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Sampler Motifs and Symbolism



Patricia Andrle and Lesley Rudnicki

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Sampler Motifs and Symbolism

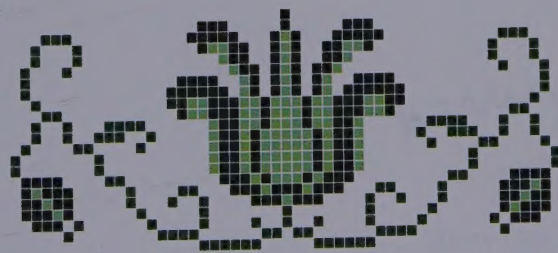
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Patricia Andrle
Lesley Rudnicki



Hillside Samplings

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Foreword

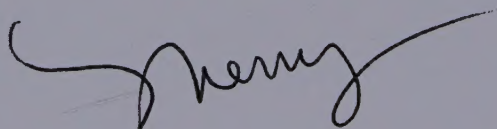
For centuries needlework has left behind a glimpse of the past. Research can sometimes reveal information regarding the stitcher, her school, family or birthplace, and in some cases what was historically important during that era. What always intrigues me about antique samplers is the fact that someone stitched and enjoyed the creation of her needlework just as we do today. Years and years ago, someone held in her hands various supplies and began the process of sampler making.

As a needlework designer, I love to write a poem or verse for each of my pieces. Hopefully, in the next century, someone will look at one of my needlework projects, read the verse and understand my passion for stitching. Here is a little verse I wrote in hopes that you will be able to incorporate it into a future sampler using this wonderful book.

Eternal Love

Thoust look upon the bounty of life and see so much . . .
Blue skies, green trees, vibrant flowers and thee.
Rejoice and reflect in whose graces thy touch . . .
For love and truth and kindness be forever free.

Congratulations Lesley and Pat for your hard work and dedication to this project. This book is exciting and informative and will be treasured by researchers and samplermakers alike.



Merry Cox

“In Books or Works or healthful Play
Let my first years be past that
I may give of every day some good
Account at last.”

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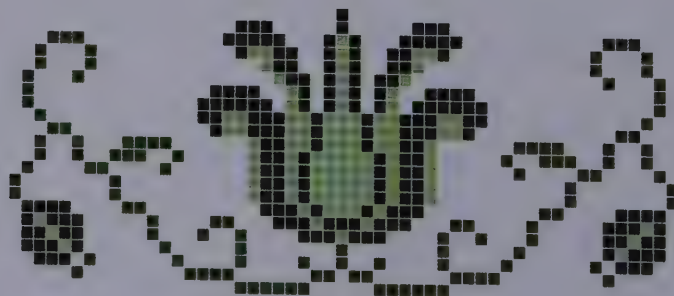
Introduction

The purpose of this dictionary is twofold. First, it is to gather and to list alphabetically the motifs found on American and European samplers of earlier centuries, to illustrate or describe their motifs as an aid in their identification and to give the motifs' symbolic meanings and, where possible, the sources of those meanings. Second, it is to provide present-day sampler makers with assistance in choosing motifs with symbolism appropriate to the theme that they are employing or the occasion they are commemorating with their sampler.

In this work the term samplers refers to those that contain any combination of motifs, verses, alphabets, bands and borders that were intended to be instructional or to be a record of designs for future use. Excluded are those embroideries that are full pictorials and those that were intended to be mounted on boxes or frames or that were intended to be used for clothing, accessories and household furnishings.

Much of the symbolism cited was in theological use in the 17th century. Although many of these motifs continued to be used in later centuries, the general awareness of symbolism may have diminished. With the proliferation of designs in pattern books and those motifs copied from other samplers, it is questionable whether or not the sampler maker was aware of the significance of a motif or if it was used merely for decorative purposes.

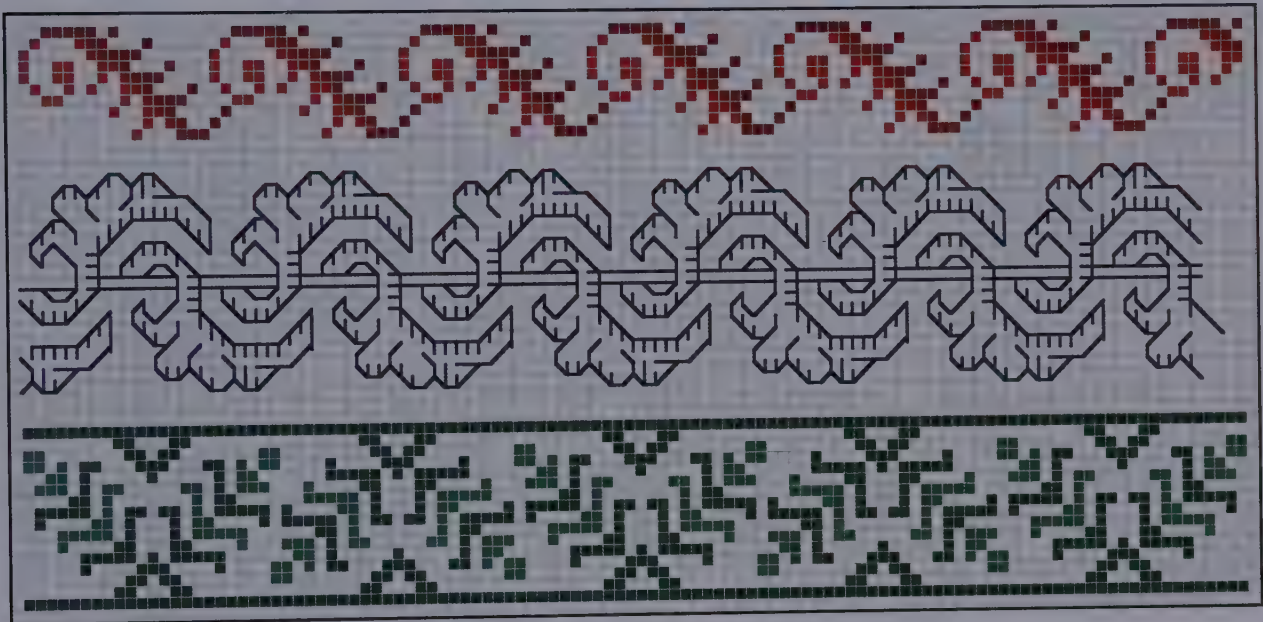
Many motifs have several different and, at times, completely contradictory meanings. A motif may be symbolic or decorative or both; it may be symbolic in one instance and merely decorative in another. Much symbolism is obviously derived from the nature of the beast as in the case of animals like the donkey, the bear and the pig. Their characteristics are either to be admired and emulated or are to be despised and avoided. In counted work samplers, many kinds of representational flowers, particularly the composites, are depicted similarly and one cannot identify them with any certainty. Some unrealistic flowers and trees can only be described as generic. Many varieties of identifiable flowers have been depicted naturalistically on samplers in counted cross-stitch and in free embroidery that may have romantic symbolism, if any was intended.



Aa

Abraham and Sarah, the Visitation of: A biblical story depicted by an angel, a man, a woman and a tent. Found on 17th century English whitework samplers. An Angel announced to the aged Abraham and Sarah that they will have a son, Isaac, who will become the father of nations (Genesis 17:15-22, 18:1-15).

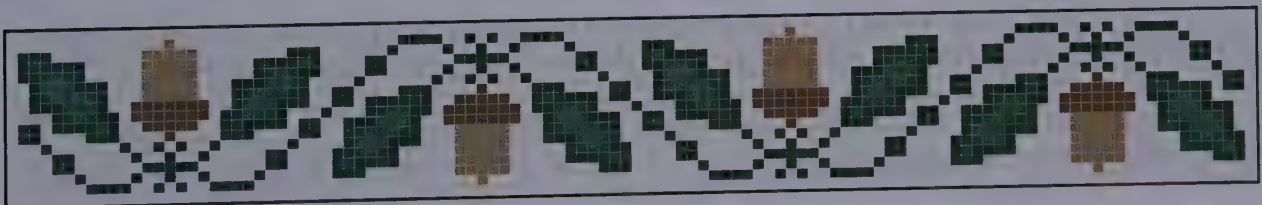
Acanthus: (*Acanthus mollis*) Overcoming life's trials because of its thorns and vigorous growth. It is a prickly herb of the Mediterranean region. It is found in architecture on the capitals of columns. [Motif 1]



Motif 1: Acanthus Bands

Acorn: Strength; prosperity; the power of spiritual growth from truth; the British royal Stuarts. [Motifs 2 & 91] Also see **Oak Tree**.

- Acorn and S symbol: strength and wisdom.



Motif 2: Acorn Band

Acrostics: Verses that are written so that the first letter of each line spells a word or name. Samplers with riddles were popular in the latter half of the 18th century.

Adam and Eve: A biblical story depicted by a man and a woman standing on either side of the tree of knowledge. The serpent entwines the tree usually facing Eve. On some American samplers the tree has seven apples denoting the seven deadly sins; but most English samplers have as many as will fit. Adam and Eve may be naked, dressed in the latest fashion or wearing only a fig leaf. Occasionally Adam and Eve are shown being driven out of Eden by a cherub with a flaming sword. (Genesis 3:1-6). [Motif 8 and Sampler II]

Ages of Man: The stairway of life. On Dutch samplers, this signifies the ages of man or woman from childhood to old age. It is depicted as a stepped pyramid with a human figure on each step. There are several versions, each with a different number of ages. The six ages of man are infancy, boyhood, adolescence, manhood, maturity and old age. [Motif 3]



Motif 3: Ages of Man or Stairway of Life

Alphabets: After 1660, English samplers had three rows of alphabets worked in marking stitch, satin stitch and eyelets. The letters Q, X, Y and Z are missing from some Dutch alphabets, as there were no surnames requiring them; German samplers have them. The Spanish alphabet has no K. Until the 18th century, Z was not considered a letter and might not be included. U and V were considered to be the same letter with different sounds and not separated until the 19th century. V was the preferred. Also see **Christ's Cross Row**.

- Black letter alphabet: a mixture of upper and lower case letters worked all the same height usually in seven vertical units. [Sampler V]
- Roman alphabet: properly sized upper and lower case letters as found in the printed word.
- *San serif*: lower case letters with upper case Roman letters. [Sampler II]

- Round or school hand alphabet: script lettering, also referred to as cursive, Italic or Italian.
- Friesian letters: ornate capital letters (Dutch, Scottish, and North German). [Sampler III]

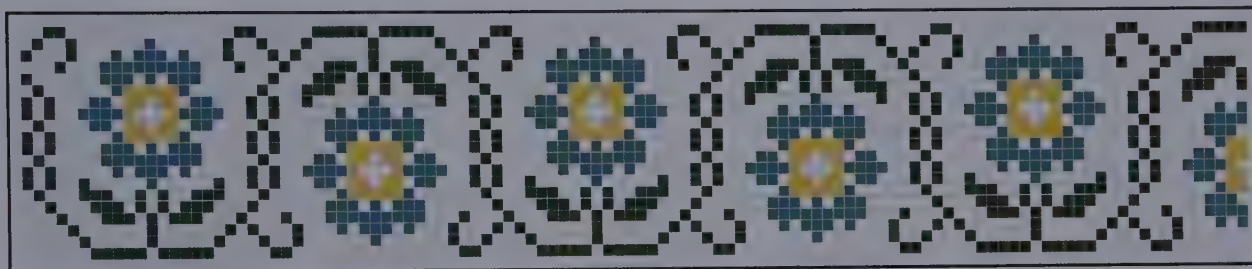
Altar: A crucifix between two candlesticks on an altar signifies Christ as a mediator between the Jews and Gentiles.

Anchor: Safety; salvation; fidelity; prudence; hope as in “Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul,” (Hebrews 6:19); an early Christian symbol because the upper part formed a cross. [Motif 5]

- Anchor and dolphin: restraint and speed as in “make haste slowly”, a 14th century proverb.

Anemone: (*Anemone*) Fragility; transience of life; grief and death. [Motif 4]

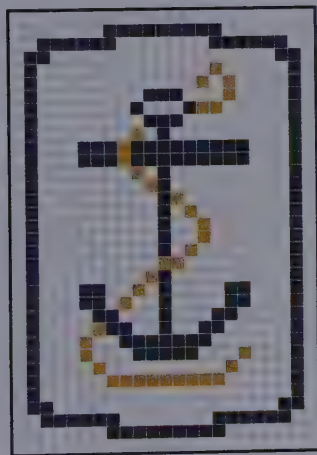
- Red anemone: the color is derived from the drops of blood falling from Christ on the cross.



Motif 4: Anemone Band

Angel: The messengers or attendants of God. In recent times, the angel has become a symbol of guardianship. [Motif 6]

- Angel with a trumpet: the voice of God; an announcement of the Day of Judgment (Revelations 8:2) [Sampler IV]
- Angel with a palm branch: martyrdom.



Motif 5: Anchor



Motif 6: Angels with Heart

Ape: See Monkey.

Apple and Apple Tree: Temptation because the Latin word for apple, *Malum*, means evil. The apple is associated with Adam and Eve; but the bible refers to it only as a fruit (Genesis 3:3). [Sampler II]

- Apple in a serpent's mouth: original sin.
- Apple tree with seven apples: the seven deadly sins.
- Apple as a gift: a declaration of love.
- Apple held by the Virgin with the Child Jesus: the triumph over evil.

Arcaded Band: Floral motifs in a double outlined and filled scroll or vine, usually alternately inverted.

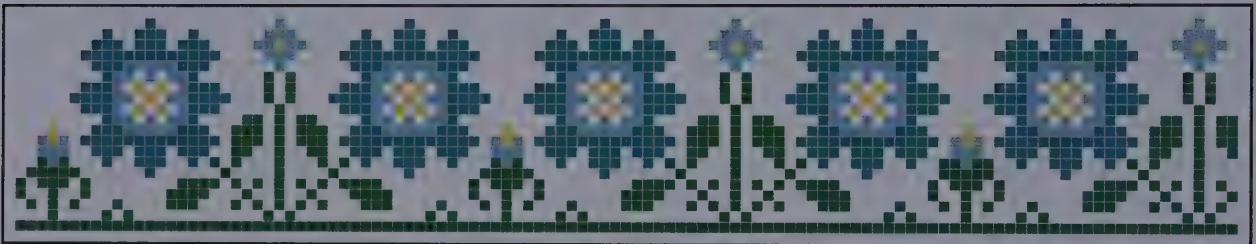
This type of band is prevalent on early English band samplers. [Motifs 62 & 81 and Samplers II & V] Also see **Inhabited Scroll**.

Aspects of Christ: The four aspects of Christ are depicted by the lion, the unicorn, the leopard and the stag. Puritans in England were not allowed to show the figure of Christ and He was symbolized by these animals. The lion is Christ the victor, the stag denotes Christ vanquishing evil, the leopard signifies Christ gathering good and the unicorn is Christ's sacrifice. See **Lion, Hart, Leopard** and **Unicorn**.

Asphodel: See **Daffodil**.

Ass or Donkey: Humility and patience; stupidity and foolishness; obstinacy. In the Middle Ages, the wild ass or onager represented the devil because it was thought to recognize the time of the equinox and to bray twelve times at its arrival. The ass is said to have acquired the stripe on his back when he carried Jesus into Jerusalem.

Aster: (*Aster*) Also called Michaelmas daisy. [Motif 7]



Motif 7: Aster Band



Motif 8: Adam and Eve

Bb

Bands: Horizontal polychrome and whitework rows of repeat geometrical or floral patterns, sometimes containing figures or animals. [Samplers II & V]

Barley: (*Hordeum*) Fertility and life after death. It is a type of grain similar to wheat. Also called barley-ear or barleycorn. See **Corn**.

Basket: Maternal protection.

- Basket of flowers: hope, friendship and love.
- Basket of fruit: love, prosperity, health and happiness. [Motif 9 and Sampler I]

Bear: Ill-temper; uncouthness; cruelty; vengeance; gluttony; greed; paganism. [Motif 10]

Beauty: Its symbols are the rose and the shell.

Bees: Hope; diligence and industry; sociability; selflessness; wisdom; courage; sobriety.

- Beehive: maternal protection; the Church and the monastic or church community.

Beetle: Blindness.

Bell: The divine voice proclaiming truth; music; festivity. It is protective, wards off evil, proclaims good news, warns of danger and tolls for death.

- Church bells: call the faithful and ring the doctrine.

Betrothal: Symbols are clasped hands, a red carnation and a ring. Also see **Fidelity**, **Happiness** and **Luck**.

Birds: Thoughts; spirits of the air as in “. . . a bird of the air shall carry the voice” (Ecclesiastes 10:20); the soul as in “. . . my soul, Flee as a bird” (Psalm 11:1); goodness; joy; a good omen. [Motifs 12, 21 & 130 and Samplers I, III & V]

- Bird carrying a letter: a declaration of love.
- Bird on floral branches: love of nature.
- Bird with crowned heart: love.
- Pair of birds: eternal life.
- Blackbirds: the Christian symbol of temptation.

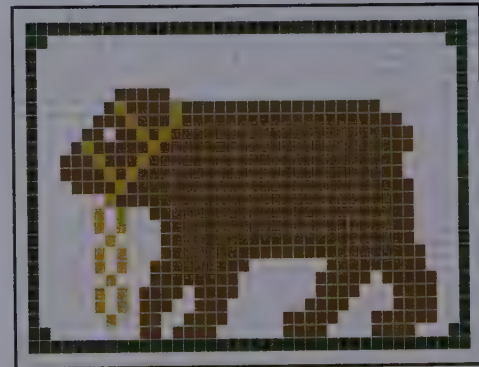
Birdcage: Hope (Dutch). Depicted with and without a bird. [Motif 11]

Birdhouse: With flying or perching birds that may be interpreted as swallows or doves. See **Dovecote**.

Birdseye: A diaper design found in pattern blocks. [Motif 13]
Also see **Eyes of God**.



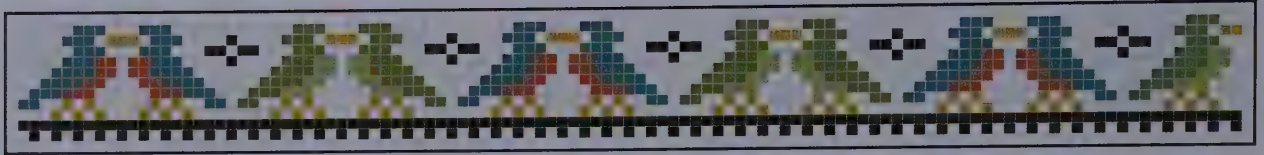
Motif 9: Basket of Fruit



Motif 10: Bear



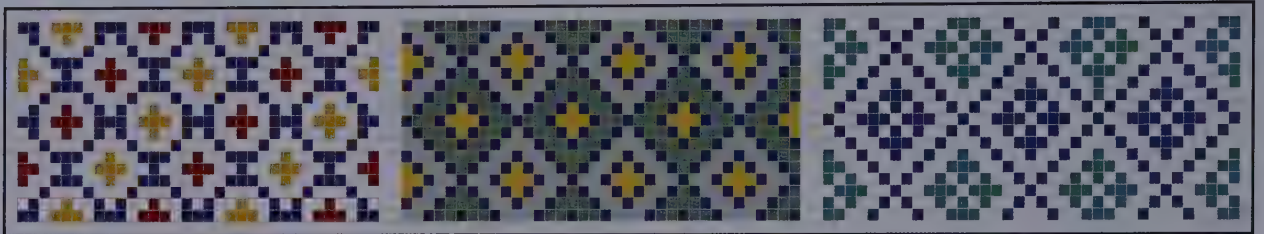
Motif 11: Birdcage



Motif 12: Bird Band

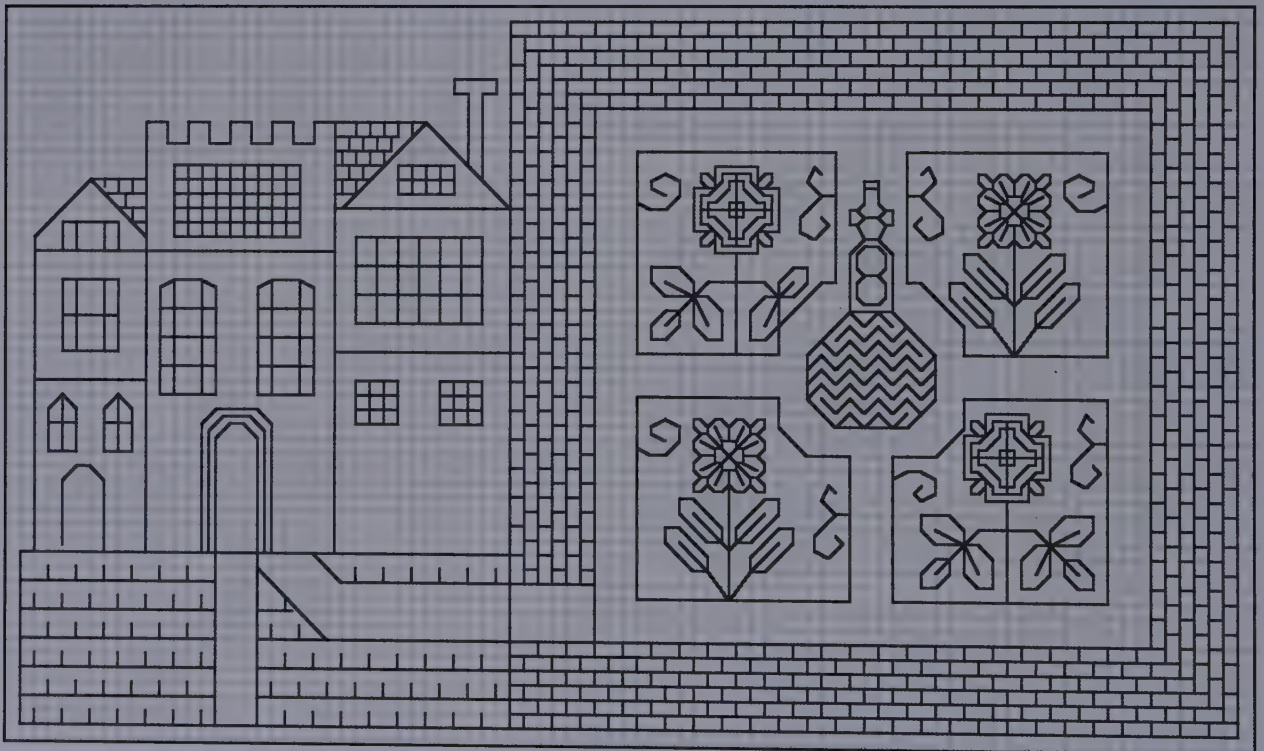
Book: The Bible or the Holy Book; wisdom; science; scholarship; divine revelation.

