

Basic Detail Report



Title Sampler

Date 1794

Primary Maker Abigail Williams

Medium Embroidery; silk thread on a plain-woven, undyed linen ground

Description Sampler worked in blue-green, dark green, black, light blue, medium brown, pink, cream, rust and yellow-green silk threads on a linen

ground using cross stitch over two threads and other stitches. The sampler is

square. It is laid out with a horizontal geometric design, over four lines of

alphabets, the numbers 1-7, and the date, over two inscriptions, over a

horizontal band of pictorial motifs at the bottom. The first inscription, worked in

Basic Detail Report

two different color threads, is a literary verse, "This Needle Work Of Mine Doth/

Tell When I Was Young I Learned/ Well And By My Parents I Was / Taught Not to

Spend My Time In/ Naught". The second inscription is "Abigail Williams Aged 11

Years". The word "Years" is worked as "Yea" with "rs" placed immediately above

"ea". The pictorial motifs include, from left to right, a flower, a lion with crown

on head facing left, a flower, a tree, a basket of flowers, a tree, a flower, a lion

with crown on head facing right, and a flower. The motifs are not in scale. The

lines of alphabets and numbers are separated by straight horizontally stitched

rows. A straight horizontally stitched row is also found beneath the verse. There

is a four-sided border. The sampler has a 2/8-inch double-turned hem on all four

edges. There is pulled thread work finished with hem stitches on all four sides.

This, along with a four-sided stitched border, makes up the border design. The

sampler has visible unevenly spaced nail holes. It is not framed. Letters and

Numbers: There are two alphabets and the numbers 1-7. The letters are

uppercase block in both alphabets. The letters "J" and "U" are missing from

both alphabets. All lowercase letters with descenders, such as the letter "y", are

placed so that the descender does not extend below the baseline. Stitches: The

first alphabet and the numbers are stitched in cross stitch (over two). The

second alphabet is stitched in Algerian eye. The sampler also includes cross

stitch (over one) and hem. Letters and numbers are worked in various colors.

The verse is worked in two colors. Condition: The sampler has a large stain in the

upper right section. The sampler has moderate fading, especially to the threads

in the first section of the first inscription. It has unevenly spaced discolored nail

Basic Detail Report

holes at the edges. The sampler is not framed or mounted.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 12 1/4 x 12 1/4in. (31.1 x 31.1
cm)