

Basic Detail Report

Title Sampler

Date 1808

Primary Maker Maria Bolles

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

Description Sampler worked in dark brown, dark green, rust, light brown, light

blue, dark blue, white and light green silk threads on a plain-woven linen

ground, using cross stitch and other stitches. The sampler is rectangular,

oriented vertically. It is laid out with a horizontal band of pictorial motifs, over

three rows of two alphabets and the numbers 1 through 9, over two inscriptions,

over a horizontal band of pictorial motifs at the bottom. The first inscription is a

religious verse, "TEACH ME TO FEEL ANOTHERS WOE/ TO HIDE THE FAULTS I SEE/

THAT MERCY I TO OTHERS SHEW/ THAT MERCY SHEW TO ME." The second

inscription is "Maria Bolles her Sampler made in the 11th/ Year of her age 1808".

The first band of pictorial motifs includes, from left to right, a right-facing bird

atop a branch, a left-facing flower, a left-facing bird atop a large basket of

flowers, a right-facing flower, a left-facing bird atop a branch. The second band

of pictorial motifs include, from left to right, a right-facing bird atop a branch,

two trees with a left-facing bird on a branch, a basket of flowers, and a right-

facing bird atop a florette. Certain lines of alphabets, numbers, and text are

separated by various narrow borders, including straight and meandering lines.

The sampler has a four-sided vine and flower border. The border has various

branches emerging from it. The sampler has a 2/8-inch double-turned hem on

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the top, bottom and right sides, and a selvedge on the left 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 1-9. The letters are

uppercase block in alphabet 1 and lowercase block in alphabet 2. The letters J

and U are present in both alphabets. All lowercase letters with descenders, such

as the letter 'g', are placed so the descender does not extend below the baseline.

The lowercase letters in the verse are styled as uppercase letters. The letter 'z' in

the lowercase alphabet encroaches the right border. Stitches: The principal

stitch on the sampler is cross stitch (over two); it also includes cross (over one),

queen, herringbone and rice stitches. Condition: The sampler has light to

moderate fading, depending on the color. The sampler is not framed or

permanently mounted. It is encased in a covered mat.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width): 15 3/4 x 12 5/8in. (40 x 32.1cm)