- Book with a cross: faith.



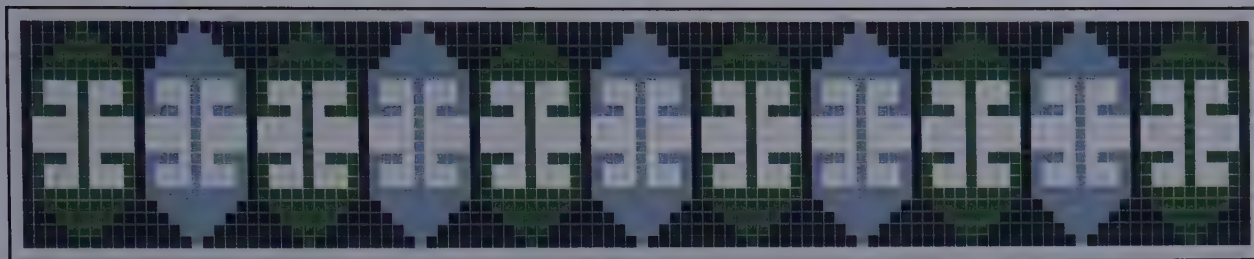
Motif 13: Birdseye Patterns

Boscobel House and Garden: Boscobel House with its garden is located in the Staffordshire Woods and is depicted on some 17th century English band samplers. [Motif 14 and Sampler V] Also see **Boscobel Oak**.



Motif 14: Boscobel House and Garden

Boscobel Oak: When King Charles II (1630-85) fled to Paris after losing the Battle of Worcester in 1651 in the English Civil War between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians, he was aided by the Royalist Penderel brothers of Boscobel House. He first took refuge in their hayloft and then in a great ancient oak tree while Cromwell's men searched the grounds of Boscobel House. At times the tree is depicted with a gold crown.

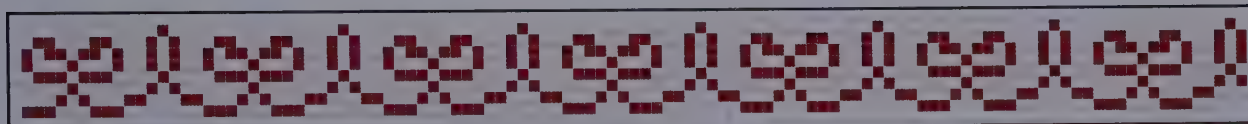


Motif 15: Boston Band

Boston Band: A hexagonal band pattern found on American samplers from Massachusetts, particularly the Boston area. [Motif 15]

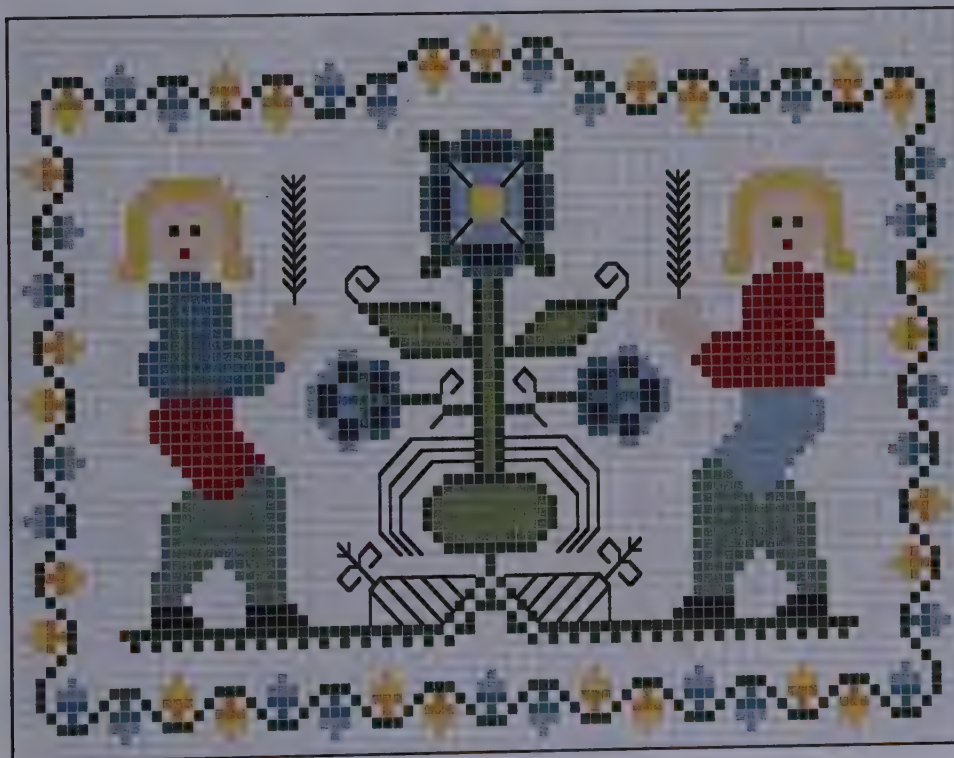
Bowers: A trellis of trees or vines arching over a motif. Common on Dutch and German samplers. [Motifs 44, 68 & 71]

Bows and Ribbons: Romantic love; a secret beau. [Motif 16]



Motif 16: Bows and Ribbon Band

Boxers: Human figures called boxers because of their posture. These were derived from the Italian *Putti* (cherubs or naked little boys doing mischief) who were depicted in Italian sculpture and engravings. They are shown walking in profile with their heads full face. The English dressed them and put flowers and various niceties in their hands. [Motif 17 and Sampler V]



Motif 17: Boxers and the Tree of Life

Braid: Narrow geometric bands with the appearance of braid. [Motif 18 and Sampler V]



Motif 18: Braid Bands

Brazen Serpent: A bronze snake. God commanded Moses to mount a brass serpent on a pole in the wilderness so that Israelites, who may have been bitten by a fiery serpent, might look at it with faith that God would heal them (Numbers 21:8-9). The symbol of the redemptive death of Christ as in “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14). Also see **Caduceus**, **S Symbol** and **Serpent**.

Bride and Bridegroom: [Motif 19] See **Man and Woman**.



Motif 19: Bride and Groom

Buildings: Houses, cottages and mansions; schools and orphanages; churches. Many of these have personal import to the stitcher. Also see **Castle**, **New Jerusalem** and **Solomon’s Temple**.

Bull: Vigor, power; strength; straightforwardness. Also see **Ox**.



Motif 20: Butterflies

Butterfly: Liberation; pleasure; inconstancy; playfulness; transformation and resurrection because of the butterfly's life cycle. [Motifs 20 & 90]



Motif 21: Birds, Harts and the Tree of Life

Cc

Caduceus: In classical mythology, a herald's staff entwined by two serpents. See **Serpent**.

Camel: Sobriety; dignified submission; humbleness because of its willingness to kneel for loading; prudence because it stores water for the future. It represents the continent of Asia and it appears with the biblical figures **Rebekah and Eliezer**. The camel depicted on samplers is the Arabian one-humped dromedary (*Canalus dromedarius*). [Motif 22]

Candelabra: With seven branches: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, devotion and the fear of God).

- With seven or nine branches: the Menorah of Judaism.

Candle or Candlestick: The symbol of Christ as the light of the world; devotion, watchfulness; prayer; hospitality; spiritual illumination of the darkness of ignorance.

Carnation: (*Dianthus*) True love; poverty. Also called pink or gillyflower. [Motifs 23 & 24]

- The pink carnation: maternal love because it grew where Mary's tears fell along the road to Mount Calvary.
- Red carnation: betrothal (Dutch).
- Three carnations: the three nails used in the Crucifixion of Christ.
- Vase of carnations: good luck.

Carriages, Sleighs and Wagons: Non-emblematic. [Sampler III]

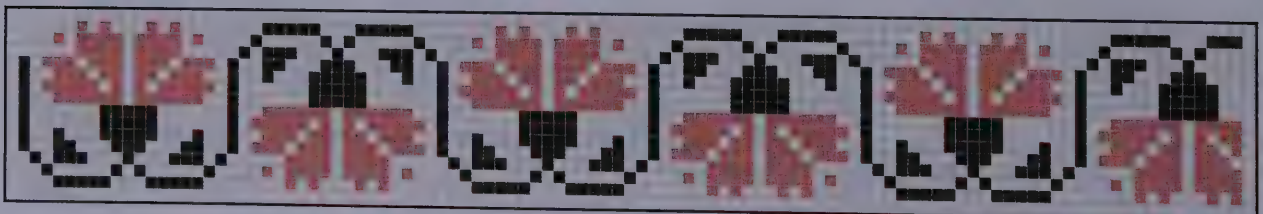
Cartouche: An ornamental wreath-like design surrounding an area usually containing the date, age and the initials of the stitcher. A cartouche held by a pair of angels is common on Dutch and German samplers and often has a crown above it. [Motif 25]



Motif 22: Camel



Motif 23: Carnations



Motif 24: Carnation Band



Motif 25: Three Cartouches

Castle: A shining goal; a fearful challenge.

- Castle with many symmetrical turrets: on English samplers this may be the Nonesuch Palace built by Henry VIII in Surrey, completed in 1557 and destroyed in 1670.
- Castle and a little house: an earthly home (the house) and a heavenly home (the castle). Also see **Solomon's Temple** and **New Jerusalem**.

Cat: Deceit; love of ease; freedom; cleverness; stealth; heresy and witchcraft.

Caterpillar: Metamorphosis. In biblical times it was associated with the locusts and was called the devourer. [Motif 26]

Chain: Servitude. The unicorn, stag and other animals sometimes appear chained.
[Motif 130 and Sampler I]

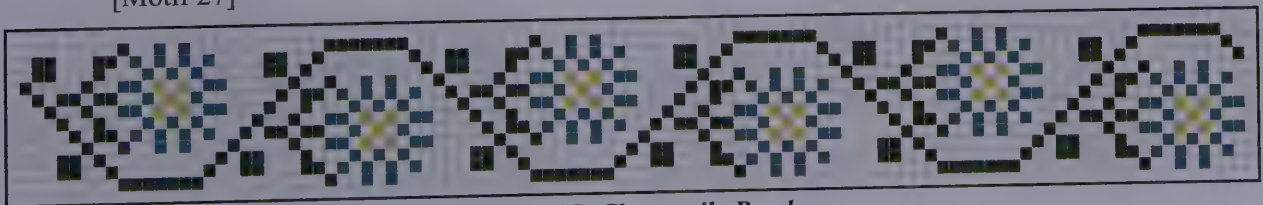
Chair: Hospitality; domesticity; diligence; also see **Household Objects**. [Motifs 64 & 125]

Chalice: The Holy Grail; a ceremonial goblet used to celebrate communion; an unfortunate destiny (because of Christ's words in the garden of Gethsemane "... let this cup pass from me" (Matthew 26:39).

Chamomile: (*Anthemis nobelis*) Health.
[Motif 27]



Motif 26: Caterpillar



Motif 27: Chamomile Band

Charity: The symbols of charity are bread, child, cornucopia, dove, fruit, heart, hen, lamb, lioness with cubs, pelican, phoenix and the color red. Charity is personified by a woman accompanied by two or three children. One of the three theological virtues as in "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (I Corinthians 13:13).

Cherry and Cherry Tree: One of the fruits of heaven; the departed. [Samplers I & III]

- Cherry tree: prosperity, health and happiness.

Chevrons: Shields of the Lord. They are found in bands and pattern blocks. [Motif 28]



Motif 28: Chevron Band



Motif 29: Christ

Cherub: Faith; the powers of Nature ministering to God; the second order of angels. Cherubs were placed east of the Garden of Eden to prevent Adam and Eve from approaching the tree of life (Genesis 3:24). They are described as beings with the intelligence of a man, the strength of an ox and the flight of a bird. Sometimes they are depicted in the form of birds or as heads with wings.

- Cherub, heart and tree: love, hope and faith.
- Cherub and acorn: faith and strength.

Chessboard: See **Sewing Cushion**.

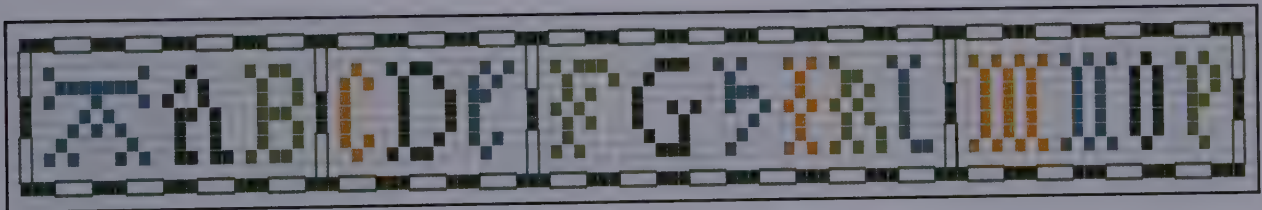
Chicken: A hen: charity.

- A hen and chicks: Christ and his flock. Also see **Cock**.

Christ: Christ is usually depicted with an aureole of lines radiating from his head. [Motif 29]

- **Christ and the Woman at the Well:** Christ talks with a Samaritan woman beside a well (John 4:7-26). [Motif 29c]
- **Christ Feeding the Multitude:** Christ is resting on the ground prior to feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fishes (Matthew 14:15-21).
- **Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane:** Christ is depicted with a radiating halo, kneels in prayer before an altar-like rock, and holds an open book with a chalice in front of him. “. . . let this cup pass from me” (Matthew 26:39). [Motif 29d]
- **Christ, Pentecostal:** Christ is holding a flagstaff and is floating in the air or on a cloud, sometimes the disciples’ heads are depicted below him. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples after his ascension on the seventh Sunday after Easter (Acts 2:1-4). [Motif 29a]
- **Christ Risen:** Christ holding a cross and a flagstaff with Mary Magdalene and an angel below him (Matthew 28:9).

Christcross Row: The alphabet row, also called the crisscross row. Children repeated, “Christ’s cross be my speed, In all virtue to proceed. Here beginneth.” before reciting the alphabet. The cross preceding the alphabet in hornbooks is handed down from Kufic (Early Egyptian) writing, in which each word begins with a character, an *aleph*, meaning here begins. [Motif 30]



Motif 30: Christcross Row

Church: Existence or presence of God on Earth. A church’s foundation signifies faith, the roof denotes love, the door means obedience, the floor stands for humility, and the tower represents preaching and points the way to heaven. [Motif 31]

Ciphers: Initials layered and reversed to make a device that appears to read the same forwards and backwards. [Motif 130]

Circle: Eternity; unity; completeness; perfection. See **Ring**.

- Circle around a square: heaven enclosing earth.
- Circle inside a square: divinity in an earthly body.

City: See **New Jerusalem**.

Clock: Temperance because of its orderly and measured nature; moderation. [Motif 64]

Clover: (*Trifolium*) Good luck, especially with four leaves.

Coat of Arms: The heraldic bearings of a noble family, a city or a country; an escutcheon.

Cock: Vigilance; pride; insolence; Christ as the conqueror of darkness; penitence because of Peter’s remorse over his denial of Christ as in “. . . before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice”

(Matthew 26:34). According to the bestiaries, when the cock crowed at dawn, hope returned to the invalid, trouble turned to benefit, pain was relieved, fever was lessened and faith was restored to the unbeliever. It is often found in pairs on Dutch samplers. [Sampler III]

- The cock perched on the tree of the universe was sacred to Odin in Norse and German myth. See **Yggdrasil**.

Colors: **Black:** Grief; despair; death; Good Friday; associated with disaster.

- **Blue:** Hope; piety; sincerity; faith and fidelity; modesty; chastity; humility.
- **Pale Blue:** Peace; heaven; infinity; the sky.
- **Brown:** Humility; poverty; renunciation.
- **Gold:** The true spirit of God; the sun; fire; glory; divinity.
- **Gray:** Tribulation; penance; humility; renunciation; melancholia.
- **Green:** Faith; gladness; immortality; spring; joy; youth and renewal; resurrection.
- **Pale Green:** Baptism.
- **Purple:** Magnificence of royalty; dignity; justice.
- **Red:** Martyrdom; divine love; charity; life; war; passion of Christ.
- **Speckled:** Diversity
- **Violet:** Penitence; temperance; spirituality; the transition from life to death.
- **White:** Light; purity; truth; hope; innocence; baptism; initiation; virginity.
- **Yellow:** Constancy; faith; wisdom; glory.



Motif 31: Church



Motif 32: Columbine Bands

Columbine: (*Aquilegia*) [Motif 32]

- Blue columbine: the Virgin Mary.
- White columbine: a dove and the Holy Spirit.

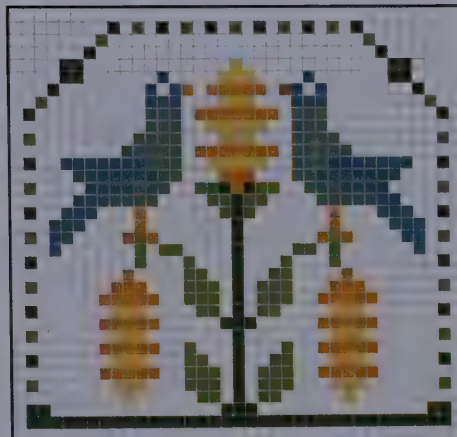
Columns: Used to frame a scene or inscription; found on many American samplers particularly from Rhode Island. Also see **Tablet** and **Pillar**.

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Motif 33: Corncob Thieves

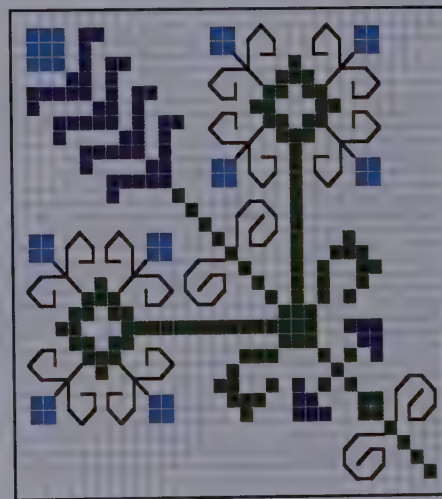
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It is a European plant, not the American marsh marigold.
 Also called cowslip.



Motif 34: Corner

Crab: Deceit and cruelty because of the way it was thought to prey on oysters.

Cradle: A hooded baby's cradle is found frequently on Dutch samplers. [Motif 64]

Crayfish: See **Lobster**. A heraldic symbol (Dutch, German).

Crisscross Row: See **Christcross Row**.

Crocodile: Hypocrisy, dissolution and avarice; an agent of divine retribution. [Motif 36]

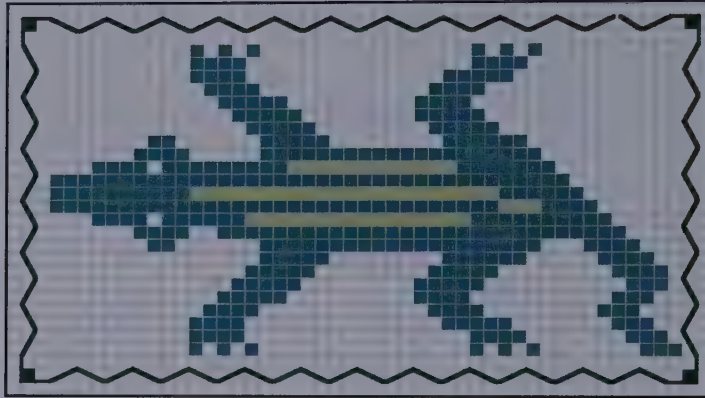


Motif 35: Counterchange Band

Cross: Faith in Christ; the world's axis; the four cardinal points and the four winds. In superstition, a cross wards off bad luck.

