

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date 1833

Primary Maker Ann Elizabeth Skinner

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

Description Sampler worked in medium green, salmon, pink, dark blue, brick red, light blue, yellow, light brown, and dark brown silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground using cross and other stitches. The sampler is rectangular, oriented horizontally. It is laid out with four rows of three alphabets, over two inscriptions positioned side by side, over a horizontal band of pictorial motifs and an inscription, an inscription flanked by mirror images of pictorial motifs, over an inscription and the numbers 1 through 13. The first inscription is "When youth's fair season shall be o'er/ And scenes of childhood charm no more/ My grateful heart with joy shall see/ This proof of youthful industry". The second inscription is "As memory o'er this task shall wake/ And retrospective pleasure take/ How shall I wish but wish in vain/ To enjoy youth's blissful hours again". The third inscription is "Youth loves to deck times naked brow/ With a light crown of gilded snow/ But in a length of care girt years/ The glittering bauble melts to tears/ Thus on a mist that veils a stream/ The rays of morning faintly gleam/ And blending shades of richest dyes/ In a soft glowing arch arise". The fourth inscription is "Ann Elizabeth Skinner's work AD 1833 Æ 12 years". The pictorial motifs that flank the third inscription include a bird, a cherry or apple tree, and an urn of flowers; these are not embroidered to scale. There are other

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motifs and scroll designs throughout. Certain lines of alphabets, numbers, and

text are separated by various narrow borders, including straight and

meandering lines. There is a four-sided floral and vine border that curves each of

the top corners. In the outside of each curved area are butterflies. The sampler

has a 1/8-inch double-turned hem on the top and bottom edges, and selvages

at the left and right side edges. The sampler is not framed. Letters and Numbers:

There are three alphabets and the numbers 1-13. The letters are lowercase block

in alphabet 1, uppercase block in alphabet 2, and uppercase script in alphabet 3.

The letter J is present in the first alphabet; the letter U is present in all

alphabets. Stitches: The principal stitch on the sampler is cross stitch over two

threads; it is also worked in cross stitch over one thread, four-sided, French

knots, and queen stitches. Condition: The sampler has minimal to light fading. It

is not framed.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 13 3/16 x 17 15/16in. (33.5 x

45.6cm)