

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date September 1792

Primary Maker Elizabeth Belden

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

Description Sampler worked in dark blue, dark green, light blue, pink, rust,

black, khaki, medium brown, light brown, yellow, dark brown, and purple silk

threads on a plain-woven undyed linen ground, using cross stitches. The

sampler is rectangular, oriented vertically. It is laid out with four rows of two

alphabets and the numbers 1 through 16, over three inscriptions, over a

horizontal vine and flower design at the bottom. The first inscription is a verse,

"THIS NEEDLE WORK OF MINE/ CAN TELL WHEN I WAS YOUNG/ LEARNED WELL

AND BY MY/ ELDERS I [W]AS TAUGHT NOT TO / SPEND MY TIME FOR NAUGHT".

The second inscription is "I Thank My Dear Friends/ For their Care in my

Breeding/ Who Taught M[e] Betimes/ To love Working and Reading". The third

inscription is "Elizabeth Belden's Sampler/ Made In the 9th year of/ her age

September 1792". There are several small diamonds. There are vertical lines

after the first alphabet. The lines of alphabets, numbers, and text are separated

by various straight narrow borders. The sampler has a four-side narrow border.

The sampler has a 3/16-inch double-turned hem on the top, bottom and left

side, and a selvedge on the right side. The sampler is not framed or permanently

mounted. It is encased in a covered mat. Letters and Numbers: There are two

alphabets and the numbers 1-16. The letters are uppercase block in alphabet 1

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and lowercase block in alphabet 2. The letter J is missing from both alphabets;

the letter U is present in both alphabets. The letter A is repeated in the first

alphabet. The letters UV are shown as VU in alphabet 1. Except in one instance,

all lowercase letters with descenders, such as 'g', are placed so the descender

does not extend below the baseline. The lowercase letters in the verse are styled

as uppercase letters. Stitches: It is not clear whether the D in alphabet 1 was

ever stitched. There is some stitch loss, possibly to the D in alphabet 1, E, and

some various letters in the inscriptions. The principal stitch on the sampler is

cross stitch (over two); it also includes cross (over one), queen, herringbone and

rice stitches. In the first two inscriptions each word is worked in a different color.

The third inscription is worked in one color. Condition: The sampler has light to

moderate fading, depending on the color. There is a hole in the center of the

sampler. The sampler is not framed or permanently mounted. It is encased in a

covered mat.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 15 1/2 x 11in. (39.4 x 27.9cm)