewn with a simple running stitch in coarse linen thread. The embroidery design was drawn onto the linen, and portions of the sepia-toned inked lines are visible in numerous areas where the wool thread has worn away. Twenty-three colors are used within the embroidery, including scarlet, mulberry, rose, blush pink, light pink, dark green, grass green, apple green, lime green, bright yellow, golden yellow, royal blue, sky blue, ice blue, dark purple, lavender, pale lilac, dark brown, russet, golden brown, black, and oyster white. Stitch work is done in satin, stem, and French knot. Many of the larger floral and foliate elements are worked in ombre shading, from dark to light, while the smaller motifs such as the berry clusters, are worked in single colors. Most of the floral designs are stylized, but some can be identified as roses, carnations, and tulips. Amidst the foliage appear, from left to right, a brown and white cat, an exotic blue bird with pink crest and brightly colored tailfeathers, a stag, and an American goldfinch. The entire pattern repeats once, with the deer and finch replacing the cat and blue bird in the second sequence.

Dimensions

2.25 × 103 in. (5.7 × 261.6 cm)