- *Crux commisa*: a T-shaped cross, the tau cross or St. Anthony's cross.
- *Crux decussata*: a diagonal cross: St. Andrew's cross or cross saltire.
- *Crux disimulata*: the anchor, axe, swastika or trident used by early Christians as secret emblems of the cross.
- *Crux immissa*: a cross with the lower vertical standard longer than the top one, the Latin cross or the cross of Christ. It stands for Christianity, redemption and Christ's death.

- *Cruz quadrata*: an upright cross with a centered bar, the Greek cross or St. George's cross.
- Calvary cross: a *crux immissa* with three steps at the bottom.
- Crowned cross: a Latin cross with the initials IHS. It is found on the top of the cross in depictions of the crucifixion. See **Initials**.
- Y-shaped cross: a cross with the arms of the bar pointing upwards, the tree of life.



Motif 36: Crocodile

- Crow:** Bad luck; evil; war; death; longevity; solitude; hope because its cry resembles the Latin word *crax* meaning tomorrow. Predicts the future, discloses treachery and foretells of coming rain.
- Crown:** Eternity (German); a badge of authority or dignity; monarchy (British); divine and earthly sovereignty; innocence; fidelity. [Samplers I & II]
- Heraldic crowns and coronets: a crown over initials denotes noble rank (British) or a family member and friends (Scottish). The shape of a coronet shows the rank of nobility, i.e. duke, earl etc. A small letter under a crown or coronet denotes rank, i.e. K for king, E for earl etc.
- Crucifixion:** The Crucifixion of Christ on Mount Golgotha or Calvary is depicted emblematically with the Instruments of Passion, at times in a rectangular frame. It also appears as a realistic depiction of Christ on the cross and with Mary and John or two female figures (Mary and Mary Magdalene) standing on either side (Matthew 27:33-37). [Motif 29b]
- Cuckoo:** A good omen of summer and its abundance.
- Cupboard:** A double door cabinet or armoire with bun feet is found frequently on Dutch samplers. Called a *kas* and well stocked with linens, it was a great source of pride to the Dutch housewife. It may well have stood for prosperity for the Dutch embroideress. [Motif 64]
- Cushion:** See **Sewing Cushion**.

Dd

Daffodil: (*Narcissus*) Regret; the national symbol of Wales; Asphodel, the flower of Hades.
[Motif 67]

Daisy: (*Chrysanthemum*) Humility; fickleness; deceit. [Motif 37]



Motif 37: Daisy Band

Daniel in the Lions' Den: A biblical story of the Old Testament depicted as a man with lions in a rectangular frame. Daniel was a 6th century Hebrew prophet who was thrown into the lions' den. An angel of God saved him by shutting the lions' mouths (Daniel 6:16-22). [Motif 38]

Deer: See **Hart**.

Devil: Symbols of the devil or Satan are locusts, dragons, the serpent and swine.

Dog: Loyalty and protection; the watchdog that chases away the devil; sagacity because he knows his own name; the sense of smell because of its keen nose. The dog accompanies the allegorical figure of the sense of smell. It may appear with the other animal familiars of the four senses, the monkey (taste), the eagle (sight) and the hedgehog (touch). In biblical times, dogs were regarded negatively, while in later centuries they have been ascribed favorable traits because of their love of man. [Sampler III]

- Dog chasing a cat: protection of the Church from heretics with the cat being the heretic.

- Dog chasing a rabbit: good fleeing from evil. [Motif 39 and Sampler II]

- Dog and hunters chasing a hart: the hunt; the soul pursuing evil.

- Dog carrying keys or a ring: loyalty. It may appear alone or in the company of the allegorical figure of loyalty.



Motif 38: Daniel in the Lions' Den



Motif 39: Dog Chasing Rabbit

Dolphin: Salvation; speed; love; diligence; a forewarning of storms. As the sacrificial Christ, it can appear pierced by a trident or with the cross symbol of an anchor.
[Motif 41]

- Dolphin entwined on an anchor: Restraint; prudence as in “make haste slowly”, a 14th century proverb.

Domesticity: Symbols are the chair, sewing cushion, parrot, spinning wheel, turtle, and household objects.

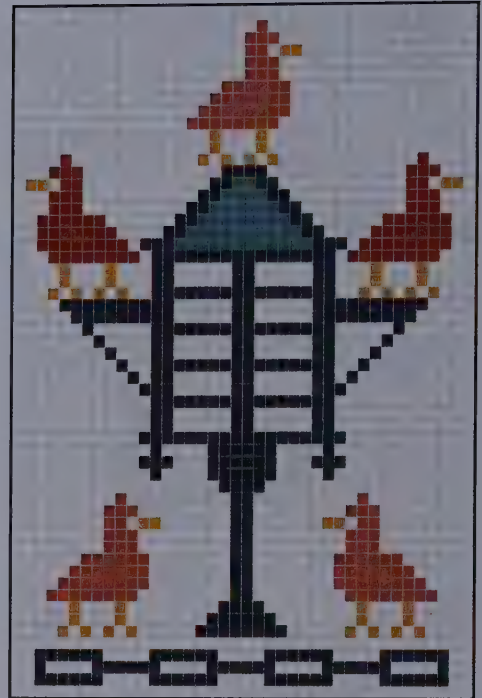
Dove: Peace; charity; mercy and tenderness; innocence; marital fidelity because it was thought to mate for life; humility; simplicity and meekness; the Holy Spirit as in “And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him” (Luke 3:22). Also “. . . the Spirit of God descending like a dove”. (Matthew 3:16).

- Dove with a letter in its beak: a messenger of love.
- Doves on a fountain: eternal life, spiritual life and salvation.
- Two doves facing each other: peace and concord.

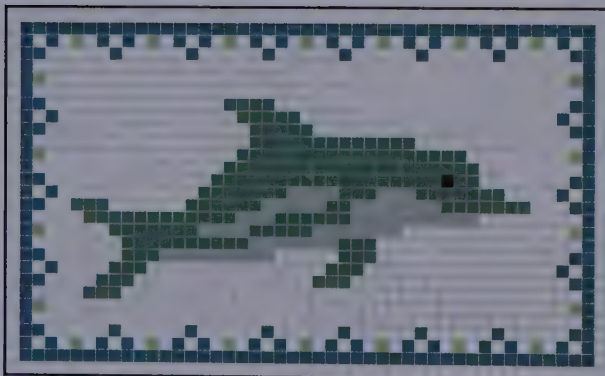
[Sampler V]

Dove flying with an olive branch: a messenger of peace and deliverance because Noah sent a dove out from the ark as in “And the dove came . . . and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf” (Genesis 8:8-12).

[Motifs 31 & 90]



Motif 40: Dovecote



Motif 41: Dolphin



Motif 42: Dragonfly

Dovecote: A compartmented birdhouse with perched or flying doves. [Motif 40]

Dragon: Chaos and evil; sin; paganism; Satan as in “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” (Revelations 12:9).

- Dragon at the tree of life: The emblem of St. Margaret of Antioch. Also see **St. George and the Dragon**.

Dragonfly: Lightness; elegance; speed. [Motif 42]

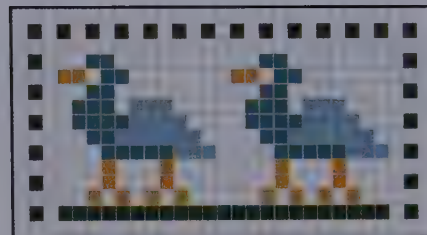
Drop Spindle: A tool by which fibers are spun. The spinner dangles and twirls the spindle, usually while standing. See **Spinning Monkey**.

Duck: Deceit from the French word *canard* meaning hoax.

- Two ducks: marital fidelity and happiness because of the male and female's synchronized swimming.

[Motifs 43 & 90 and Sampler III]

Dutch Free Maiden: The Free Maiden or Liberty is represented as a woman in the **Garden of Holland** holding in her right hand a scepter with a hat on top and an orb in her left hand. The hat has long ribbons in the Netherlands' national colors, which are red, white and blue. Sometimes she is accompanied by a cat signifying independence. [Motif 44]



Motif 43: Pair of Ducks



Motif 44: Dutch Free Maiden

Ee

Eagle: The ascension of Christ; majesty; the king of birds; strength; faith; pride; inspiration; lofty thought; keen eyesight; courage; immortality as in “. . . so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Psalms 103:5). The eagle is the familiar spirit of the allegorical figure of sight. In the Middle Ages, it was believed that when the eagle became old and its eyesight grew dim, it flew toward the sun and burned off its feathers; then bathed three times in a fountain where he was restored.



Motif 45: Double Eagle with Spanish Bands

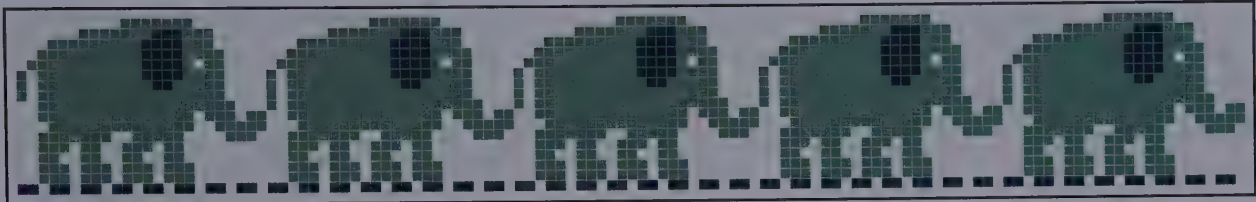
- One eagle with outspread wings: the American emblem and that of the Roman Empire.
- Two-headed or double eagle: symbolizing the eastern and western halves of the Holy Roman Empire until early 15th C; retained as a heraldic device of the Austrian and Spanish nobility.

[Motif 45]

Eclipse: An ill omen. Depicted as a rayed sun with the center filled with black.

Eglantine: (*Rosa eglanteria*) Sweetbriar. Also called eglantine rose. It originated in Europe.

Elephant: Sagacity; ponderousness; temperance because it was thought to eat frugally; the continent of Africa. It sometimes holds a castle, a pavilion or a *howdah* on its back. [Motif 46]



Motif 46: Elephant Band

Elijah in the Wilderness: Depicted as a male figure holding hands with an angel. Despondent Elijah fled into the wilderness, “. . . sat down under a juniper tree: and requested for himself that he might die”. An angel touched him, and said, “arise and eat . . . And he looked, and behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head . . . and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights” (I Kings 19:4-8). [Motif 47]

Epiphany: The feast commemorating of the three kings or Magi. See **Kings**.

Eyes of God: A diaper pattern imitating weaver’s birdseye. Also called holy chequer. [Motif 13] See **Birdseye**.



Motif 47: Elijah in the Wilderness

Ff

Faith: The symbols of theological faith are the anchor, the color blue, book, lighted candle, chalice, child, church, cross, crown, dog, honeysuckle, key, ring, triangle and unicorn. One of the three theological virtues as in “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three” (I Corinthians 13:13). Faith is personified by a woman with a cross, chalice or candle.

Falcon: Pride; nobility.

Fan: Romance; flirtation; the changing moods of women.

Fidelity: Symbols are the anchor, the color blue, chalice, dog, elephant, forget-me-not, goose, kingfisher, key and pine. It is personified by a woman holding a key and a gold seal, sometimes with a dog.

- Marital fidelity: two ducks, a dove, a man holding a bird.

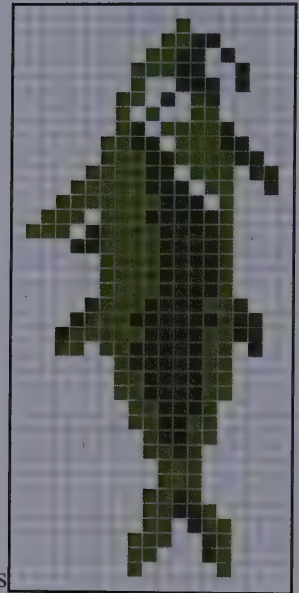
Figures, Human: An allegorical figure, usually female, represents a virtue, an aspect of nature, or an ideal such as harmony, peace or justice.

- Man (often holding a bird): marital fidelity.
- Man and woman, often holding a wreath between them: marriage; a bride and groom. [Motif 19 and Sampler III]
- Man with staff or key: a servant. Depicted next to a house with two dogs chained to the steps or gate (Scottish). See **Moses and Aaron**.
- Mourning figures: usually despondent female figures, veiled and dressed in black sometimes leaning on tombstone under a weeping willow tree. [Sampler IV]
- Woman: the symbol of life; Mother Earth; Mother Nature; sometimes holding a palm branch or flower.
- Woman holding an olive branch: peace
- Blindfolded woman holding scales and a sword: justice.
- Woman with two children: charity

Fish: The symbol of Christ; the newly baptized; and the Eucharist. The fish is usually depicted in an upright position. Early persecuted Christians used the fish as a secret sign to identify one another. In Greek letters, the initials of “Jesus Christ, Son of God” form the acrostic *ichthus* or fish.

[Motifs 48 & 90]

Fishing Ladies: A lady holding a fishing pole appears on a group of pictorial samplers from Massachusetts. With and without the lady, they are referred to as fishing ladies. She may also appear on a sampler.



Motif 48: Fish



Motif 49: Flax Band

Flax: (*Linum*) The plant from which linen is made. [Motif 49 and Sampler II]

Fleur-de-lis: The Trinity; the Lily of France; it is a stylized bearded iris composed of three petals bound together at their bases.

Flowers: Nature; paradise; spring; youth; gentleness; spiritual perfection; innocence; female beauty. [Sampler II, III & V]

- One full flower and one bud: the Holy Mother and Child.

Flower Pot: Glass flowerpot: the purity of the Holy Virgin.

- Earthenware pot: the Virgin's lowly birth.

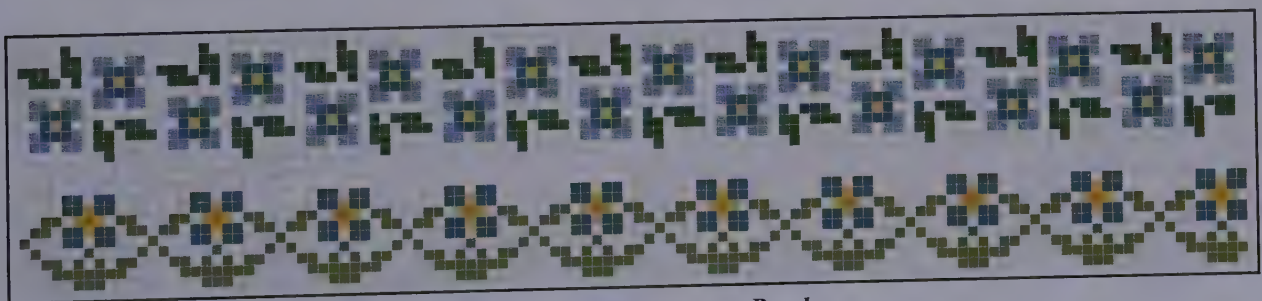
Fly: Evil; pestilence; insignificance.

Foolish Virgins: Imprudence. A row of ten female figures holding lamps sometimes with a man (the tardy groom) in the middle or at one end. The five wise virgins are shown with flame in their lamps, the five foolish ones without a flame. The five foolish virgins didn't bring extra oil for their lamps and when the bridegroom was delayed their lamps went out. Leaving the party to buy more, they missed the bridal feast (Matthew 25:1-12). In ecclesiastic usage a virgin is merely a young unmarried woman. [Motif 50]



Motif 50: The Wise and Foolish Virgins (Add two virgins to each end)

Forget-me-nots: (*Myosotis*) Loyalty and friendship; the wearer of the flower will not be forgotten by his or her loved one. It translates from the mid 16th century French name, *ne m'oubliez mye*. [Motif 51]



Motif 51: Forget-me-not Band

Fountain: The life force; rejuvenation; purification; inspiration; knowledge.

Fox: Wisdom; artfulness and cunning; gluttony; the devil. Christ's message to Herod was "Go ye, and tell that fox, behold, I cast out devils" (Luke 13:32).

Friendship: Symbols are a basket of flowers, forget-me-nots and a garland of roses.

Frog: Harbinger of spring rains and the reawakening of nature; associated with heresy and the devil from “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, . . . and out of the mouth of the false prophet” (Revelations 16:13).

Fruit: Abundance; prosperity; earthly pleasures.

Furniture: See **Household Objects**.



Motif 52: Walled Garden with Owls and Hoopoes

Gg

Garden: An enclosed garden is a symbol of the Virgin Mary. [Motif 52] In samplers, a garden is often a design of four flowerbeds depicted as if seen from above. [Sampler V] Also see **Boscobel House**.

- Garden of Gethsemane: See **Christ**.
- Garden of Holland: the House of Orange; the Dutch royal house. It is depicted by a circular gated fence referring to the siege of Hagestein, a place surrounded with a dense hedge. The garden usually contains a **Lion** rampant [Motif 78] or the **Dutch Free Maiden**. [Motif 44].
- Knot garden: a garden laid out in small beds in an intricate design.

Garland: Victory; joy of nature and the fruitful earth; eternity; innocence.

- Garland held by a man and a woman: marriage. [Motif 19]
- Garland of roses: high merit; true friendship; love.

Gate: A symbol of passage onto the road to heaven as in “Enter ye in at the strait gate” (Matthew 7:13-14). [Sampler I]

Gnarly Oak Tree: See **Oak Tree**. [Motif 91]

Goat: Lasciviousness; lust and folly; Satan; the soul of the wicked or damned as in “. . . as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the goats” (Matthew 25:32,46). [Motif 56]

Goldfinch: The Christian soul. When shown with the Virgin and Child, it is the foreshadowing of Christ’s Crucifixion. The European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) has a red patch on its head that legend tells us it got when it swooped down and pulled a thorn from Christ’s head on the way to Calvary.



Motif 53: Goose Band

Goose: Watchfulness; conceit; stupidity; folly; gullibility; vociferousness; love; marital happiness. [Motif 53]

Grapes, grape leaves and vines: Grapes are the symbol of the blood of Christ and the wine of the Eucharist as in “I am the true vine” (John 15:1). [Motifs 54 & 57] Also see **Joshua and Caleb**.



Motif 54: Grape Band

Grasshopper: Old age. Also see **Locust**.

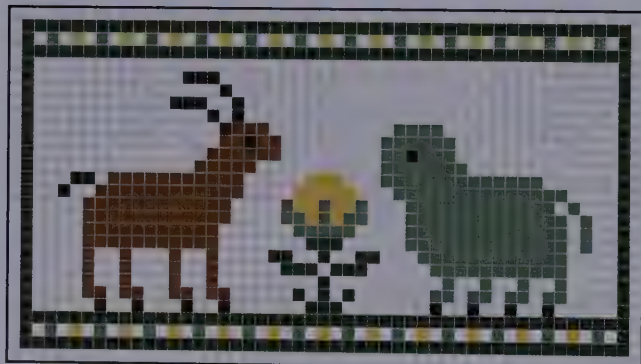
Greek Key: A band pattern of right-angled spirals or scrolls. [Sampler I]

Grief: Symbols of grief are the anemone, the color black, a tomb, an urn and the weeping willow tree.

Griffin: Vigilance; associated with the sun; a guardian of treasures; sacred to Apollo. It is a monster with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. [Motif 55]



Motif 55: Griffin



Motif 56: Goat and Sheep



Motif 57: Grape Vine

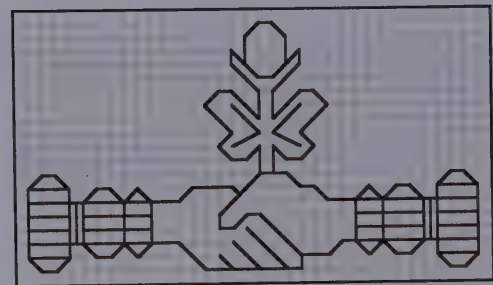
Th

Hagar and Ishmael: A biblical story depicted by a female figure holding a large jug and an infant usually placed under a bush. The barren Sarah, aged 76, has given her maid Hagar to her husband Abraham to bear him a son, Ishmael. When Sarah becomes the mother of a son, Isaac, she causes Abraham to cast Ishmael and Hagar out. “And Abraham . . . took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away” (Genesis 21:9,14,15). Also see the Visitation of **Abraham and Sarah**.

Halo: Divinity; sanctity; holiness. It is depicted as a ring over the head, a bright circular area behind the head or by lines radiating from the head.

Hand: The protective hand of God (Judaism).

- Clasped hands: unity and fidelity; betrothal or marriage (German), especially when the hands are holding flowers. *Handfast* is a former term for a betrothal or marriage contract confirmed by a handshake. [Motif 58]



Motif 58: Hand Clasp

Happiness: Symbols are a basket of fruit, cherries, butterflies, the color green and holly.

Hare: Gentleness; faintheartedness; timidity; melancholy; associated with the moon. In superstition eating its meat would make one melancholy. Traditionally it is supposed to sleep with its eyes open and to be associated with witchcraft. In Germany, it is a symbol of Easter. Also see **Rabbit**.

