

Basic Detail Report



Sampler

Primary Maker

Harriet Bayles

Medium

Plied and flat silk thread on linen

Description

A rectangular sampler of open weave natural linen, with a selvedge along the bottom edge and narrow hems along the left, top, and right sides. Stitches include cross, Algerian eyelet, satin, square, and Queen, in medium green, black, sky blue, dusty rose, pale pink, lemon yellow, pale brown, taupe, and off white. A stylized strawberry vine band runs across the top of the linen

panel, worked in Queen stitch. Below are seven rows of a variety of alphabets. The first row includes a half-inch upper case alphabet, from A through V. The second row continues with W through Z, followed by a numeral run from 1 through 9, with the date "1827" and the maker's initials "HB" completing the line. The third row features a half-inch lower case alphabet, beginning with a pair of aa's, followed by b through z. The fourth row includes a 5/8 inch upper case alphabet worked in square stitch, from A through S, with the letter I at the end as a spacer. The alphabet continues on the fifth row with T through Z, also in square stitch, followed by an partial alphabet A through K worked in regular small eyelet stitch. The sixth and seventh rows are taken up with a large 1 1/8 inch upper case alphabet, from A through K, and L through U on the final line. Each row is divided by a narrow band in a variety of stitches and colors. The bottom third of the sampler comprises a pictorial scene, above which runs the inscription line "Harriet Bayles work wrought in the year of our Lord 1827." In the center of the scene is a large two-handled basket with nodding tulips and a bright white rose. On the left is worked what may may be a garden trellis with floral vines. To the right of the floral basket is a woodpecker perched on a stump, while a second bird, possibly a dove or goose, flies overhead. Two formal elongated trees are worked at the extreme left and right sides. Smaller elements are scattered within the scene, including two small black dogs, one on either side of the floral basket. The dog on the right has a small 1/4 inch stiff paper disk sewn to its tail with several loops of brown thread. A small 1/4" row of cross stitching has been worked close to the dog at left. At the extreme lower left corner is a group of stitching, while to the upper right of the floral basket is another group of stitches, both of which may be letters. A single row of cross stitching forms a border along the left, bottom, and right edges, ending at the strawberry vine along the top.

Dimensions

14 × 12.5 in. (35.6 × 31.8 cm)