

Basic Detail Report



Title St. James the Less

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, brown, green, cream and red 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 Less/ He was cast down from the temple & after killed with a fuller's

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club." 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 and a description of their death. The needlework picture is rectangular, oriented vertically. It shows a man standing to the left of a side chair. The man is wearing a tan hat with a wide brim, a long black robe, or banyan, and has bare feet. The wooden chair is in the Queen Anne, or late baroque, style and has a yoke-shaped crest rail, a vase-shaped splat, rush seat, turned legs and stretchers and Spanish feet. To the right of the chair are bushes and trees with white flowers. In his right hand the man holds a tall stick, or club, with a protrusion at the top. The edges of the needlework picture are whip-stitched. The selvedge, plain-woven with red warp yarns and two gold singles at center of selvedge, is at the left edge of the needlework. The picture is hand-drawn with black ink and some red ink. The needlework is embroidered with untwisted silk and twisted silk thread (2 or 3 Z-spun yarns, S plied). 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 stem and free-form stitches. Condition: There is a hole in the ground to the left of the saint's head. 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): 9 1/2 x 8 1/4in. (24.1 x 21cm) Mount (height x width): 9 1/2 x 8 1/2in. (24.1 x 21.6cm)