

Where Samplers Rule

THE ATTIC

2017 April 13

Issue No. 17-08

www.atticneedlework.com

April Samplers of the Month

As many of you know, The Attic is most fortunate because we have right in our backyard (well, in the Phoenix metro area) six very talented sampler reproductionists *Milady's Needle* (Gloria Moore) *Needlemade Designs* (Linda Vinson), *NeedleWorkPress* (Maegan & Vickie Jennett), *Priscilla's Pocket* (Bunny Smith & Apryl Southmayd), *Samplers Remembered* (Linda Danielson), & *The Scarlett House* (Tanya Brockmeyer). And any time you visit The Attic, you are treated to an ongoing trunk show from each of these designers, who very kindly loan their models, as well as some of their antiques, to us to display to inspire you, our customers. At Nashville each of these very talented sampler designers introduced several wonderful new designs & sampler reproductions. I've chosen one from each as our April Samplers of the Month. And if you can't decide which one you'd like, no need to fret ~ choose more than one! I agree that it's difficult to choose!



Save 15% in April on the purchase at least 2 of the 3 starred parts: * Chart * Linen * Silks
Time didn't allow me to include linen + silk prices for each sampler; we're happy to provide that information upon request.

Counterclockwise from above right

- * *Milady's Needle's* MILADY'S MANOR \$24, 177 x 134
- * *Needlemade Designs's* ANN TOWNSEND \$22, 195 x 195
- * *NeedleWorkPress's* SIX RED ALPHABETS \$14, 744 x 121
- * *Priscilla's Pocket's* MARY ALLISON \$24, 165 x 224
- * *The Scarlett House's* SMITH SAMPLER \$27, 193 x 273
- * *Samplers Remembered's* ANTONETTA BOVE \$12, 341 x 128

On the following pages you will find more detail about each one of these fabulous samplers.



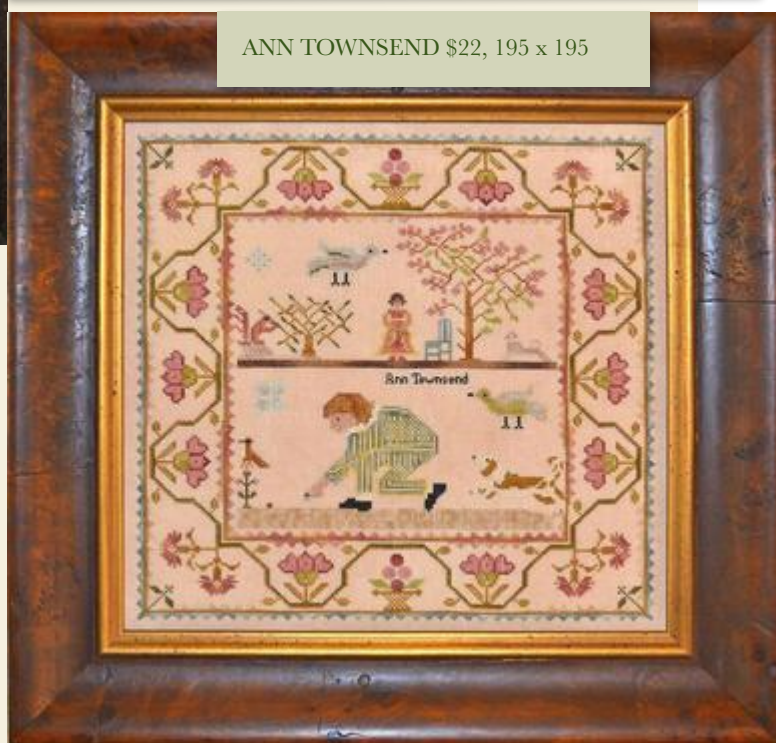
The Attic, Mesa, AZ Toll-Free: 1.888.94-ATTIC (1.888.942.8842) www.atticneedlework.com

MILADY'S MANOR \$24, 177 x 134



Milady's Needle's charted this sampler for NPI, and 1 skein each of AVAS & Glorian Tudor on *Lakeside's* 40c V Autumn Gold. This was part of Gloria's 2016 Summer School project last August, and she says it is probably the most challenging sampler she ever reproduced. Fairly easy to stitch, the actual charting was the challenge ~ and it really is actually two charts because she charted it both as a reproduction for those who are purists and also an adaptation for those who prefer primarily cross stitch. Enlarged color charts will help you embroider this very quaint sampler. The motifs are so interesting, including a country estate home, a family crest, and two figures decked out in their Sunday best. One wonders about the significance of these motifs to the needleworker who created this most charming sampler.

ANN TOWNSEND \$22, 195 x 195



Linda/NeedleMade Designs has reproduced a real treasure here. When have you ever seen a well-dressed little boy playing marbles on a sampler, with his dog behind him vying for attention? Ann did not tell us the date she stitched her sampler, so Linda did some sleuthing, using the boy's clothing as a guide. She includes the results of her research on the back cover of the sampler.

