

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date 1793

Primary Maker Lucy Spalding

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

Description Sampler worked in dark brown, dark blue-green, medium blue-green, medium brown, purple, cream, pink, light green, and light brown silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground in cross stitches (over two threads) and other stitches. The sampler is squarish, oriented vertically. It is laid out with seven rows of three alphabets, and an inscription, over three inscriptions, over the numbers 1 through 11. The first inscription is "july 1793". The first inscription is enclosed by a top and bottom border consisting of queen stitches. The second inscription is "Lucy Spalding's Samplar Æ 14". The third inscription is "Favour is dec/ eitful and beauty/ is vain but a wo/ man that feareth/ the lord she shall/ be praised". The fourth inscription is "Strength and/ honour are her/ clothing and she/ shall rejoice in/ time to come". The alphabets and the first two inscriptions are in the center of the piece. This center section is surrounded by a wide four-sided border containing various compartmentalized designs. The designs include bold geometric vine designs with large flowers, most of which are in bloom, a number of plant and flower motifs, and a landscape view in the bottom border that contains, from left to right, a plant, at least three sheep sitting under two pine trees, a plant, a large tree, a plant, a sitting buck, a plant, a large tree, and a plant; these motifs are embroidered to scale. The border section at the left

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is solidly stitched. The verse inscriptions are in both lower corners; below each is a short section of a Greek key border. Certain lines of alphabets in the sampler are separated by narrow straight borders. The sampler has a 3/16-inch double-turned hem on the top, right side, and bottom edges, and selvedge at left side edge. The sampler is not framed. Letters and Numbers: There are three alphabets and the numbers 1-11. The letters are uppercase block in alphabets 1 and 2, and lowercase block in alphabet 3. The letter J is not present in any alphabet; the letter U is present in all alphabets. The first alphabet is larger than the others, with generally each two uppercase letters worked in a different stitch and in a different color. The letter V in the first alphabet infringes the right border. Stitches: The sampler is worked in cross over two threads, rice, tent, Algerian eye, cross over one, bullion, and queen stitches. Condition: The sampler has minimal to moderate fading, depending on color. The sampler is not framed. Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 17 x 15 7/8in. (43.2 x 40.3cm)