Harlequin: An odd figure appears on an English sampler by Elizabeth Weston dated 1803. It may represent a harlequin or a black servant dressed in footman's livery.

Harlot of the Apocalypse: A mermaid from “. . . the great whore that sitteth upon many waters” (Revelations 17:1). Also see **Mermaid**.

Harp: Purity; music; poetry; harmony.

Hart: Wisdom of God; gentleness; pride and manliness; solitude and purity; Christ as the love of God on Earth; an image of

Christ; the adversary of Satan. The medieval bestiaries gave it the power to suck snakes from their holes. The hart is depicted being hunted, at rest, running and sometimes chained to the tree of life. [Motifs 21 & 59 and Sampler I] The hart is a male European red deer over five years old, which has large antlers. The female is called a hind and lacks antlers. In North America, this species is called the elk.



Motif 59: Hart Resting

- Hart drinking at a stream: a soul longing for baptism from “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my heart after thee, O God” (Psalm 42:1).
- Hart with widespread antlers: the hunt.
- Hart with a cross in its antlers: the emblem of St. Hubert, the patron saint of hunters.

Hawk: Superiority; liberty; rapacity.

Health: Symbols of health are a basket of fruit, caduceus, chamomile, cherry tree, cornucopia, the S symbol and the serpent.

Heart: Love; divine love; compassion; joy; sorrow. [Samplers I & V]

- Crowned heart: fidelity; love.
- Heart with cross and anchor: faith, hope and love.
- Hearts and crosses: faith and hope. [Sampler I]
- Heart, tree and cherub: love, hope and faith.
- Heart with key: the key to one’s heart.
- Heart pierced by arrow: love conquers all. See **Wounded Heart**.
- Winged heart: prayer; it is also called an angel cross.
- Sacred Heart of Catholicism: a pierced heart surrounded by flames or rays of light and surmounted by a crown of thorns, and sometimes a flaming cross.

Heartsease: (*Viola tricolor*) The wild pansy, the origin of most of today’s hybrid pansies. In the 16th century the word was applied to both the pansy and the wallflower. See **Pansy and Violet**.

Hedgehog: Prudence; pugnacity; gluttony; the devil harvesting unwary souls.

It accompanies the allegorical figure of the sense of touch and may appear with the other animal familiars of the four senses, the monkey (taste), the eagle (sight) and the dog (smell). In the bestiaries, it was said to collect food for its young by impaling fruit on its spines. It is a nocturnal insectivorous Old World mammal (*Erinaceus europaeus*) with a spiny coat and short legs. It rolls into a ball when threatened. [Motif 60]

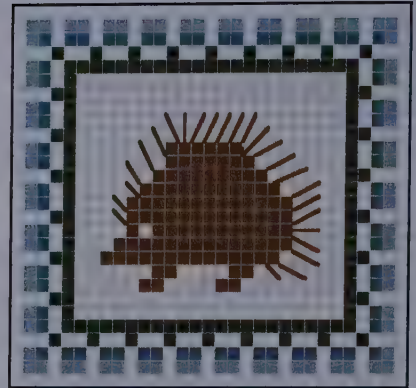
Heron: Inquisitiveness; a good omen; conquering the vicissitudes of life. [Motif 61]

Hills: See **Mountains**.

Holly: Hope and joy; winter; the Christmas holidays; the Resurrection.

Holy Family: A male and a female figure with a young boy.

Honeysuckle: (*Lonicera*) Enduring faith; generous and devoted affection; in superstition it wards off the evil eye. Also called woodbine. [Motif 62 and Sampler V]



Motif 60: Hedgehog



Motif 61: Heron



Motif 62: Arcaded Honeysuckle Band

Hoopoe: Filial devotion. In medieval times, it was believed that when hoopoes grew old and their eyesight dim, the young preened their parents' feathers and licked their eyes. They warmed and nourished them as they were nourished as chicks. It is an orange-brown European bird (*Upupa epops*) with black and white wings and tail. It has a fanlike black-tipped orange crest. It is seen on early English and German samplers. [Motifs 52 & 63]

Hope: The symbols of hope are the anchor, bees, birdcage, the color blue, bread and wine, crow, crown, fish, holly, lion, phoenix, rainbow, scallop shell and ship. One of the three theological virtues as in "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three" (I Corinthians 13:13). Hope personified is a woman with an anchor, a ship on her head and carrying a basket of fruit.

Horn of Plenty: See **Cornucopia**.

Horse: Masculinity; vitality; pride; speed and grace; ardor; the continent of Europe. [Sampler III]

- White horse: victory.
- Black horse: famine and death.
- Horse and rider: the human and divine sides of Christ.
- Horse-powered butter churn: industry.

Horseshoe: Good fortune; an ancient talisman against evil eye. A horseshoe hanging over a door prevents witches from entering. It must be hung with the open end pointing upward.

Hospitality: Symbols of hospitality are a candle, chair, pineapple and a table set for tea. [Motif 125]

Hour Glass: Temperance; mortality.

House: A generic house or one that may be the stitcher's own home. [Sampler I]

Household Objects: Domesticity and hospitality. This includes everything from furniture to teapots. [Motifs 64 & 125] See **Chair, Clock, Pot hanger, Spinning Wheel and Table**.



Motif 63: Hoopoe



Motif 64: Household Objects and Furniture

Humility: Symbols are the color brown, the camel, daisy, donkey, dove, the color gray, lamb, ox and the violet flower.

Hunt or Chase: Dogs and huntsmen chasing a stag denote the soul pursued by the devil.

Ii

Immortality: Symbols of immortality are the peacock and the phoenix.

Inhabited Scroll: An undulating or angular scroll-like band or border with a floral or geometric motif in each arc, usually alternately inverted. [Motifs 23 & 32 and Sampler II]

Initials: Initials may be those of the stitcher, her teacher, family or friends.

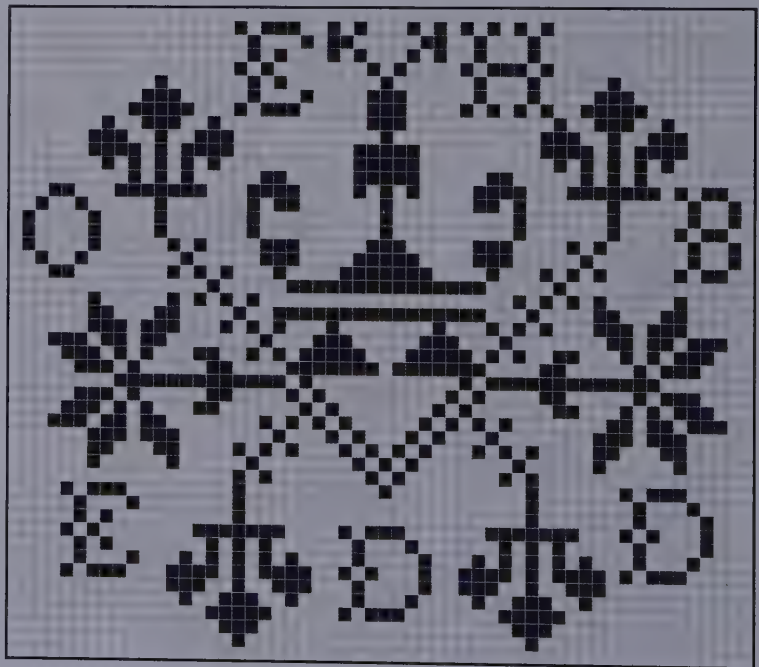
- Initials accompanying motifs: identification (German). For example, A and E for Adam and Eve; J and C for Joshua and Caleb, etc. and L for *liebe* (love), F for *friede* (peace).
- Initials stitched in black: a deceased person.
- AMR: Latin, *Ave Maria Regina* (Hail, Queen Mary) from the angel's words to Mary (Luke 1:28).
- INRI: Latin, *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews).
- IHS: the shortened form of IHCOYO, Greek (Jesus Christ, Son of God). See **Fish**. Also an abbreviation of the Latin phrases *Iesus Hominum Salvato* (Jesus, Savior of Mankind), *In Hoc Signo (vinces)* in this sign (thou shalt conquer) and *In Hoc Salus* (in this is salvation).
- OEHBDDDE; On Pennsylvania samplers, the initials for "O Edel Herz Bedenk Dein End" (O noble heart, consider your end). [Motif 65]

Innocence: Symbols are the crown, flowers, a garland, lamb, lily, strawberry and the violet.

Inscription: The part of the sampler with personalization by the stitcher indicating name, age, date and occasionally locality.

Insects: Familiar creatures of the garden mostly without symbolism. See the **Bee**, **Butterfly**, and **Grasshopper**.

Instruments of Passion: The crown of thorns, chalice, dice, hammer, scourge, whipping-post, a garment, lantern, pincers, ladder, sponge, ewer and basin, a dove and three nails. Also an hourglass, a hill and a cock on a pedestal. They appear along with the representational Crucifixion of Christ (Southern Europe). [Motif 29b] See **Crucifixion**.



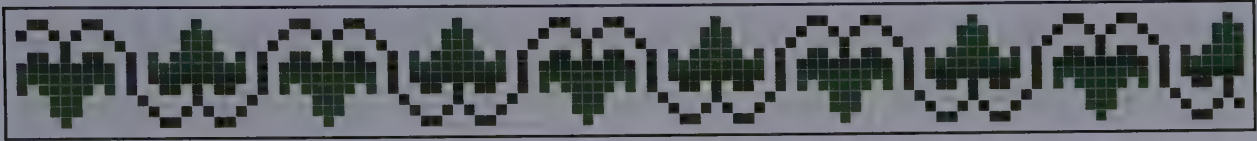
Motif 65: Initials OEHBDDDE

Iris: (*Iris*) Purity; protection; the rainbow. [Motif 67]

In heraldry, the **Fleur-de-lis** is an iris.

- Blue iris: Mary, the Queen of heaven.
- White iris: the purity of the Virgin Mary.

Ivy: (*Hedera helix*) Immortality; tenacity; fidelity; eternal life because it is evergreen. [Motif 66]



Motif 66: Ivy Band



Motif 67: Iris and Daffodils

Ji

Jacob and the Ladder: A biblical story from the Old Testament depicted by a reclining figure and a ladder with angels on it. In a dream, Jacob sees a ladder ascending to heaven. “And he dreamed and beheld a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it” (Genesis 28:12).

Jacob Wrestling the Angel: An Old Testament story depicted by two figures that look like they are embracing. Jacob wrestles all night with an angel who defeats him with a touch. “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking day” (Genesis 32:24-30). [Motif 68]

Jonah and the Whale: A Jonah is a bringer of bad luck. A biblical story depicted by a man with a whale or a man being thrown from a boat to a waiting whale. Jonah, a Hebrew minor prophet, disobeyed God and attempted to escape from him by sea. During a great storm, his shipmates threw him overboard in an effort to calm the sea. He was swallowed by a whale and after three days and three nights he was cast out of the whale (Jonah 1:15-17). [Motif 69]

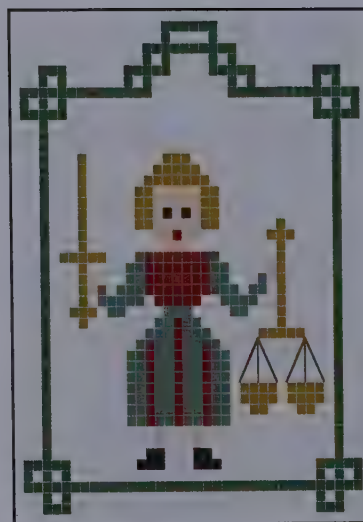


Motif 68: Jacob Wrestling the Angel



Motif 69: Jonah and the Whale

Joshua and Caleb: The spies of Canaan. This Old Testament story is depicted by two men bearing grapes on a pole between them. In 13th century BC, while the Israelites were camped in the desert, Moses sent twelve spies into Canaan to inspect the Promised Land and to bring back some fruit of the land. After 40 days they returned carrying the fruit. “And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff” (Numbers 13:23). The Hebron region of Palestine was famous for large grape clusters weighing 12 to 20 pounds that were carried on a pole to keep them from bruising. [Motif 71] A 10th century writer, Wilafriid Strabo, claimed that these figures represented the Jews and the gentiles; the Jewish one sometimes wears a conical hat. He also stated that the grapes represented Christ on the cross.



Motif 70: Justice

Judith and Holofernes: A biblical story depicting Judith and her maid with the head of Holofernes. Found on 17th century English whitework. Judith, a rich Israelite, saved her country by beguiling the besieging Assyrian general, Holofernes, and beheading him as he slept in his tent (Apocrypha, Judith 2-7, 10-15).

Justice: Symbols of justice are the number four, the lion, the scepter and the thunderbolt. It is personified by a blindfolded woman with scales and a sword. [Motif 70] See **Scales**.



Motif 71: Joshua and Caleb, the Spies of Canaan

Kk

Key: Fidelity; authority; entry; knowledge; initiation; the emblem of St. Peter as keeper of the keys to heaven. [Motif 64]

- Man with a key beside a house: a servant (Scottish).

Kingfisher: Fidelity; peace; a righteous man; the opposite of the parrot; immortality and holiness because it was believed that its flesh would not decay. The European kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is blue and green with russet underparts. [Motif 73]

Kings, Three: Adoration of the Magi, Epiphany or Twelfth Night. On early samplers there are usually two kings with the star on a pole. After the Middle Ages, it became three kings, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh. The number of kings is not given in the Bible. “. . . behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem” (Matthew 2:1). [Motif 72]

Knot: Loose interwoven knot bands and patterns: infinity and longevity.

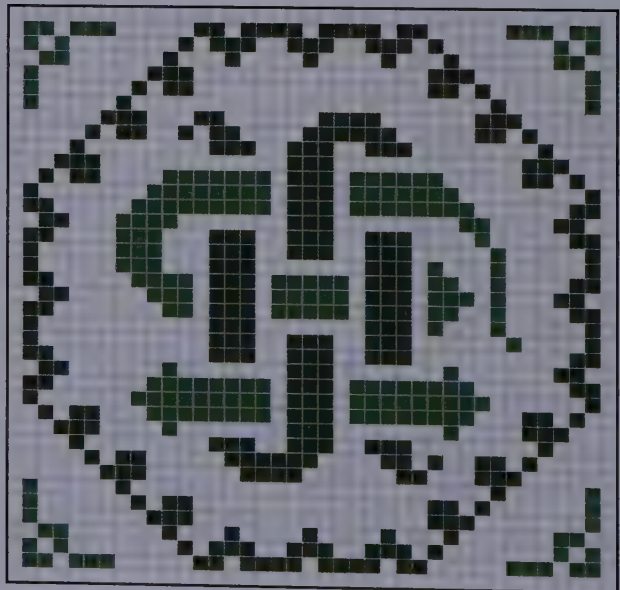
- Tight knots: unity. [Motif 74 and Sampler V]



Motif 72: The Kings or Magi



Motif 73: Kingfisher



Motif 74: Knot

LI

Ladder: Found alone and with the **Instruments of Passion** and **Jacob**.

Lamb: Youth and innocence; a child; redemption; gentleness; humility; charity; sacrifice; purity because in the Old Testament lambs that were sacrificed had to be unblemished.

- Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*): Christ as in “. . . Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). It carries a cross with a banner bearing the St. George’s cross. Often there is a chalice in front of him into which he is bleeding. [Motif 75]

- Lamb with upright cross on his back is an earlier version of the Lamb of God.

- Paschal lamb: the lamb that was sacrificed at Passover or Easter as an allusion to Christ’s sacrifice.

Lamp: Spirit; truth; intelligence; a symbol for light.

Leopard: Sin; the devil; ferocity; courage; pride; speed; Christ gathering good; Christ on earth. It was believed to be the friend of all animals except the dragon. The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is a large spotted cat of Southern Asia and Africa. It is also sometimes referred to as a panther. In the Americas, panther refers to the unspotted cougar or puma (*Puma concolor*) or less often to the jaguar (*Panthera onca*). [Motif 76]

Liberty: Symbols of liberty are the bell, cat, eagle, falcon, fish and wings. Personified, it is a woman holding a torch and a book.

Lily: (*Lilium*) The white Madonna lily. The flower of heaven; the Redeemer; saints; deliverance; chastity, purity and innocence; the flower of the Virgin Mary. In legend, the lily sprang up where Eve shed tears upon leaving Eden. In contrast, it also indicates death and is a portent of death. [Motifs 79, 81 & 124]



Motif 75: Lamb of God



Motif 76: Leopard



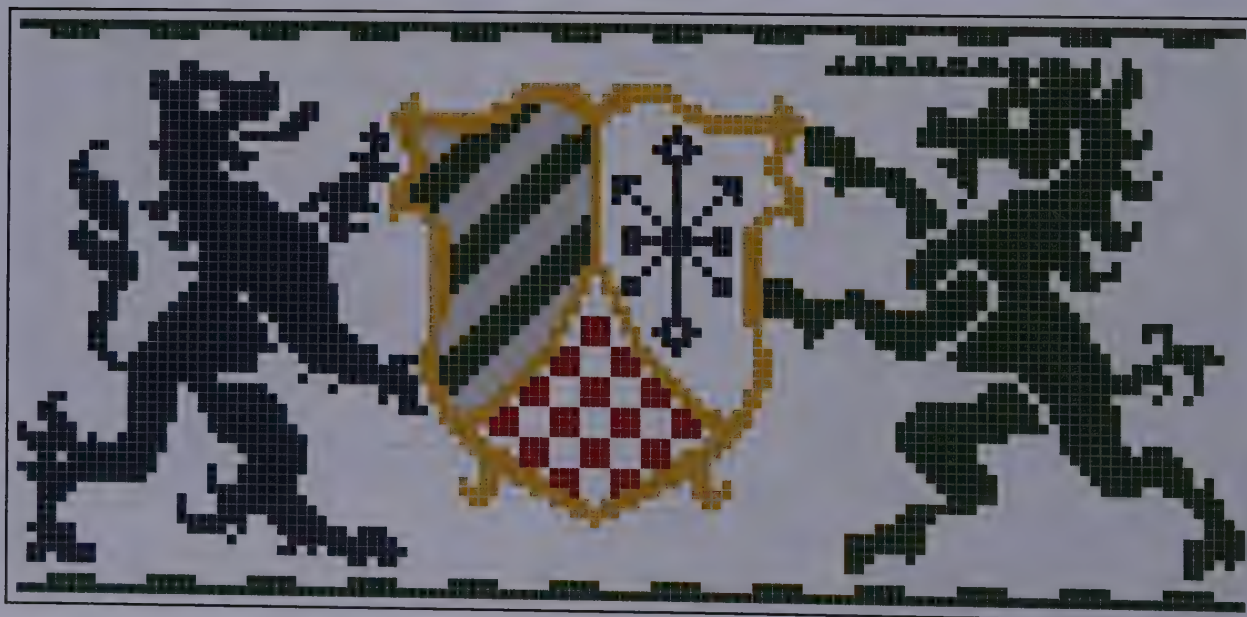
Motif 77: Lily-of-the-valley Band

Lily-of-the-valley: (*Convallaria majalis*) [Motif 77]

Lion: Strength; majesty; noble courage; royal authority; wisdom; protection; the king of beasts; steadfastness; hope; Christ as the victor (see **Aspects of Christ**).

In the Middle Ages, the lion represented the three natures of Christ: 1) as the lion was believed to cover his tracks with his tail, Christ hid his divinity from unbelievers; 2) as the lion was thought to sleep with his eyes open, so Christ kept watch over sinners as in “I sleep, but my heart waketh”; 3) the lion’s cubs were believed to be born dead and after three days were brought to life by their father’s breath, so God awakens the first born of all creatures from “Judah is a lion’s whelp . . . who shall rouse him up?” (Genesis 49:9) It also represents cruelty, devouring ferocity and death; in Dutch samplers, the devil as in “. . . a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter, 5:8).

- Lioness and cubs: charity (Dutch).
- Lion rampant: Dutch nationality and independence from Spanish domination in 1648. It usually is depicted inside a gated hedge or fence, holding a sword and a bundle of arrows. In heraldry it is found on the Scottish and English coats of arms. In heraldry the term rampant describes an animal standing on one hind leg with its forefeet in the air. It is depicted in profile with its tail raised. [Motif 78]



Motif 78: The Lion and the Unicorn

Lizard: Resurrection because it sheds its skin and becomes like new again. Also see **Salamander**.

Lobster: In heraldry as well as on samplers, the lobster is depicted standing erect. In the 17th century it was used as a contemptuous term for a soldier of the Roundheads and later any red-coated British soldier. The lobster is a saltwater crustacean and the similar crayfish is found in fresh water.

[Motif 80]

Longevity: Symbols are trees, their fruit (apple, pine and oak) and the color green. Also a basket of flowers, deer, dove, elephant, hare, knot, marigold, phoenix, stork, toad, tortoise and turtle.

Lotus: (*Nelumbium*) The oriental symbol of fertility. A sacred flower to the people of India, China and Egypt. In classical mythology, it is a legendary plant that brings forgetfulness and an unwillingness to depart.

