

Basic Detail Report



Title Sampler

Date 1791

Primary Maker Lydia Church

Medium Embroidery: silk and metallic threads, sequins on a plain-woven, undyed linen ground Frame: wood, glass, gold paint

Description Sampler worked in dark brown, cream, blue-green, medium green, light brown, light green, dark green, light blue, medium brown, and pink silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground in tent and other stitches. The sampler is squarish, oriented horizontally. It is laid out with six rows of four alphabets and the numbers 1 through 12, over three inscriptions, over a horizontal band of pictorial motifs. The first inscription is "Death like an overflowing stream sweeps

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us away our lifes a drem [sic]/ An empty tale a morning flower cut down and

witherd [sic] in an hour". The second inscription is "New Haven Connecticut July

19 1791 Mrs Mansfield Sc [sic]". The third inscription is "LYDIA CHURCH Aged 13

1791". The horizontal band of pictorial motifs is a landscape, which includes,

from left to right, four left-facing sheep or goats, a left-facing man holding a stick

or a gun, a tree, a plant, a three-story house with a center door and a widow's

walk, a plant, a tree, a left-facing man, and a left-facing woman in a dress

holding a parasol in one hand and, possibly, a fan in the other. A fence runs

across the font of the scene; it leads up to the front steps of the house from both

sides. Each window of the house is filled in with metal threads. There are

spangles, or sequins, in the widow's walk and on the mens' coats. The motifs are

to scale. In the upper left corner of the scene is a quarter-sized disk of coiled

metallic threads; it is held down by tacking stitches. The sampler is solidly

stitched. There is a wide elaborate three-sided border on the sides and top. In

each of the bottom corners of the side borders is a bird within a vase. A vine and

flower design grows out of each vase and continues, making up the primary

design of the border. At each of the top corners is a bow; at the bows' tails there

is a surplus of colorful thread. These colorful threads give the area of a lacy look.

Only the top edge of the sampler is visible. It appears to have some pulled

threads and is hem-stitched. It also appears to be pulled over a surface. The

sampler is in an old frame (probably replaced). Letters and Numbers: There are

four alphabets. The letters are uppercase block in alphabets 1 and 3, and

lowercase block in alphabets 2 and 4. The letter J is present in the first and

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fourth alphabets; the letter U is present in all alphabets. The letter A is repeated in the first and fourth alphabets; it is presented as "Aa" in the fourth alphabet.

The letter "s" is repeated in the second alphabet. The words "drem" and "hour" encroach the right border. The "m" in "drem" is positioned above the "e" in "drem". The embroiderer uses long 's'. Stitches: The principal stitch on the sampler is tent stitch; it is also worked in cross (over two threads), satin, straight, Algerian eye, queen, cross (over one thread), chain, hem, stem/outline, long and short, and hem stitches. Embroiderer used spangles (mens' coats and on widow's walk) and metal threads (windows, coiled disk). Condition: The sampler probably has minimal to light fading, depending on color. The frame is replaced; the sampler has been re-mounted.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of frame): 20 5/8 x 22 1/2in.

(52.4 x 57.2cm) Primary Dimensions (height x width of visible ground): 18 1/2 x 20 1/2in. (47 x 52.1cm)