



Sampler

Primary Maker

Deborah Oldham

Medium

Plied wool yarn on rough natural linen

Description

A small rectangular sampler on rough natural linen, retaining its selvedge along the bottom edge and narrow hemming along the left, top, and right edges. The sampler is worked in plied wool thread in red, brick red, dark blue, medium blue (which in some cases was originally a purple tone), light blue, spring green, light brown (which appears to have been a deep maroon), pale yellow, light gray, off white, and dusty pink. All motifs and lettering are worked in either cross stitch or in Armenian eyelet stitch. The

upper portion of the sampler contains multiple rows of decorative bands, worked in a variety of colors and combining cross and Armenian eyelet stitches in pleasing patterns. Below the rows of banding runs a half-inch upper case alphabet worked on four lines in a double lettering repeat, "AA," "BB," "CC," and so on in a variety of colors, ending with "YY" and "ZZ." The alphabet contains no J or U. The bottom five rows of the sampler include the inscription and date, which reads "DEBORAH / OLDHAM MADE THIS / SAMPLER IN THE YEAR / ONE THOUSAND SEVEN / HUNDRED THIRTY ONE." While most of the inscription rows are 3/4 inches high, the bottom row is only a half inch, in order to squeeze in the final date wording. Small diamond-shaped motifs are used as spacers on either side of "Deborah" and after the word "This."

Dimensions

9.63 × 7.75 in. (24.4 × 19.7 cm)