

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Elizabeth Balch

Medium

Plied silk thread on linen

Description

A rectangular sampler on fine bleached gauze linen embroidered with plied silk thread in dark green, brown, light blue, tan, pale pink, and off white. The stitching is done in both cross and tent stitches. The majority of the sampler features a biblical quote above four stanzas of a hymn, reading "Remember thy Creator in / the Days of thy Youth. / In the soft season of thy youth, / In nature's smiling bloom, / Ere age arrive and trembling wait, / Its summons to the tomb. / Remember thy Creator, God, / For

him thy powers employ; / Make him thy fear, thy Love, thy hope, / Thy confidence, thy joy. / He shall defend and guide thy course, / Through Life's uncertain sea, / Till thou art landed on the shore / of bless'd eternity. / Then, seek the Lord betimes, and choose / The path of heavenly truth, / The earth affords no Lov'lier sight, / Than a religious youth." The verse is slightly off-center to the right, resulting in an uneven placement of the motifs along the left and right sides. At top, pairs of naturalistic grape bunches are worked. Below range a variety of motifs, some mirror images on either side of the verse, including a naturalistic tulip, an oak leaf, a pecking chicken at the bottom left and right corners, and small stylized trees, birds, and geometric shapes. Below the verse is the inscription line "Elizabeth Balch August 8 1823." a stylized wave band runs beneath the inscription. A bold sawtooth and floral repeat band forms a border along all four edges of the linen. The sampler retains its original plain woven cotton lining.

Dimensions

13 × 10.63 in. (33 × 27 cm)