Love: Symbols of love are an apple, a basket of flowers or fruit, birds, bows and ribbons, the carnation, a heart, a shell, the swan, the rose and the tulip.

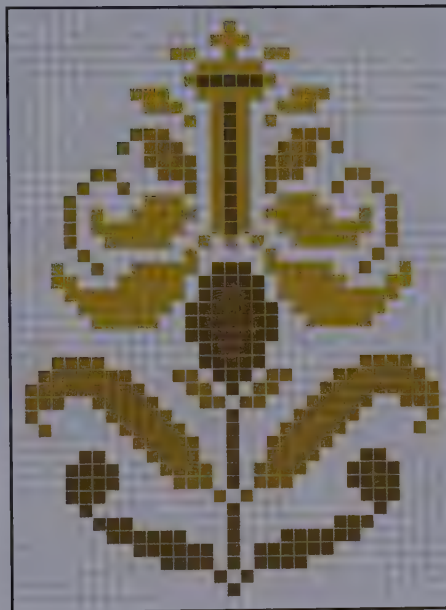
Love-in-idleness: The wild pansy. See **Pansy**.

Loyalty: See **Fidelity**.

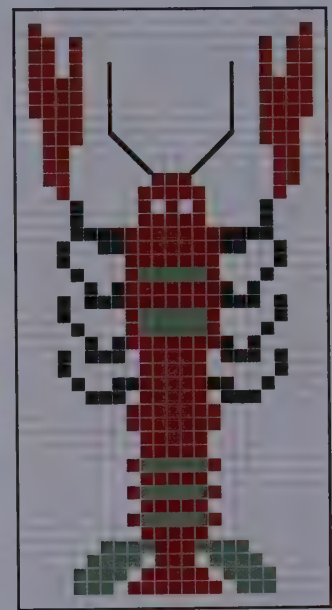
Luck: Symbols of good luck are the clover, a ship, a horseshoe, the stork and a vase of carnations. The heron and the cuckoo are good omens.

Lute: Music; hearing; harmony.

Lyre: Divine harmony; the music of the spheres.



Motif 79: Lily



Motif 80: Lobster



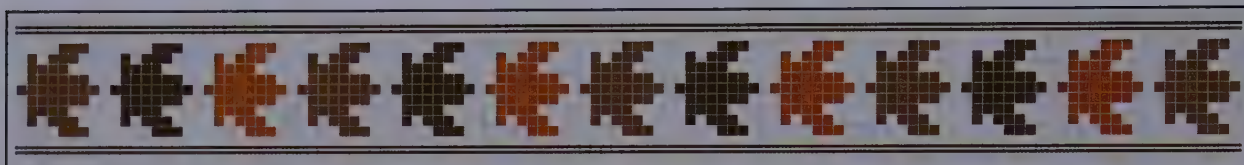
Motif 81: Lily Band

Am

Magi: Magi are the religious caste to which the three kings or wise men belonged. See **Kings**.

Man: See **Figures**.

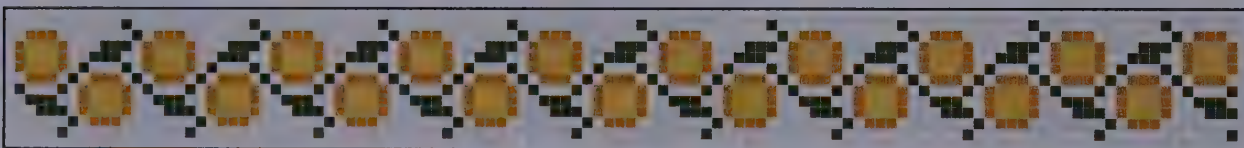
Maple Leaf: The symbol of Canada. Found on American samplers, extensively in the Boston area.
[Motif 82]



Motif 82: Maple Leaf Band

Marguerite: See **Daisy**

Marigold: (*Calendula officinalis*) Rays of light; obedience; purity and perfection of the Virgin Mary. A native of the Americas, it was brought to Europe by the Spanish in the 16th century. [Motif 83]



Motif 83: Marigold Band

Marriage: The symbols of marriage are clasped hands, a dove, a pair of ducks, a ship, geese, a man and a woman holding a wreath (bride and groom) and a man holding a bird.

Mermaid: Vanity; temptation; a mythical half-human creature of the sea. It is usually depicted as a woman with a fish's tail holding a comb and mirror, sometimes with a parrot and tulip. It was very popular with the German and Dutch sampler makers. It was the symbol of caution and a warning to beware of seduction by earthly things and the pleasures of life. [Motif 84] Also see the **Harlot of the Apocalypse**.

Milk: The elixir of life; rebirth; immortality; compassion; abundance; fertility.

- Milkmaid: a female figure with buckets hanging from a yoke on her shoulders. [Motif 85]

Mirror: Pride; vanity; magic; the soul. [Motif 64]

Modesty: Symbols of modesty are the color blue and the violet flower.

Monkey or Ape: The devil (Dutch); folly; laziness; lust; cunning; uncleanness; idolatry; malice. In the Middle Ages, the tailless monkey or ape represented the devil because he had a beginning and no end (no tail) and because he was ugly in that area (no good end).



Motif 84: Mermaid

- Monkey with a piece of fruit: the familiar spirit of the allegorical figure of the sense of taste.
- Spinning monkey: the prediction of people's destiny by spinning their thread of life (Dutch). Depicted seated on a chair with a drop spindle and the distaff that holds the fibers to be spun. [Motif 86]



Motif 85: Milkmaid and Shepherd

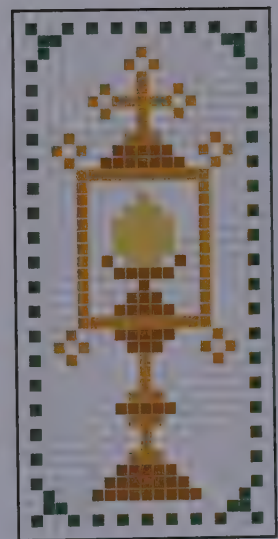
Monstrance: In Roman Catholicism, an open or transparent receptacle in which the Host is contained. (Motif 87)

Moon: The crescent moon is ascribed to the Mother of God and is depicted with a female face. It governs the calendar, religious holidays and until recent times agriculture and daily life. In classical mythology, the moon is personified by a goddess (*Luna*) but in the Teutonic, Arabian and Hindu languages it is masculine. [Motif 89]

Moses and Aaron: On 18th century English samplers, Moses wearing a crown and his brother Aaron with a staff appear on either side of tablets containing the Ten Commandments.



Motif 86: Spinning Monkey



Motif 87: Monstrance

Moth: Pleasure; frivolity because the moth flutters around a light; associated with the consumption of wealth because it consumes cloth.

Motherhood: Symbols are a basket, the beehive, pink carnations and the cow.

Mountains: Holy places; the Holy Mount; Calvary; spiritual peaks; the meeting place of heaven and earth; transcendence; eternity; ascent; challenge.

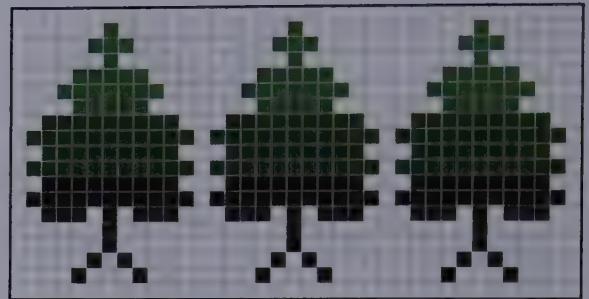
- Mount of Olives: The location of the Garden of Gethsemane.

An

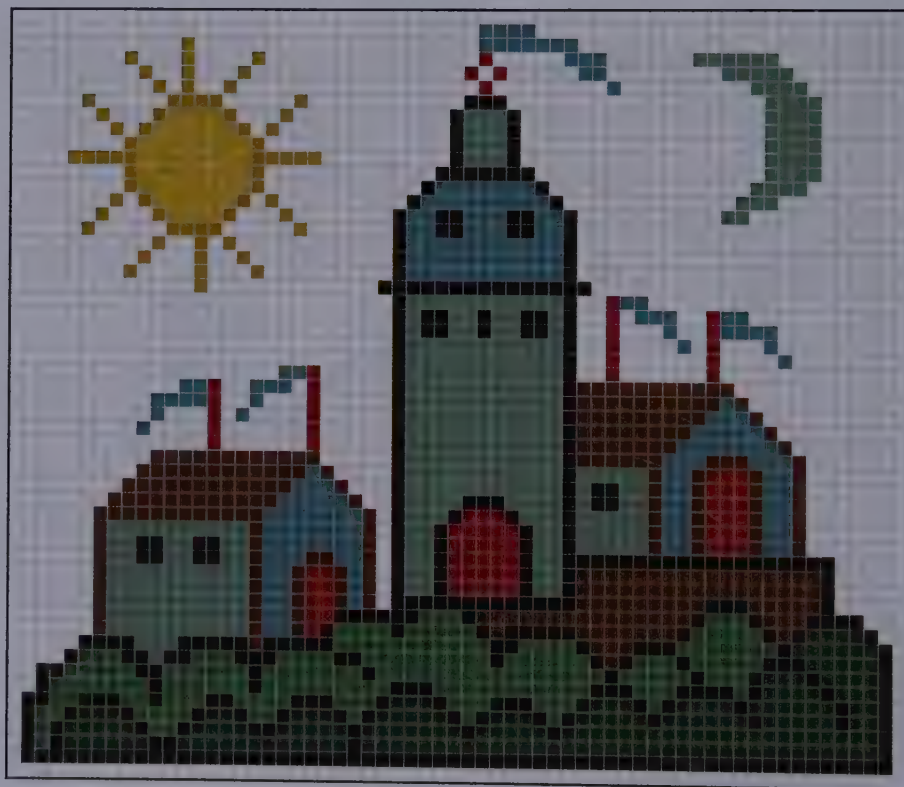
Nantucket Trees: A distinctive tree motif found on American samplers from the island of Nantucket. [Motif 88]

Nest: See **Pelican**.

New Jerusalem: The heavenly city; the abode of those in heaven as in “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven” (Revelations 21:2). On Dutch samplers, this is illustrated by a little city on a hill with several houses and a towered building. [Motif 89]



Motif 88: Nantucket Trees



Motif 89: New Jerusalem

Noah's Ark: A biblical story from the Old Testament depicted by a barn-like ark with animals on the roof and beside it. God commanded Noah to build an ark and save his family and two of every animal from the coming flood. “And of every living thing . . . two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark.” (Genesis 6:14-22). [Motif 90]

Numbers: One: Unity; an undivided deity.

- **Two:** Duality; diversity; strife; evil.
- **Three:** The Holy Trinity; perfect harmony, the union of unity and diversity.
- **Four:** Power; solidity; justice; the earth; a square; perfection; the continents (America; Asia; Europe; and Africa); Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John); points of the compass; the seasons.
- **Five:** Christianity (when depicted, for example, as five carnations); the five wounds of Christ; the Pentateuch; the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy); the senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch). The pentangle, a five-pointed figure inside a circle, was the seal of King Solomon.
- **Six:** Justice; union and equilibrium expressed by the hexagon made up of two triangles; workdays of the week; ages of man; epochs in history; vestments worn by priests at Mass (amice, alb, girdle, maniple, stole and chasuble).
- **Seven:** A sacred, mystical or magic number. The number of completion or perfection; gifts of the Holy Ghost (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord); arts and sciences (grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy). Also the seven sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony), the seven last words of Christ and the seven spiritual works of mercy (conversion of the sinner, instruction of the ignorant, counseling of the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, patient endurance of wrong, forgiveness of injuries and prayer for the living and dead). The seven deadly sins (anger, avarice, envy, gluttony, lust, pride and sloth).
- **Eight:** The number of perfection; the number of regeneration; the octagon.
- **Nine:** A mystical number made up of three trinities; the punishments in hell; choirs of angels; ages of man.
- **Ten:** Symbol of Christian perfection.
- **Eleven:** Sin; danger; conflict; the faithful apostles.
- **Twelve:** The union of spiritual and earthly planes as a product of three times four.



Motif 90: Noah's Ark



Oak Tree: Might; nobility; endurance; longevity. The oak represented Charles II after 1660. With crowns it is an English Royalist symbol. See **Boscobel Oak**.

- Oak leaves: bravery.
- Gnarly oak tree: common on German samplers and American samplers of German origin. It may also appear without acorns or with fruit. [Motif 91]

Octagon: Nature; rebirth; baptism; a mediator between a circle (heaven and eternity) and a square (earthly existence). Frequent on Pennsylvania German, Mennonite and Quaker samplers. [Motif 92 and Sampler III] See **Numbers (Eight)**.

Olive, Olive Branch or Tree: Peace; goodwill; prosperity; divine blessing; strength; beauty as in “. . . and his beauty shall be as the olive tree” (Hosea 14:6).

- Woman holding an olive branch: the personification of peace.
- Dove with olive branch: a token of peace. [Motif 90]

Orange Tree: Virginity because it bears fruit and flowers at the same time. It represents the Virgin as both virgin and mother.

- An orange in the Christ child’s hand: redemption.

Oud Jaar: Dutch words meaning years of age.

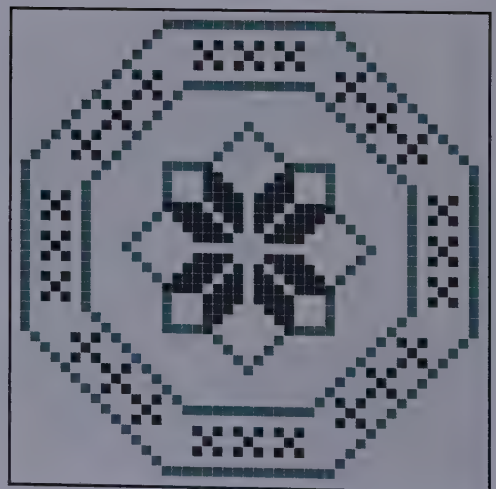
Owl: Wisdom and learning because it was ascribed to Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. In early Christianity, it represented the devil; avarice; witchcraft; darkness because of its nocturnal habits; the Jews because they rejected Christ and lived in the darkness of knowledge of Him as in “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15). In heraldry, it stood for watchfulness, caution and solitude. [Motif 52]

Ox: Patience, strength and fortitude; pride; submissiveness; recognition of Christ.

- Ox and ass: the Old Testament and the New Testament respectively.



Motif 91: Gnarly Oak Tree



Motif 92: Octagon

Pp

Pagoda: Chinese temples were popular garden structures or gazebos in the 18th century.

Pansy: (*Viola tricolor*) Good wishes; good thoughts. The European wild pansy, love-in-idleness or heartsease. In North America it is known as the johnny-jump-up. [Motif 93]



Motif 93: Pansy Band

Panther: See **Leopard**. At present, the term panther is attributed to the black form of the Old World leopard and to the American cougar.

Parrot: The woman; loquacity; gossip; mocking verbosity. [Motif 94]

Passionflower: (*Passiflora*) The Passion of Jesus Christ. A woody flowering vine named by Roman Catholic priests of the late 16th century for the suffering and death of Christ because of its resemblance to the Instruments of Passion. Five petals and five sepals represent the ten apostles. The corona above the petals suggests the crown of thorns. [Motif 95]

Patience: Symbols are a donkey, an ox, a ram and the rose.

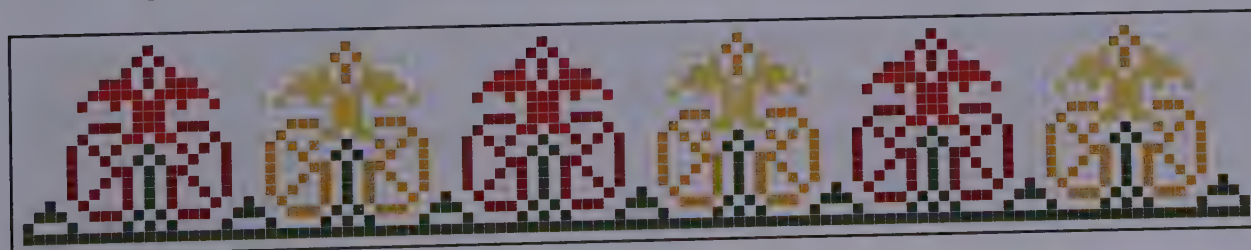
Pattern Blocks: Blocks of small solidly stitched diaper patterns or Florentine stitch patterns found on 18th century German and Danish samplers. See **Birdseye**.

Pavilion: An elaborate tent with a peaked or rounded top.

Peace: The symbol of peace and concord is a woman or a dove holding an olive branch. Also the apple, caduceus, the color pale blue, cornucopia, elephant, flowers, kingfisher, the lion and the lamb together and the lyre, other musical instruments and the rainbow.



Motif 94: Parrot



Motif 95: Passion Flower Band

Peaceable Kingdom: Usually depicted with a lion and a lamb from “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6-7). From 1820 to 1849, Edward Hicks, an American folk artist, painted more than sixty versions of God’s peaceable kingdom where the lion would lie down with the lamb and a child would lead all creatures.

Peacock: The peacock of paradise; ostentation, pride and vanity; purity; a kingly or knightly demeanor; immortality; an ill omen. A belief in the incorruptibility of the peacock's flesh caused the bird to be adopted as the emblem of Christ and a symbol of the resurrection and of eternal life.

- Peacock in his pride: in heraldry, a frontal view with a spread tail.

A pair may appear with one with a spread tail and the other with the tail closed. It has individual tail feathers in the Dutch and Scottish samplers, but not in the German. The peacock (*Pavo cristatus*) is the male peafowl and is native to India and Sri Lanka. In ancient times the peacock was considered a great treasure; Solomon received them as tribute once every three years from the navy of Tharshish (I Kings 10:22). [Motif 96 and Samplers I & III]

Pea Flower and Pods: (*Lathyrus*) Designs usually have both flowers and open pods on an upright stem.

Pear and Pear Tree: Thought by some to be the forbidden fruit of Eden. Often found on German samplers. [Sampler III]

Pelican: Piety; charity; unselfish love; Christ's love for the world; death and resurrection (the emblem of Christ's death on the cross). It is a white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) that inhabits European lakes and rivers.

- Pelican in her piety: Christ on the cross shedding his blood for mankind. Depicted by a pelican plucking at its breast, usually with its young and sometimes with a nest. In legend dating back to the Egyptians, the pelican loved its young but when they began to strike at the parents, the parent birds struck back and killed them. After weeping over the dead chicks for three days, the mother smote her breast and the blood from her wound revived the young birds.
- Young pelicans on nest in a tree: on Pennsylvania German samplers the nest and young may appear without the adult pelican. [Motif 97]



Motif 96: Peacock



Motif 97: Pelican on Nest

Pentagon: See **Numbers:Five**.

Phoenix: Hope; charity; resurrection; spiritual rebirth: the symbol of Christ's immortality. In classical mythology, there was only one phoenix living at a time and it was a male. It had gold and purple feathers, was bigger than an eagle and lived 500 years in the Arabian Desert. The phoenix burned itself on a funeral pyre ignited by the sun and rose from the ashes with renewed beauty and youth. The phoenix also represents the sun, which dies in flames each evening and restores itself each morning.

Pig: Satan; impurity; gluttony; obstinacy; selfishness. Christ cast out the demons from the man in Gadarene. "And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine" (Mark 5:13).

Pillar: Strength; support.

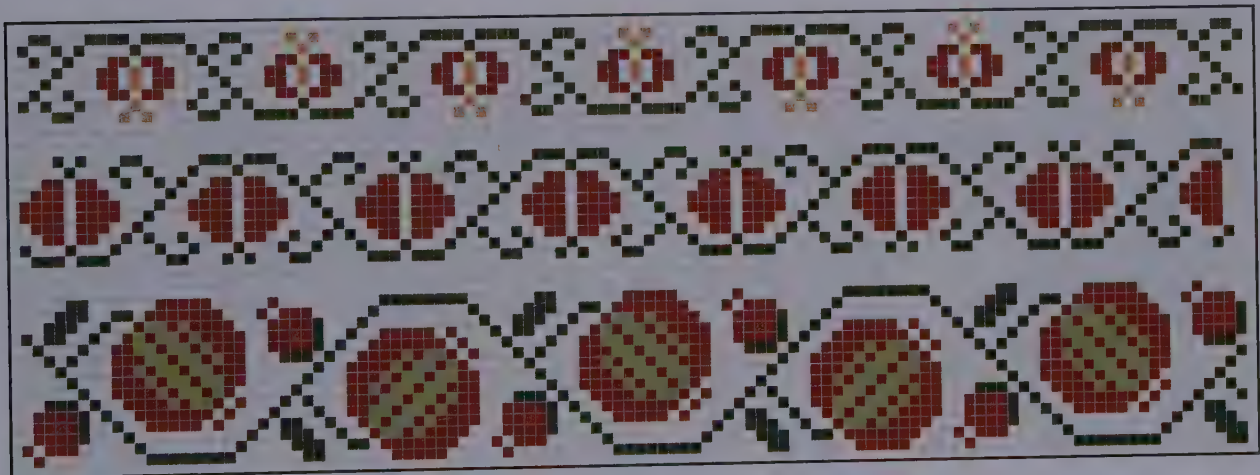
- Broken pillar: death; bereavement.

