

Basic Detail Report



Title Sampler

Date 1806

Primary Maker Hannah Comstock

Medium Embroidery: silk thread on a plain-woven, undyed silk ground Frame:

wood, glass, gold paint

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Description Sampler worked in black, light green, medium brown, dark green, light brown, dark blue-green, medium blue-green, cream, and pink silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground using cross (over two threads) and chain stitches. The sampler is rectangular, oriented vertically. It is laid out with seven rows of two alphabets, the numbers 1 through 13, and an inscription, over two inscriptions, over a horizontal band of pictorial motifs at the bottom. The first inscription is "Excell • and • emulate • thy • prese/ nt • prase [sic] • let • thy • intrinsic • worth • thy • tribu/ te • rare • in • every • useful • art • thy • time • employ". The second inscription is "Hannah • Comstock • her • work • done • Septemb/ er 29 1806 aged • thirteen • year • and 6 months". The third inscription is "This • have • i • done • to • let • you • see/ What • care • my • parents • took • of • me". Certain lines of alphabets, numbers, and text are separated by various borders, including straight and meandering lines. The band of pictorial motifs consists of two floral branches separated by a basket of branching flowers. The sampler has is a four-sided border of triangles separated by flowers at the top and straight vines and flowers at the sides of and bottom. The sampler probably has a double-turned hem on all four sides. The sampler is in a frame (replaced). Letters and Numbers: There are two alphabets and the numbers 1-13. The letters are uppercase block in alphabet 1 and uppercase script in alphabet 2. The letters J and U are present in the first alphabet only. The letter Y in the first alphabet is backwards. The embroiderer uses the long 's'. Stitches: The principal stitch on the sampler is cross stitch (over two threads); it is also worked in chain stitch. Condition: The

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sampler probably has minimal to light fading, depending on color. There is some staining to the ground. The frame is replaced.

Dimensions Frame (height x width of frame): 14 x 10 1/2in. (35.6 x 26.7cm)

Primary Dimensions (height x width inside of frame): 12 3/4 x 9 1/4in. (32.4 x 23.5 cm)