There are so many pleasing elements in this sampler, including the lovely border (and I rarely find loveliness in a border), the blossoming tree, the animals and birds, and the young woman contemplating whether to sit in her chair in the shade of the tree.

And inside the chart Linda gives wonderful information about working with overdyed threads, suggesting you think like a painter and how he/she uses color. Charted for overdyed silks on *Lakeside* linen.

SIX RED ALPHABETS \$14, 744 x 121



Vickie/Maegan/NeedleWorkPress reproduced this sampler at the urging of Linda/*Samplers Remembered*. She, along with others of us, yearned to stitch it, and so we have this wonderful alphabet sampler.

The chart tells us there is next to nothing known about this marking sampler that features six sets of alphabets, but based on style and materials, it is suggested that it likely was made in the mid-19th century, possibly from Spain or Portugal. The letters in the third row at the left, as well as horizontal stitches on the back side, have been seen on Spanish and Portuguese samplers.

The chart suggests that you pick your favorite shade of red and stitch!

THE ATTIC

MARY ALLISON \$24, 165 x 224



In addition to its charm and bright colors, this Scottish sampler has a very intriguing history that is included on the back cover. It was great fun to listen to Apryl, the “daughter” half of *Priscilla’s Pocket*, tell about how the sampler’s story unfolded in their research. I won’t give it away here because you need to read all of it, but it did include the help of Greg Ross, author of *Forgandenn, a Place in History*. How fortuitous that Mary included Forgandenny on her sampler.

The sampler is charted for *Gloriana’s* Florimell silk on 35c *Weeks*. And the sampler is shown framed in a beautiful hand-grained frame from *Priscilla’s Pocket*.

Yes, this mother-daughter team is multi-talented.

ANTONETTA BOVE \$12, 341 X 128



A very lovely redwork sampler from the collection of *Linda Danielson/Samplers Remembered* that was included as part of the Attic’s 2016 Summer School projects, Linda presents 2 challenges in the chart: Challenge #1 is to select a linen of your choice, and she suggests that 36c *Weeks* Parchment is closest to replicating the antique ~ and Challenge #2, select a thread of your choice. Linda suggests that *Dinky Dyes* Shades of Wine is a good choice! This gorgeous sampler is all over 2 linen threads. You could choose to stitch it over one ~ it would be very lovely!

SMITH SAMPLER \$27, 193 x 273



Reproductionist *Tanya/The Scarlett House* says little is known about this colorful sampler other than the name Smith is stitched into the bowl below the swan that holds the berries, with the style indicating that it is likely circa 1830’s - ‘40s. All cross stitches are over 2 threads with 1 ply of overdyed silk, with the exception of the name “Smith,” which is over 1 using a tent stitch.

But really, some samplers are special because of their elements, and that is certainly true of this one. The swan at the top and the beautiful bird on the branch, as well as the lovely manor house, peacocks, flowers, dogs, and more birds, all done in exquisite colors, make this a want-to-stitch sampler. And for a change, it’s wonderful not to have a verse!

This sampler is charted for overdyed silks on 46c *Lakeside* V. Autumn Gold. As Tanya explains on the chart, the 46c linen dyes lighter than other count linens, and if you choose another linen count, Vintage Meadow Rue will be closest to this color.

Every Thursday

Customer Appreciation/Stitch-In, Thursdays, 4 - 8 PM For as long as I can remember, The Attic has been open on Thursday nights and, along with that, provides the setting for customers to gather to share their needlework with others. This is an opportunity for me to host a weekly time with our customers, to show them the newest and greatest, preview new designs and great needlework stuff, and also see what you're stitching! As a valued customer, you are invited to join us!

April

As an Attic Addict member, in April receive a 15% discount on your purchase of the following:

- * All charts from the 6 featured local sampler designers
- * All non- *Lakeside* hand-dyed linens, in stock only, SQ's or SH's
- * All Easter/Spring charts & kits

Saturday, April 22, Stitching on Silk Gauze (& 40c Linen over 1), 10:30-12:30

With the release of more beautiful **Erica Michaels** designs, it reminds me that it's time once again to schedule this perennially popular class. Rhonda will be joining us, and bringing her many finished pieces to inspire you. Choose your favorite design, and in class we will help you select your fibers. Fee \$15. As always, you will receive a 10% discount on all class supplies, including lights and magnification.

The image shown is actually stitched over 1 on 40c linen. Many of the same principles apply.