Pincushion: Virtuousness of women.

Pine Tree: Fidelity; Christmas because of its association with Yuletide rites for the Norse god, Odin.

Pineapple: Hospitality. Explorers in the 16th century found the pineapple in Latin America and the West Indies and brought it to Europe where it became a favorite hothouse fruit of royalty and the wealthy. In New England, a seafarer returning with pineapples from warmer climates, placed one in the window to indicate that he was home from the sea and welcomed visitors.

Pomegranate: Abundance; prosperity; the hope of eternal life; the symbol of Spain. The flowers are red and the red fruit is as large as an orange. Joshua and Caleb brought back pomegranates from Canaan along with the grapes from "... and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs" (Numbers 13:23). [Motif 98] See **Joshua and Caleb**.



Motif 98: Pomegranate Bands

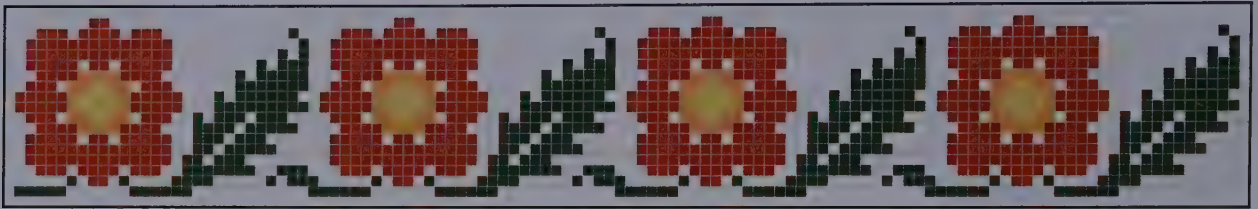
Poppies: (*Papaver*) A showy look not matched by real worth. The common corn poppy grows as a weed in European fields. [Motif 99]

- Red poppy: Christ's sacrifice and death. Since the 19th century, the red poppy has been emblematic of those who have died in war. "In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row," (John McCrae 1872-1918).

Pot-hanger or Pothook: The head of the household (Iceland and France). Early houses had a central hearth around which a bride and groom danced. Later when wall fireplaces were built the pothook was hung from the center of the ceiling so that they could continue the tradition. [Motif 102]

Prayer: Symbols of prayer are a candle or candlestick, the lamp and the winged heart.

Primrose: (*Primula*) Youth; first love; premature death. In folklore, the primrose protected against witches and diseases of cattle; eating it allowed one to see fairies. The common primrose grows naturally in woods and meadows of Europe. [Motif 101]



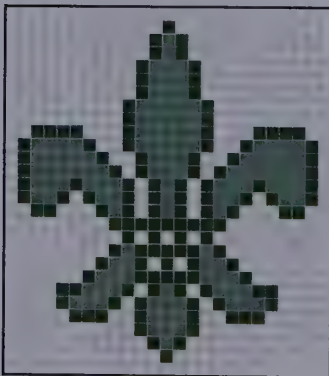
Motif 99: Poppy Band

Prince of Wales Feather: A design found on Bristol orphanage samplers. A plume of three ostrich feathers was first adopted as a crest by Edward, Prince of Wales (1330-1376). Called the Black Prince, he was the eldest son of English King Edward III. [Motif 100]

Prosperity: Symbols of wealth and prosperity are the acorn, a basket of fruit, the cherry tree, the cornucopia and the pomegranate.

Prudence: Symbols of prudence are the anchor, camel, deer, dolphin, elephant and hedgehog. Prudence is personified by a woman with a snake or dragon and carrying a mirror.

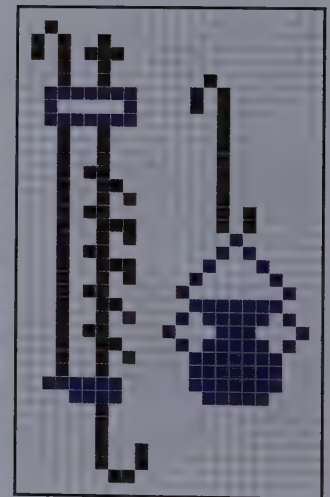
Purity: Symbols of purity are the colors blue and white, the harp, hart, lily, marigold, stork, strawberry, unicorn and a white rabbit.



*Motif 100: Prince of
Wales Feather*



Motif 101: Primroses



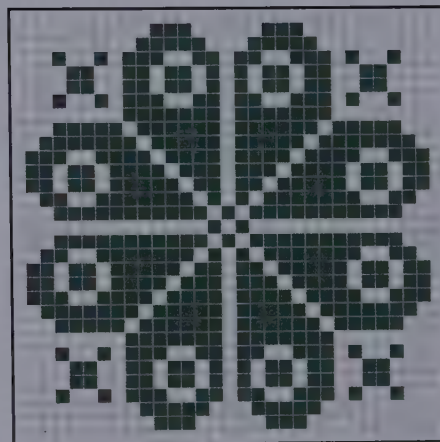
Motif 102: Pothooks

Qq

Quaker Motifs: These are typically made up of round or diamond shaped medallions usually worked in one dark color. Half-circle medallions are worked around the edges of the samplers while whole ones fill the center. Varied star and cross devices of four equal quarters make up many of the medallions. Flowers and birds are found in floral wreaths and these frequently are worked with other colors.
[Motif 104]

Quaternity Rose: A rose design made up of eight equal petals. It is one of the earliest Christian symbols. [Motif 103]

Queen Anne: A crowned female figure holding an orb and scepter. The greatly admired Queen Anne (1665-1714) was the first queen of England and the last of the Stuart monarchs.



Motif 103: Quaternity Rose



Motif 104: Quaker Sampler Motifs

Rr

Rabbit: Gentleness; timidity. Also see

Hare. [Motifs 39, 90 & 105 and Sampler IV]

- Dog chasing a rabbit: the good soul fleeing before evil.

[Sampler II]

- White rabbit: purity.

Rainbow: Benevolence; a symbol of hope or promise of peace. God's covenant with Noah from "I do set my bow in the cloud, . . . and the waters shall no more become a flood" (Genesis 9:13-15).

Its symbol is an iris. Its colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. A primary rainbow with an arc of 42° has red on its outer edge and violet on its inner. A secondary rainbow 9° above this has its color reversed. Between the rainbows is Alexander's dark band.

Ram and Ram's Head: Perseverance. [Motif 106]

- Ram's Horn: imperial power.

Rat: Avarice; destructiveness; foresight.

Raven: In Christian art, an emblem of God's providence because Elijah was fed by ravens "And the ravens brought him bread and flesh" (I Kings 17:6); an ill omen; warns of death; brings infection and bad luck. A late 16th century proverb says, "The croaking raven bodes misfortune". Noah released a raven from the ark as well as the dove but it did not return (Genesis 8:7).

Rebecca and Eliezer: Depicted as a man and woman at a well with a camel in the scene. A servant, Eliezer, is sent by Abraham to find a wife for his son Isaac. He is told the right girl will offer water to him and to his camels (Genesis 24: 10-28).

Rectangle: A delicate rectangle enclosing initials is indicative of the Juda Hayle dame school in England in the late 17th century.



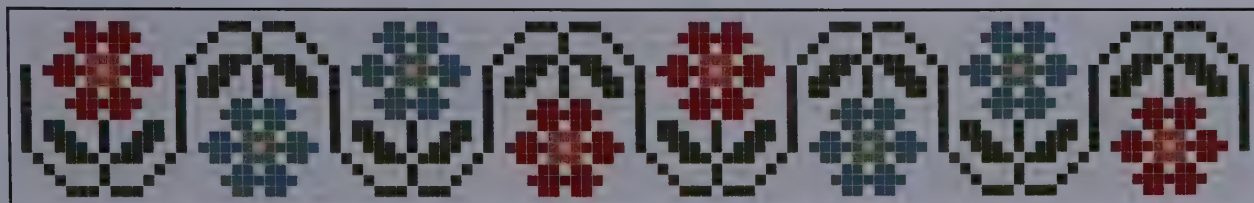
Motif 105: Rabbits



Motif 106: Ram's Head



Motif 107: Robin Band



Motif 108: Rose Band

Ribbons: See **Bows**.

Ring: A union; marriage; eternity, wholeness; authority.

Robin: Confiding trust. The small Old World robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) has a red breast which legend tells us he got when he plucked a thorn from Christ's head on His way to Calvary. The **Goldfinch** also claims this feat. [Motif 107]

Rod: See **Staff**.

Roe Deer: See **Hart**.

Romance: The symbols for romance are bows, ribbons and a lady's fan.



Motif 109: Rosebud Band

Rose: (*Rosa*) Human love because it was associated with Venus; beauty; joy; silence; patience; incorruptibility; pride and victory (Roman); the Tudor family (England); spiritualistic vision and chivalrous love (Middle Ages). The emblem of the Lancastrian and Yorkist parties in the Wars of the Roses. [Motif 108 & 109] Also see **Tudor Rose**.

- White rose: innocence; purity; the divine love of the Virgin Mary.
- Red rose: the blood of martyrs; passion and desire; the sacrifice of Christ.
- Wreath of roses: true friendship and love.
- Five roses on a bush: the five wounds of Christ.
- Rose hips: the fruit of the rose appearing alone and with roses. [Motif 110]



Motif 110: Rose Hip Band

Running Dog Band: A counterchange band that looks somewhat like a running dog. [Motif 111]



Motif 111: Running Dog Counterchange Band

Ss

S Symbol: The serpent; health and medicine. Its medical meaning is derived from the caduceus, in mythology, a herald's wand that was entwined with snakes and carried by the Greek god, Hermes. Its medical attribution began with the brazen serpent. Found on 17th century English band samplers. [Motif 112] See **Serpent** and **Brazen Serpent**.

- S symbol and acorn: wisdom and strength.



Motif 112: S Symbol Bands

Saint George and the Dragon: A fable depicted by a knight on horseback killing a dragon with a lance. Saint George is the patron saint of England and the favorite saint of the Crusaders whose flag and tunic bore St. George's cross, a red cross on a white background. He is the subject of legend in the Middle East and Europe. During the persecution of the Christians, he was executed by the Roman emperor, Diocletian c. 303. [Motif 113]



Motif 113: Saint George and the Dragon

Salamander: Courage. A mythical lizard-like medieval creature that was believed to be able to live in fire.

Salver, Holy: The tray on which the Host is presented at Communion. [Motif 114]

Scales: Justice; the scales in which souls are weighed after death.

- Scales and sword with female figure: the personification of justice. See **Justice**. [Motif 70]

Scallop: Hope; resurrection; the pilgrim. Also see **Shell**.

Scepter: Sovereignty. See **Staff**.

Scissors: Mortality; unpredictability of life. Depicted open. [Motif 115 and Sampler III]

Scroll: The Pentateuch; the five books of Moses; the Torah, the law of God.

Senses: The five senses are represented by the dog (smell), the eagle (sight), the hedgehog (touch), a monkey with a piece of fruit (taste) and a woman with a lute (hearing).

Serpent: Wisdom; healing because it was believed that by shedding its skin the serpent became young and healthy again; wisdom because in the ancient Near East it was thought to have the ability to grant supernatural powers; envy; cunning; treachery and malignancy; the devil as in “. . . the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil” (Revelations 20:2).

In the Middle Ages, it was believed that the serpent shed its skin when it became loosened by abstinence thereby becoming young again and that he feared a naked man and attacked a clothed one. Adam was naked in Paradise and was not attacked by a snake until he left Eden clothed in mortal sin.

- Serpent on a staff: medicine; the symbol of a physician or medical corps. The Greek god of healing, Asklepios, holds a staff with a serpent entwined upon it. The caduceus has two serpents entwined upon it.
- Serpent on the tree of knowledge: wisdom and original sin
- Serpent with an apple in its mouth: Satan.
- Snake swallowing its tail: eternal life; an ouroboros.

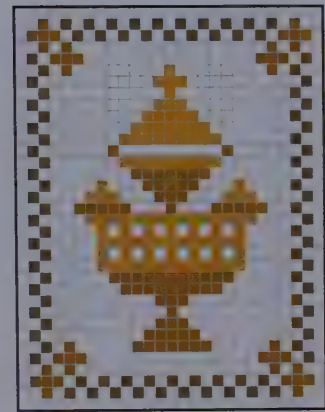
See the **Caduceus**, **Brazen Serpent**, **Serpent** and the **S Symbol**.

Sewing Cushions: Virtuousness of women: domesticity. Depicted as squares with tassels and sometimes initials (Dutch and German). In order to sit comfortably in stiff corsets, the stitcher used a cushion to raise her sewing up off her lap. Many have checkered patterns and may be mistaken for chessboards. [Motif 116]

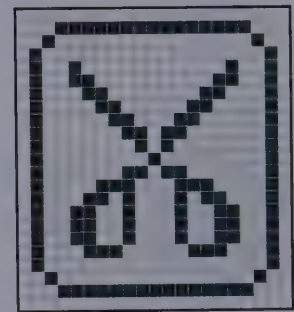
Sheep: Meekness; silliness; inoffensiveness; the followers of Christ. [Motifs 56 & 85] Also see **Lamb**.

Shepherd: Spiritual leadership; Christ from “. . . our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep” (Hebrews 13:20). [Motif 85]

Shell: Venus, the goddess of love; good fortune. Also see **Scallop**.



Motif 114: Holy Salver



Motif 115: Scissors



Motif 116: Sewing Cushion

Ship: Hope; security; the soul's voyage to a safe haven; a marriage emblem; future material good fortune from the 19th century saying "when my ship comes in". It was an early symbol of Christianity because the cross appears in its masts and anchor. [Motif 117 and Sampler III]

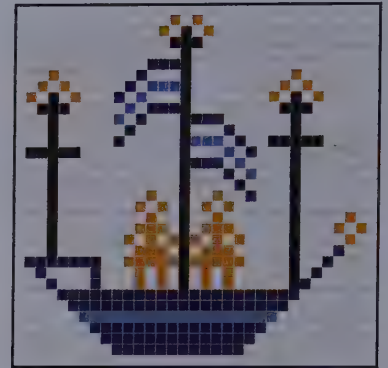
Snail: Sloth; a decorative creature of the garden.

Snake: See **Serpent**.

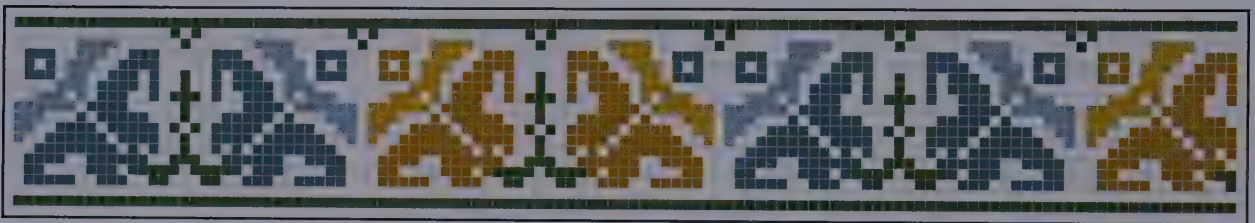
Snapdragon: (*Antirrhinum majus*) Dragon. [Motif 118]

Snowflake-like Patterns: Found on Swiss samplers and on those from the German-speaking Swiss in southeastern Pennsylvania. Worked in double-running stitch they may be decorative or relate to forms within them.

Solomon and Sheba: A biblical story from the Old Testament depicted by a man and woman, both having scepters, and frequently, a lady behind Sheba is holding a parasol. The Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's wisdom and "... came to prove him with hard questions" (I Kings 10:1-13).



Motif 117: Ship



Motif 118: Snapdragon Band

Solomon's Temple: A building with three onion-shaped domes or turrets usually with a figure in the doorway. King Solomon built the first Jewish temple in Jerusalem (957-586 BC) (I Kings 6:1-10). It held the Ark of the Covenant and was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

- Solomon's gate or porch: a double towered gateway, relating and similar to Solomon's temple. [Figure 119]



Motif 119: Solomon's Temple and Gate

Spies of Canaan: See **Joshua and Caleb**.

Spinning Monkey: See **Monkey**.

Spinning Wheel: Domesticity; diligence. Sometimes with a seated female figure. [Motif 64] Also see **Drop Spindle**.

Sower, The: A biblical parable depicted by a man with a sack over his shoulder and vertical dotted lines (pulled work) intended to be the falling seeds. Sometimes with flying birds and a bee skep on the ground. "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*" (Matthew 13:18-23). [Motif 120]

Square: Nature; four. Also see **Numbers: Four** and **Sewing Cushion**.

Squirrel: Roguishness; slyness; the spread of dissension; mischief (especially in the Garden of Eden). In Norse and Teutonic mythology Ratatosk, the squirrel who lived in the branches of the tree of life, ran up and down carrying insulting messages between the serpent that lived at the foot of the tree and the eagle that lived at the top. [Motif 97]

Staff: Power and authority; the emblem of office. Also see **Moses and Aaron**.

- Shepherd's staff or crook: guardianship; Christ as the Good Shepherd.

Stag: Christ vanquishing evil; faithfulness; charity. It was thought to be the enemy of the dragon and could kill one by spewing water on it. See **Hart**.

Stairs, Steps: Progress toward enlightenment. See **Ages of Man**.

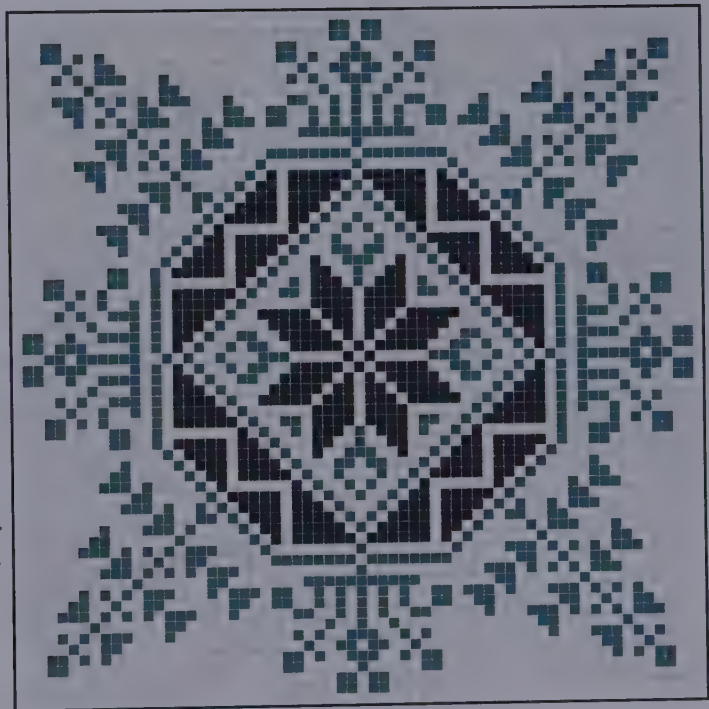
Star: Bravery; patriotism. [Sampler I & III]

- Four-pointed star: the four Evangelists; the four winds of heaven.
- Five-pointed star: announces the birth of Christ.
- Six-pointed star: the Jewish Star of David; the pentagram. It is formed by two interlaced equal triangles.
- Eight-pointed star: the emblem of Bethlehem, also called the Jerusalem cross.
- Star in a square surrounded by a floral wreath is found on samplers from North Holland, Friesland and nearby Germany. [Motif 121]

Stork: Purity; good luck; a messenger of spring; constancy because it returns to the same nest each year;



Motif 120: The Sower



Motif 121: Star in a Square

parental love and filial devotion because it was thought to be devoted to its offspring who in turn cared for their parents in old age. The European white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) nests on chimney tops bringing good fortune to the home. [Figure 122]

Strawberry: (*Fragaria*) The perfect fruit because it has no pits, thorns or rinds; perfect righteousness; associated with Christ. [Motif 123 and Sampler I]

- Strawberry blossoms: innocence; purity; foresight. It is frequently shown with both berries and flowers on one stem.

Strength: Symbols are the acorn, eagle, lion, ox and a pillar.

Sun: The center of the universe; vitality as in heat; courage; eternally renewing youth; knowledge as a light in darkness. It is depicted as a disc with a male face except in Germany where it has a female face. [Motif 89]

Susanna and the Elders: A biblical story depicted by a woman with two bearded men, sometimes the men are tied to a tree and are being stoned. Susanna, a woman of Babylon, was falsely accused of adultery by two Elders and was sentenced to be stoned. The young lad, Daniel, questioned the Elders and proved they were liars. They were then stoned in her place (Apocrypha, Susanna 1:31,49).

Swallow: Messenger of spring; renewal; resurrection.



Motif 122: Stork



Motif 123: Strawberry Band

Swan: Grace; love because it was associated with Venus and Cupid in mythology; a good death because it was believed to sing sweetly while dying, hence the word swansong; good luck for seafarers. In German myth, it is ascribed to Odin and is a creature of the sun that brings light and life. The swan is present on many samplers from Friesland. It is the European mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) with black legs and with a black knob at the base of its orange bill. [Motifs 90 & 124]

Swine: See Pig.



