

Basic Detail Report



Title St. James the Great.

Date 1776-1780

Primary Maker Prudence Punderson

Medium Embroidery; silk thread and ink on a plain-woven silk ground

Description Needlework picture worked in black, dark green, dark, medium and light brown brown, light, dark and medium blue, red, yellow and white silk threads on a plain-woven gold silk ground, using a surface satin stitch and other stitches. At the bottom is a hand-written inscription in black ink: "St. James the

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Great/ He was beheaded at Jerusalem." This is one of a group of twelve silk

needlework pictures; each depicts an apostle and has an ink inscription at the

bottom with the name of the apostle. The needlework picture is rectangular,

oriented vertically. It shows a man in profile standing on a shore looking out to

sea. He wears a black hat with a wide brim, a long black robe, or banyan, and

has a staff in his right hand. At his feet is a swan with partially outstretched

wings. At sea is a sailing vessel with three masts and a flag. The sky has several

fluffy clouds. The edges of the needlework are whip-stitched. The picture is

hand-drawn with black and red ink directly on the ground then embroidered in

untwisted silk and Z-spun single ply silk thread. Just above the bottom edge of

the needlework is a line of holes from stitches that were removed. The ground

has 112 yarns per inch in the warp and 80 yarns per inch in the weft. Stitches:

The principal stitch is the surface satin stitch; it also includes satin, stem, and

running stitches. Condition: There is some fading to the ground and embroidery.

The needlework picture has been cleaned gently then stitched to a plain-woven

cotton support fabric applied to a rigid mount. The picture is not framed.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of ground): 8 3/4 x 8 1/4in. (22.2

x 21cm) Mount (height x width): 9 1/2 x 8 1/2in. (24.1 x 21.6cm)