Motif 124: Swans and Lily

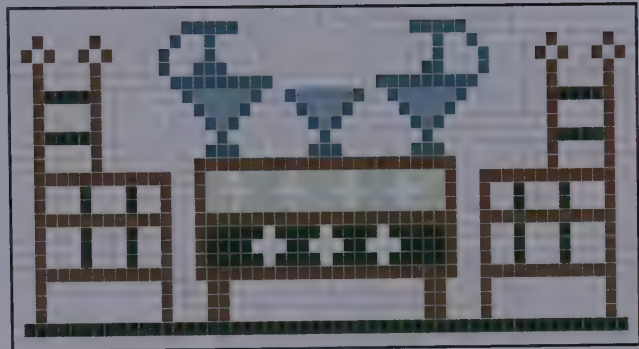
Tt

Table: Hospitality; domesticity; contentment; diligence. [Motifs 64 & 125]

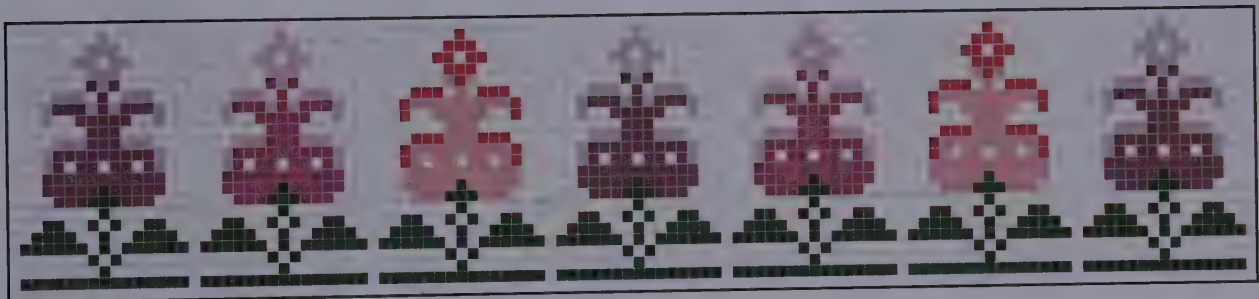
- Table and chairs: hospitality; the Jewish Sabbath table.
- Table set for tea: hospitality.

Tablets: Communication with spiritual powers. Tablets arranged in one or two columns containing commemorative or religious tracts, often a childlike version of the Ten Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:6-21).

Thistle: (*Onopordum acanthium*) Protection; punishment because God said to Adam “. . . cursed is the ground . . . Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee” (Genesis 3:17-18); the emblem of Scottish nationality after James I. [Motif 126]



Motif 125: Table and Chairs



Motif 126: Thistle Band

Thunderbolt: Justice.

Toad: Avarice; lust; darkness; evil.

Tombs: Found on 19th century mourning samplers along with weeping willows and despondent figures. [Sampler IV]

Tortoise: Chastity; determination; slowness. It was thought that a ship would proceed more slowly when there was the right foot of a tortoise on board. Because it carries its house on its back, it is a reminder to women to stay at home and attend to duty. [Motif 127]



Motif 127: Turtle Band

Travelers: A man walking with a sack on his back is depicted on German samplers of the 18th century. He may be intended to be either St. Christopher or St. Julian, the patron saints of travelers.

Tree: Dynamic growth, seasonal rebirth; regeneration.

- **Gnarly oak tree:** It appears on Dutch, German and German-influenced American samplers. At times it appears as a fruit tree. [Motif 91]
- **Tree of knowledge:** A tree in the Garden of Eden representing the knowledge of good and evil, from which Eve plucked the apple. It is depicted with **Adam and Eve** and the serpent. “And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant . . . and the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9). [Motif 8]
- **Tree of life:** A tree in the Garden of Eden whose fruit imparts eternal life. “The tree of life also in the midst of the garden . . .” (Genesis 2:9). Animals often flank the tree of life and birds perch on its branches. It may be depicted with flowers instead of leaves, such as a carnation tree of life. It may rise from an urn (the source of life), from a heart or with a heart in its midst (the symbol of Mother Earth) and frequently from a triangular base which may represent a mountain. It is emblematic of the Holy Trinity (Pennsylvania German) and the tree of liberty (French). It is one of the commonest motifs and of widespread origin. It occurs in ancient Egyptian, Persian, and Assyrian art and in Greek mythology. In Norse legend, it is Yggdrasil, the tree of the universe. [Motif 17 & 21 and Samplers I & V]

Also see **Apple Tree, Cherry Tree, Oak Tree, Olive Tree, Orange Tree and Weeping Willow.**

Trident: Sea power; the personification of Britain is a woman, Britannia, holding a shield and trident.

Trinity: The three persons of God (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

Trinity Violet: See **Pansy.**

Truth: Symbols of truth are the bell, a lamp and a well.

Tudor Rose: A conventionalized five-lobed rose. The red rose was the emblem of Henry VII (1457-1509) and the white rose the house of York. When Henry married Princess Elizabeth of York the white rose was superimposed on the red rose making the Tudor rose. On early English samplers this is beautifully worked in detached buttonhole stitch. In counted embroidery the Tudor rose has four double lobes. [Motif 128]

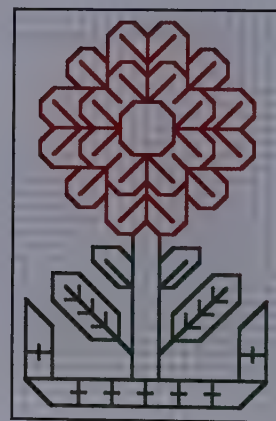
Tulip: (*Tulipa*) Perfect love; emblem of the chalice; the Holy Grail; necromancy (Middle Ages); the woman; associated with worldly folly after the 1620s. It was introduced into western Europe from Turkey in the 15th century. In Persian legend, a rejected lover's tears that fell on sand in the desert turned into tulips and became the symbol of perfect love.

[Motif 129 and Samplers II & III]

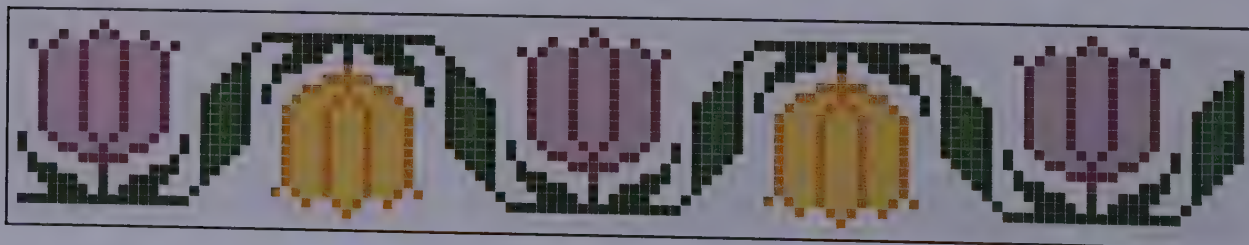
Turkey: Thanksgiving; insolence.

Turtle: See **Tortoise.**

Turtle Dove: Conjugal fidelity.



Motif 128: Tudor Rose

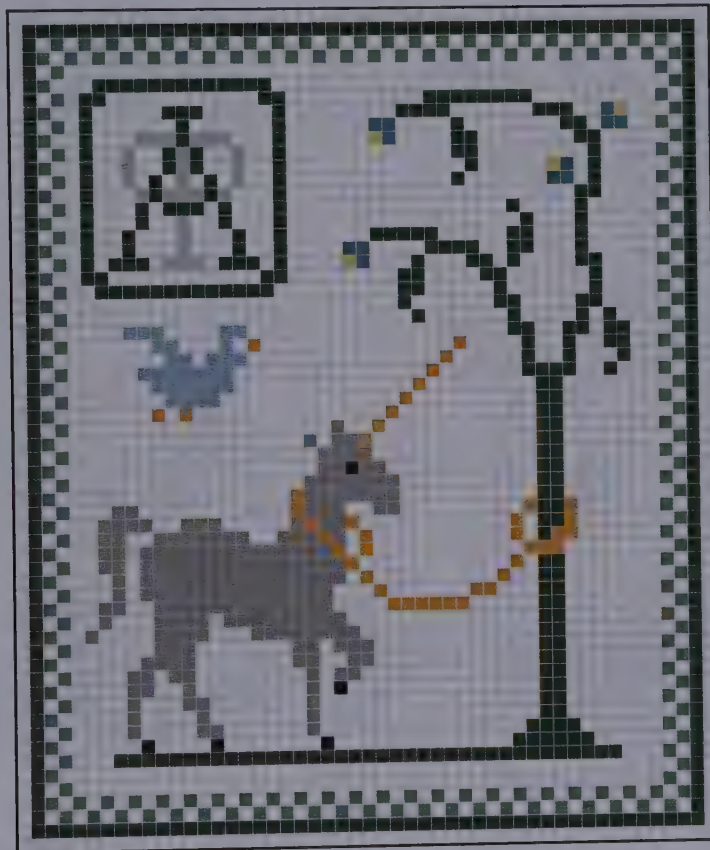


Motif 129: Tulip Band

Uu

Unicorn: Purity; chastity; the Virgin Mary; the Crucifixion; Christ's sacrifice. In mythology the unicorn could purify water by making the sign of the cross over it. A drinking vessel made from its horn could dispel poison and prevent convulsions and epilepsy. It could only be captured with the aid of a pure young maiden. Its one horn represents Christ and God as one. First described 2,400 years ago by the Greek, Ctesias, it became a popular art subject in the Middle Ages. [Motifs 78 & 130]

Urn: A vessel with a pedestal and often with a cover: associated with funeral ashes; an ornament on house tops. In mourning samplers, urns frequently appear on top of tombs or monuments. A flame emanating from the urn depicts the soul departing. [Sampler IV] Also see empty **Vase**.



Motif 130: Unicorn

Vv

Vase: Femininity. German, Dutch, and Scottish vases have S-shaped handles.

- Vase of carnations: good luck.
- Vase of flowers: like the tree of life, the vase is the source of life. [Motif 131 and Samplers I, II & III]
- Vase with lily: the Virgin Mary.
- Empty vase or urn: the soul departed from the body.

Vigilance: Symbols of vigilance are the candle, cock, dog, dragon, goose, griffin, hare, lion, peacock and weathercock.

Vines: Vines with leaves and flowers or fruits, appear commonly in bands and borders. In Christian design the vine stands for Jesus Christ as in “I am the true vine (John 15:1) and “I am the vine, ye are the branches” (John 15:5).

Violet: (*Viola*) Humility; innocence; modesty and shyness; melancholy; associated with the Virgin Mary; the flower of spring. It has violet, blue or white five-petal flowers. Also called Trinity violet. [Motif 132]

Virgins, Ten: See **Foolish Virgins**.

Virgin and Child: A female figure holding an infant.



Motif 131: Vase of Flowers



Motif 132: Violet Band

Ww

Wagons: See **Carriages**.

Water: The source of life. In pools or fountains in gardens, water is often worked in Florentine stitch.

Weathercock: Vigilance; mutability or fickleness; on a church, it signifies the preacher who must turn in all directions to look for sinners.

Weeping Willow: Mourning; loss; sorrow and bereavement; unrequited love; the tree of the kingdom of the dead; the tree of sorrow from “. . . we wept . . . we hanged our harps upon the willows” (Psalm 137:1-2). [Sampler IV]

Well: The source of life; salvation, knowledge; truth. Frequently depicted as a covered well with a hanging bucket. See **Christ and the Woman at the Well**.

Whale: Regeneration because Jonah was reborn when he was cast out of the whale. See **Jonah and the Whale**.

Wheat: See **Corn**.

Wild Pansy: (*Viola tricolor*) A European wildflower also called heartsease and love-in-idleness. See **Pansy**.

Windmill: Energy, labor and life (Dutch). The commonest types depicted are the post mill and the hollow post mill. [Motif 135 and Sampler III]

Winepress: The soul’s victory; contrition that brings tears.

- Christ in the winepress: grapes are treaded and the wine thereof symbolizes the blood of Christ. [Motif 133]

Wisdom: Symbols are bees, the color white, the elephant, a fountain, fox, lion, serpent and the owl.

Wise Men: See **Kings**.

Woman: See **Figures**.

Woodpecker: Protection; a soothsayer according to the bestiaries.

Wounded Heart: Love conquers all. [Motif 134]

Wreath: See **Garland**.

Wrought: The old meaning of the word is to mark with one’s name.



Motif 133: Winepress



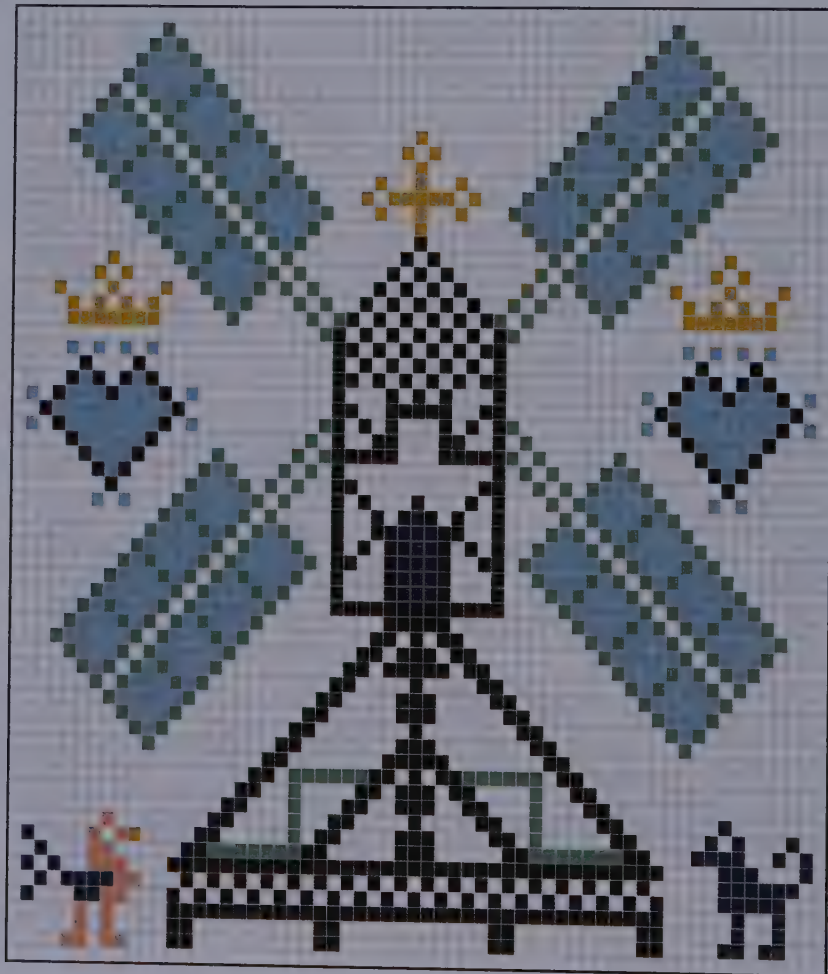
Motif 134: Wounded Heart

Xx, Yy and Zz

Yggdrasil: In Norse mythology, Yggdrasil is an ash tree at the center of the world and has three roots. One root leads to the underworld, one to the land of the giants and one to the land of the gods. It is the tree of the universe and the tree of life.

Youth: Its symbol is the lamb.

Zigzag: Lightning; thunderbolt; heat; energy and power.



Motif 135: Dutch Windmill

The Samplers

I. Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

II. Adam and Eve Sampler

III. Dutch Windmill Sampler

IV. 19th Century Mourning Sampler

V. 17th Century Honeysuckle Sampler





I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Elenora's sampler is typically Scottish with numerous initials of family members and friends. The black initials in the large rectangle containing the verse probably denote deceased family members. It has a house that appears to be a particular and somewhat modest gentleman's house, perhaps Elenora's family home. The house has upstairs windows larger than those downstairs, reflecting the custom of earlier centuries in Scotland of having the best rooms on an upper floor. In the small rectangle the inscription "Rev. DB" appears. The sampler's border is distinctive as are the odd shaped trees on either side of the harts. Hanging over the house is a small flower that may be intended to be a thistle, the Scottish national emblem.

Elenora's Biography

Elenora (Eleanora) Ainslie was born in Roslin near Edinburgh, Scotland on July 26th 1816. When her family emigrated to America, she remained behind with her grandmother in Roslin until she reached adulthood. She stitched this sampler while living in Scotland with her grandmother. At some time she cut out the last two digits of the date on her sampler. In Kentucky her date of birth was given as 1820. Elenora married Colin Campbell, a merchant tailor, on March 3rd 1863 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was born February 10th 1820 in Scotland. Elenora had no children. According to the Louisville, Kentucky census, she was living with her husband and two stepsons in 1870.

Elenora's father, Hew Ainslie, was a renowned Scottish-American poet, the author of *A Pilgrimage to the Land of Burns*, with illustrations by James Wellstood, published in 1822, and *Scottish Songs, Ballads and Poetry* in 1855. He was born in Bargeny Mains, Ayrshire, Scotland, the son of George Ainslie and Grahame Steel. He married Janet Ainslie, the daughter of William Ainslie, in Roslin in 1812; she was born in Roslin in 1790. Hew came to America in 1822 with his friend James Wellstood on the vessel *Nestor*, sailing from Liverpool to New York. He and James farmed a property called Pilgrim's Repose in Hoosick Falls, New York. Janet and three of their children joined him a year later. His poem, *The Absent Father*, describes the pain of being separated from his family. In 1825 he joined a utopian community in New Harmony, Indiana. When that failed, he moved first to Cincinnati, Ohio, and shortly afterwards to Louisville, Kentucky, where the family remained. He died in 1878.

Elenora had nine brothers and sisters, with seven of them, including two who died in childhood, already born when she stitched the sampler.

John Ainslie, born 1813 and died 1815 in a street accident.

Janet Wright Ainslie, born 1813 in Roslin married William Prentice 1837. Children: Elenora born about 1840, Ann about 1844, William about 1846, David about 1849.

George Ainslie, born 1814 in Edinburgh, married Mary Thirlwell 1844 and died 1878 in Louisville. Children: Albert born about 1845, Henrietta 1848, George 1852, Robert 1857, Ida 1860.

William Ainslie, born 1817 in Edinburgh, married Caroline Emily Lougee 1847 and died 1851 in Louisville.

Hew Ainslie, born 1819 in Scotland and died in childhood.

Mary Ainslie, born 1821 in Scotland, married James Somerville 1851.

Annie Ainslie, born 1823 and died in 1870 in the Ohio River in a boating accident.

Lillian (Lilly), born 1828 in Indiana and died in childhood.

James Wellstood Ainslie, born in New Harmony 1829, married Annie Elizabeth Clark 1864 and died in 1902 in Louisville. Children: Annie born about 1868, Maude 1870.

Elenora Ainslie died on December 17th 1893 and was buried in the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.

I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Charted By: Lesley Rudnicki

The original sampler is 12 ° inches wide x 13 ° inches high. It was stitched on 12 ° inch wide linen gauze with two blue threads in each of the selvages. The selvages are at the sides of the sampler. It is hemstitched at the top and bottom. The thread is silk. There is some fading of the silk threads and discoloration of the linen fabric giving the original a wonderful soft muted look. The back of the sampler shows us that the original colors were rich and beautiful. The colors given in the graph for reproduction are the colors found on the back of the sampler.

The Reproduction:

Design Size: 14" x 15"

Design Count: 283 x 300

Fabric: 40 count Park City Blend linen gauze
from R&R Reproductions

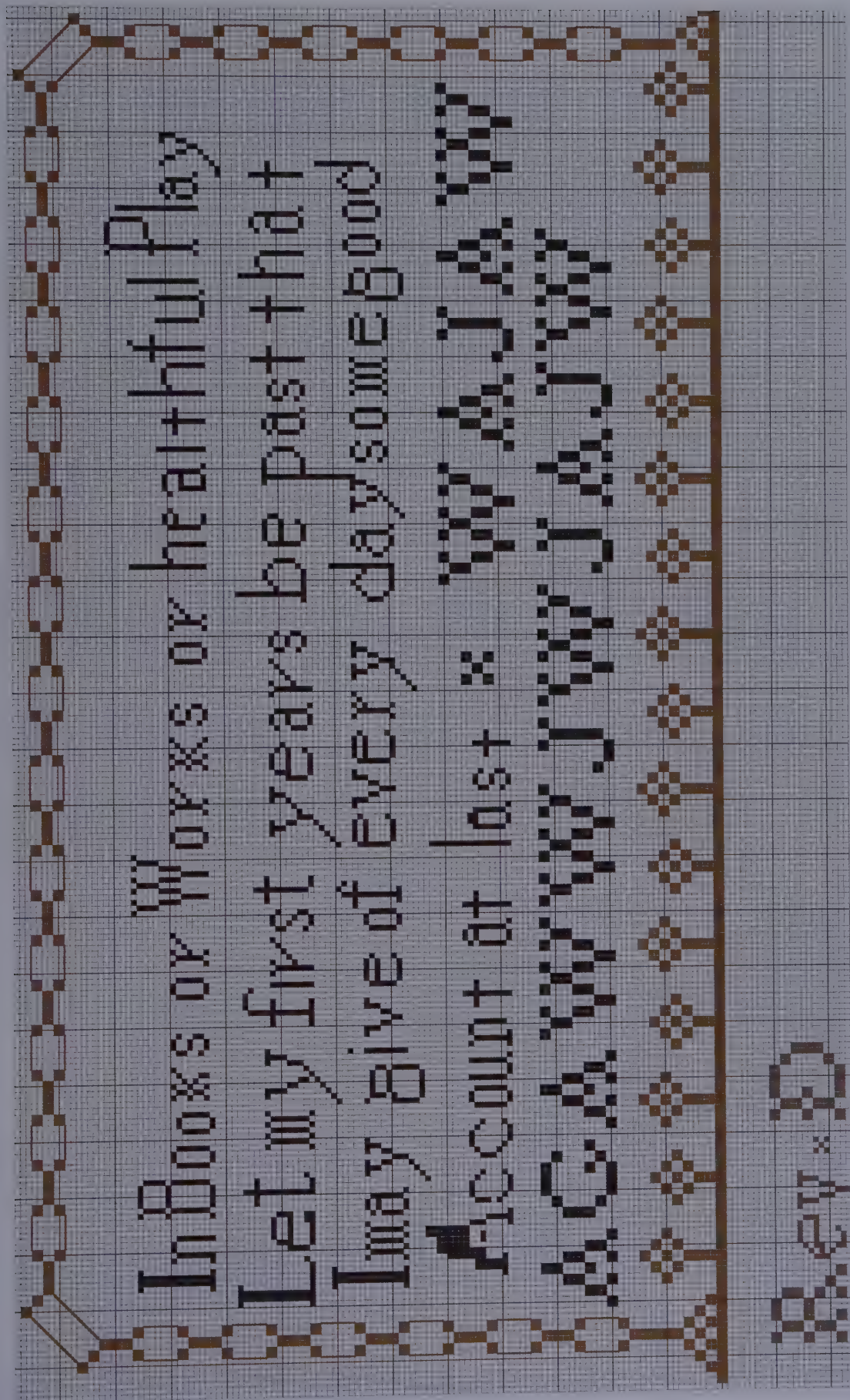
Threads: Needlepoint Silk



Special Instructions:

- Verse and the letters **ev** in Rev. DB, are stitched over one fabric thread. See graph on opposite page (a block of four squares is one cross-stitch over two threads).
- Jacobean Green 298 is used in the outside border, gold flowers at center sides, pots at either side of the walkway, garden under house.
- Avocado Green 336 is used in the outside border and the strawberry band only.
- Mid Olive Green 345 is used in left big tree and bottom 3 rows of right tree.
- Drab Green 332 is used in the initials at the top, star, stag motifs, around house windows and in walkway.
- Meadow Green is used for everything else.
- Bunny Brown 187 is used for the stags.
- Brown Grounding 584 is used for all other brown.

	<i>NPS</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Anchor</i>	<i>DMC</i>
	187	Bunny Brown	360	938
	298	Jacobean Green	862	934
	302	Antique Brown	1084	3863
	332	Drab Green	843	3012
	336	Avocado Green	904	3787
	345	Mid Olive Green	845	3011
	348	Meadow Green	846	936
	584	Brown Groundings	382	3371
	693	Light Palomino Gold	874	3045
	694	Medium Palomino Gold	907	167
	714	Bordeaux	897	3861
	761	Sable Brown	1082	3864
	904	Golden Brown	310	434
	932	Gothic Red	896	3860



I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Chart 1 of 4

Each square equals two fabric threads.



Overlap

I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Chart 2 of 4

Each square equals two fabric threads.



I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Chart 3 of 4

Each square equals two fabric threads.



I: Elenora Ainslie c. 1825

Chart 4 of 4

Each square equals two fabric threads.





II. Adam and Eve Sampler

II: Adam and Eve Sampler

Patricia Andrle, Designer

Design Size: 10" x 16"









Design Count: 165 x 256

Fabric: 32 count Shell linen from Wichelt

Thread: DMC Six Stranded Cotton

Instructions: Work cross-stitch with two strands.

Work upright crosses in Adam and Eve's eyes with two strands.

DMC			DMC		
	221	Red		930	Dark Blue
	524	Light Green		932	Light Blue
	581	Yellow-Green		3362	Dark Green
	610	Brown		3363	Green
	833	Gold		3768	Blue
	842	Flesh			

Notes: The top and bottom borders are inhabited bands with tulips and forget-me-nots and the sides are rosebuds. Under the alphabet is a band of asters and flax. Adam and Eve are flanked by two vases of carnations and lilies-of-the-valley. A dog chasing a hare is behind them. The arched band features generic flowers.



II. Adam and Eve Sampler

Each square equals two fabric threads

Part 1 of 2



II. Adam and Eve Sampler

Each square equals two fabric threads

Part 2 of 2





III: Dutch Windmill Sampler

Patricia Andrlé, Designer

Design Size: 10" x 6"










Design Count: 164 x 107

Fabric: 32 Ivory linen from Wichelt

Thread: DMC Six Stranded Cotton

Instructions:

- Use one strand throughout.
- Work backstitch or double running stitch around lettering and octagon with DMC 3371.
- Work backstitch on weathercock with DMC 3768.

DMC			DMC		
	355	Red		926	Light Blue
	422	Light Gold		927	Pale Blue
	522	Light Green		3045	Gold
	610	Brown		3362	Dark Green
	613	Flesh		3371	Black-Brown
	924	Dark Blue		3768	Blue

Notes: The horizontal layout of this sampler is typically Dutch as are all of the motifs. The alphabets and the initial A are Friesian.



IV. 19th Century Mourning Sampler

Pictorial mourning samplers were popular in the early 19th Century. They were stitched to memorialize either a family member or a famous figure in history. Many were stitched to commemorate George Washington's death. They were stitched more because it was the fashion than to express grief. Pictorial mourning samplers were stitched by older more accomplished girls, typically around 15 years of age.

Although our version of a mourning sampler is done in cross stitch, the original mourning samplers were stitched in free embroidery on silk using silk or silk and chenille threads with a painted background. The names and epitaphs on the tombs were hand lettered in ink or pencil. Mourning samplers typically had weeping willow trees, a monument with an urn, the weeping mourner and the occasional angel.

This sampler was designed in loving memory of Faith Bailey Yates. She had eight children, among them Lesley Rudnicki's father and Patricia Andrie. She had 33 grandchildren, for whom she knitted each a pair of mittens every Christmas. She was an avid gardener, a prolific quilter, antique collector and furniture refinisher, sewed the family's clothing, preserved vegetables and made enormous quantities of jam. She had many other activities from flower arranging to ceramics and oil painting. By example, she and her husband, a master carpenter, taught their children that they could find great enjoyment working with their hands.

IV. 19th Century Mourning Sampler

Designer: Lesley Rudnicki

Design Size: 6.4" x 6.4"














Design Count: 127 x 127

Fabric: 40 count Sheepstraw from R & R Reproductions

Thread: Model stitched with Anchor, DMC and Weeks Dye Works

Special Instructions:

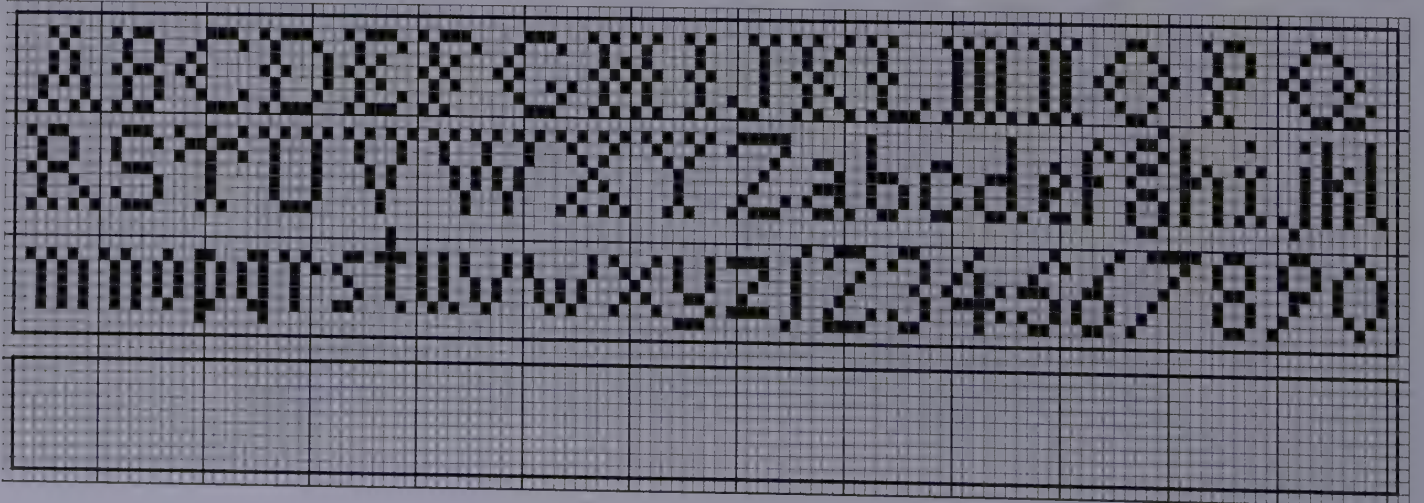
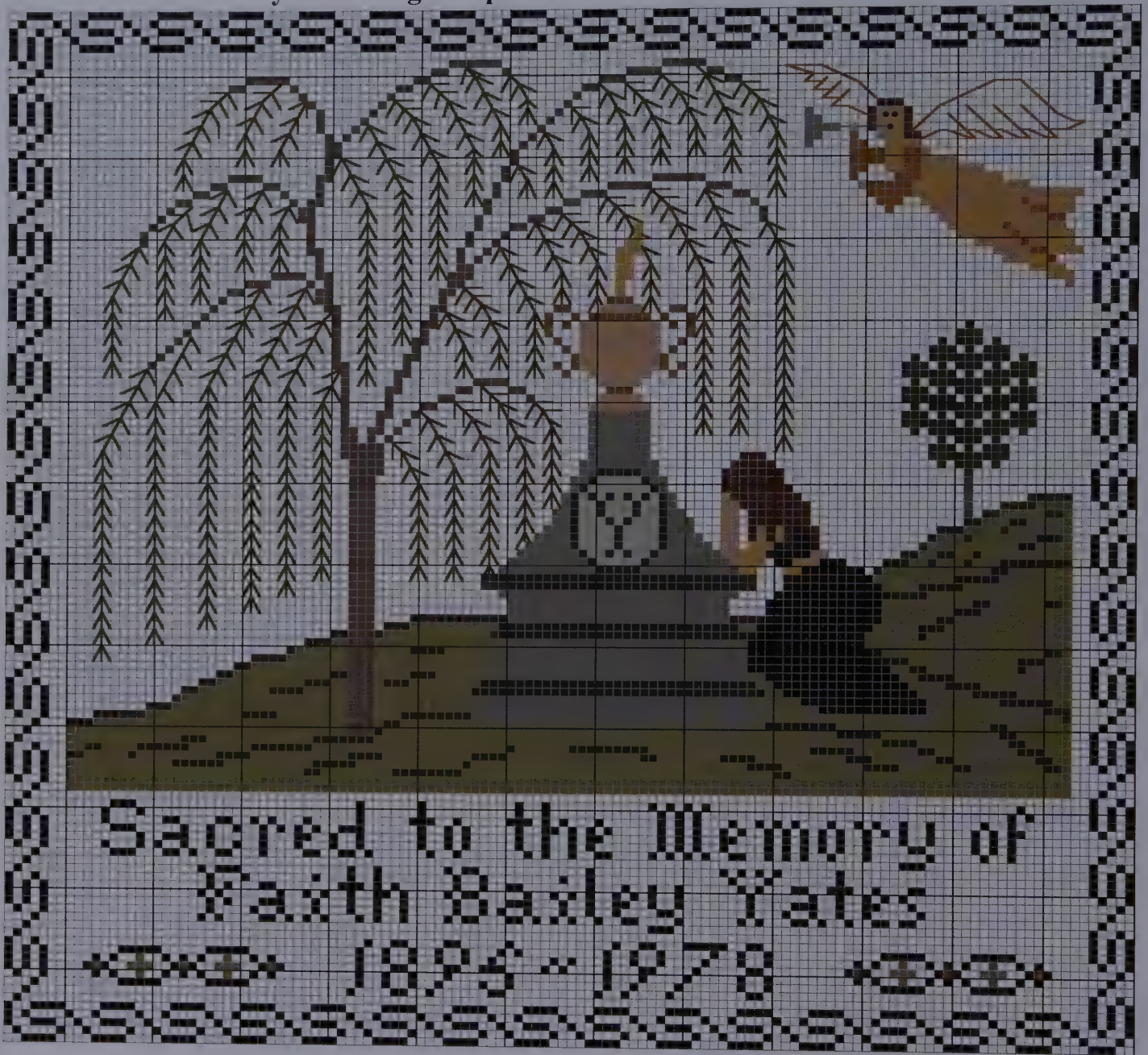
- Use one strand.
- Tree trunks are stitched with 904.
- Backstitch the tree branches and long stitch the leaves with 845.
- Grass is 844 and 846.
- Urn is straw and 375.
- Angel is 874 and 907
- Woman's and angel's hair are stitched with 358.
- Woman's sleeves and waist are 907.

<i>Anchor</i>		<i>DMC</i>	
	358	Red-Brown	898
	375	Brown-Gold	869
	403	Black	310
	844	Light Green	3012
	845	Medium Green	730
	846	Dark Green	3011
	874	Gold	834
	904	Brown	611
	907	Dark Gold	832
	1040	Medium Gray	647
	1223	Light Gray	3072
<i>DMC</i>			
	645	Dark Gray	
<i>WDW</i>			
	1121	Straw	



IV. 19th Century Mourning Sampler

Each square





V: 17TH Century Honeysuckle Sampler

V: 17TH Century Honeysuckle Sampler

Lesley Rudnicki, Designer

Kathy Dropik, Stitcher














This sampler is designed in the manner of an English 17th century sampler. The top border is an arcaded honeysuckle band followed by a Christcross row. Next is a knot band and boxers with three trees of life. The Boscobel House and garden would have been stitched in double running stitch but backstitch would give the same effect. The last bands are an inhabited scroll, a pair of doves, a braid band and the personalization area.

Design Size: 7.3" x 17.6"

Design Count: 131 x 316

Fabric: 36-count Flax from Norden Crafts.

Thread: DMC Six Stranded Cotton

<i>DMC</i>			<i>DMC</i>		
	632	Dark Red		3051	Dark Green (2 skeins)
	640	Brown		3052	Light Green
	746	Cream		3064	Medium Red
	926	Blue		3740	Dark Purple
	950	Light Red		3772	Dark Medium Red
	3041	Purple		3799	Black
	3042	Light Purple			

Instructions:

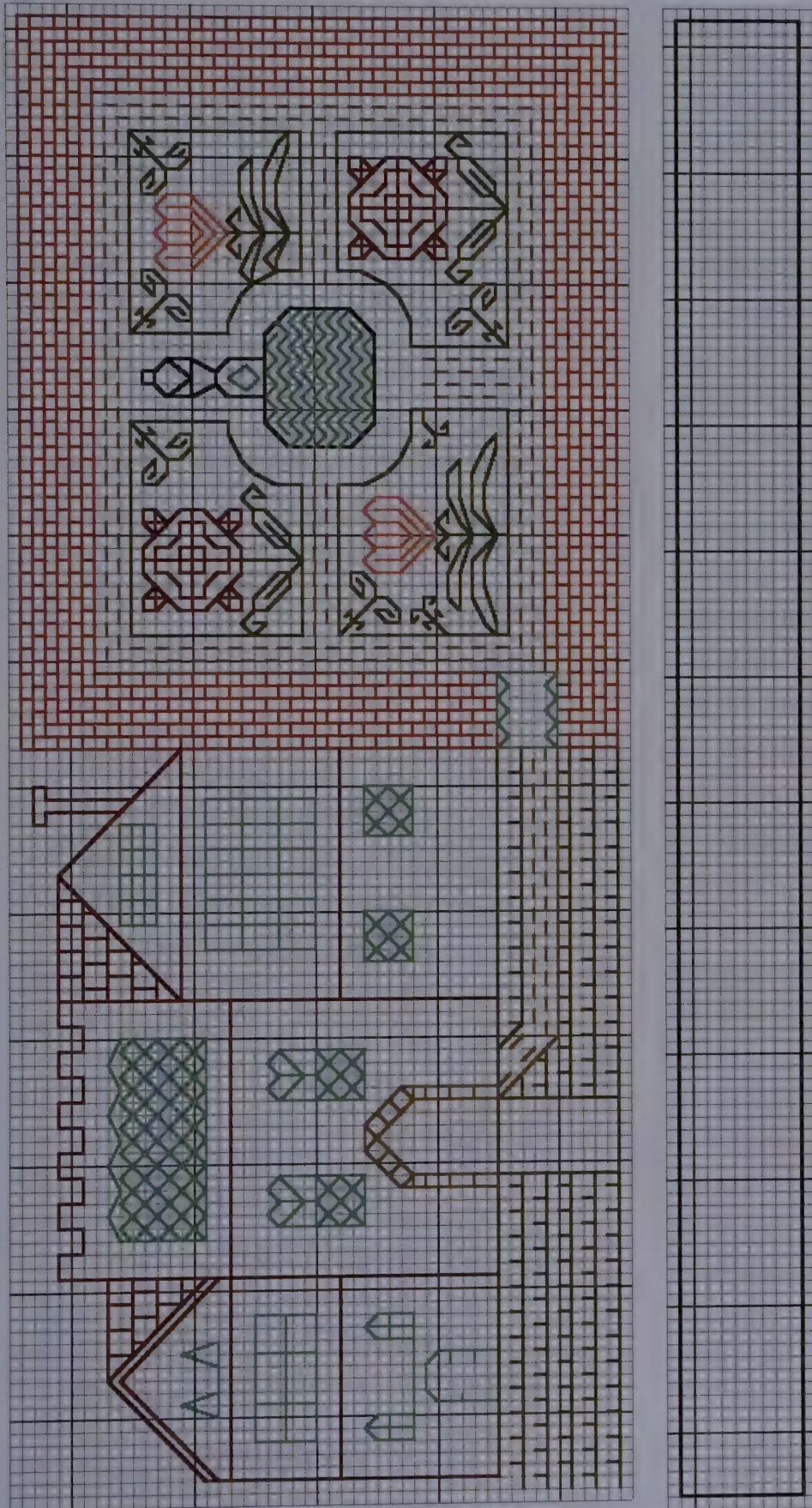
- Use one strand throughout.
- Alphabet and date are stitched in Algerian eye over four threads with the color indicated in the four-block square.
- Backstitch in the knot band is 3051.
- Boxer's mouth is a French knot in 3799.
- Backstitch on flowers in boxer band is done in 3051.
- Double running stitch or backstitch in the Boscobel House band.

House – 632	Path from door to fountain - 640
Windows, small door, path through brick wall – 926	Flowers - 632 (rose) 3064 (tulip)
Large door - 640	Leaves and border around flowers - 3051
Grass - 3051	Fountain - 3799
Bricks - 3772	Water in fountain - 925

An enlargement of the Boscobel area appears on the following page. You will also find a graph to chart the stitcher's name.

V: 17TH Century Honeysuckle Sampler

Each square equals two fabric threads



V: 17TH Century Honeysuckle Sampler

Each square equals two fabric threads

Part 1 of 2



V: 17TH Century Honeysuckle Sampler

Each square equals two fabric threads

Part 2 of 2



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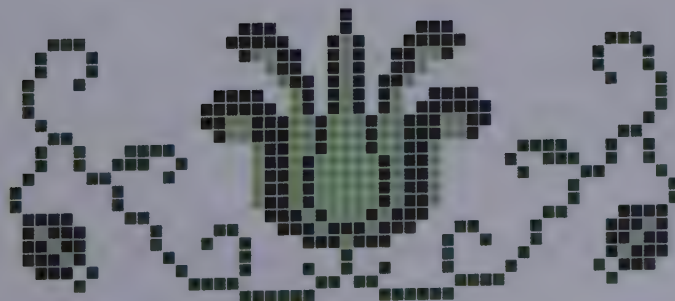
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<<http://www.fossils.org>>

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Credits for Sampler Materials:

Threads:

Anchor floss provided courtesy of Coats & Clark, Two Lake Pointe Plaza, 4235 S. Stream Blvd.,
Charlotte, NC 28217

DMC Corporation, South Hackensack Ave., Port Kearny, Bldg. 10A, South Kearny, NJ 07032

Needlepoint Silk Threads: Needlepoint Inc., 251 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94108

Weeks Dye Works, 1510 Mechanical Blvd., Garner, NC 27529

Fabric:

R&R Reproductions, 5386 Kemps River Drive #108-6, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (Wholesale inquiries
only)

Wichelt Imports, Inc., N162 Highway 35, Stoddard, WI 54658

Foreword by Merry Cox



A dictionary of the symbolic meanings behind old sampler motifs and the reproduction of a Scottish sampler, plus four new traditional samplers with complete graphs and instructions for each.

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