Saturday, April 29, Flat-Fold Finishing, 10:30-1:00 ~ This unique finishing technique for stand-ups can be applied to many designs. Bring your stitched piece along with your chosen backing fabric to class, matching sewing thread and pins, and Christy will teach you this finishing technique that is especially wonderful for Holiday decorations ~ when the holiday is over, these are easily folded & stored in a box. Please provide your finished design size and we will have boards cut for your project. Fee \$20

Sunday, April 30, Sampler Sunday, 1:00-4:00 ~ It's actually at this time in April when our special guest will be in Arizona, so we are pleased to welcome her to our Sampler Sunday gathering on the 5th Sunday in April! Refreshments served. Please register. Fee \$10

Saturday, May 6, 10:30-12:30 Beginning Linen

This class is appropriate for both beginning stitchers and anyone wishing to refine their skills. The class project is **Linda/NeedleMade Designs'** Tulip needlebook design, and the \$30 fee includes her expert instruction + materials. **Class fee is due upon registration.**



Save the Date: Saturday, May 20, 10:30-12:30 ~ for a very special class with Designer Candy Scott of **The Workbasket**. Candy says, *I teach a 5-minute finish with 3 different projects* (a luggage tag, a bookmark, and a matchbook needlebook). *The students leave with 3 small completed projects, detailed instructions, and a chart of monograms that have not been published. I have started a small design for your shop that could be used with the class.* Your **\$30 fee** includes all materials for your 3 projects, including the chart of monograms and linen. **Limited space so reserve yours now!**



Sunday, May 21, Sampler Sunday, 1:00-4:00 ~ May's gathering will be on the 3rd Sunday, with our special guest here in April. Fee \$10.

August

Summer School is Full - Waiting List Only
Friday, August 25 at 5 PM ~
Sunday noon, August 27 ~

Nov 3-5,
2017

Jackie du Plessis/It's Finally Finished will be teaching some very special projects. Preliminary images and information herein; full details coming in mid-May.

January
12 - 14,
2018

Save the dates! Details for our **2018 Sampler Symposium** will be printed here as soon as available. The faculty will include Nicola Parkman of **Hands Across the Sea Samplers**; **Betsy Morgan**; and Vickie & Maegan of **NeedleWorkPress**, who have been waiting for several years now to present the reproduction of this treasure, a 200-year-old 1818 pinkeep, *below*.



But Mother, I want to go to Summer School at The Attic!



"PIECES OF OLDE II"

By popular request, our 2017 theme will be a continuation of the 2016 program, featuring antique samplers and project adaptations created by our amazing Arizona designers!

Our Summer School faculty has some very fun and interesting projects planned for you! Our faculty includes our very talented and creative designers in the desert: Linda/*Samplers Remembered*, Gloria/*Milady's Needle*, Vickie & Maegan/*NeedleWorkPress*, Linda/*Needlemade Designs*, Tanya/*The Scarlett House*, and Bunny & Apryl/*Priscilla's Pocket*. We've met several times to finalize plans & projects, and we are all very excited to invite you to our sixth annual Summer School presented by The Attic.

With Pieces of Olde as their focus, your faculty is very busy reproducing/designing a sampler for you or a samplermaker project as well as small projects drawn from Pieces of Olde. I can assure you that you will not be disappointed! We are *very* excited about the Summer School curriculum for this year!

For your Summer School Tuition of \$550 you will receive six amazing projects, including sampler charts, all of your meals, the opportunity to win some great door prizes, and more wonderful surprises. This amazingly reasonable tuition is only possible because all of these designers are local and, therefore, have no airfare expense. Don't miss out on the funnest Summer School ever!

Here's a glimpse at the samplers ... some you've seen before ... all wonderful!



Our Summer School opens at 5 PM Friday night, August 25 and closes at noon on Sunday, August 27 at Hyatt Place Mesa. The hotel is offering us these amazing summer rates: \$85/night for both King and Queen/Queen. Call 1.888.HYATT.HP (1-888-492-8847). Local phone number is 480.969-8200 ~ don't forget to ask for the "Attic Needlework" group rate. Or make your reservation online at this [link](http://www.atticneedlework.com).

The **November 3-6** weekend of workshops will include *Ode to Jane* and *Cherry Berry*, and I am pleased to share preliminary information about both of these beautiful projects in this issue. Full weekend & workshop details will be published in mid-May, when registration information will also be


Ode to Jane ~ Here's what Jackie says about how this pièce de résistance came to be: *Many years ago I found this wonderful antique lace display desk - it was large - much too large for a lap desk. I needed to scale it down - so I contacted Mr Miller from Miller Carpentry Creations and asked him to take a look at the piece. He also was intrigued by the mechanics and shape of the piece. He asked me what size I would roughly need and I said about 7 x 8 and cherry, please. Time passed and one day a superbly mini version arrived at my home. I could not wait to start working and creating times that would showcase this beautiful handcrafted desk.*

When thinking/dreaming of stitches and how bands of stitches flow into samplers, Jane Austen's use of words that weave into brilliant tapestry of stories come to mind. I was inspired to create my own tapestry of silken stitches as the desk's bottom. Stitches that inspire, capture our essence of needle artists.




The collection of items created to fill the Ode desk consists of:


- * Desk bottom, desk's panel that features a Jane Austen quote with pull opener tab.
- * Sewing case - desk fits neatly between the two side functional ends when desk is placed on top of sewing case.
- * Messenger bag thread pouch
- * Button Pouch
- * Pin Keep case
- * Bottle/trinket holder



Desk bottom - Regency period wallpaper inspired the circle-shaped border. I added the hand-dyed medley colored flowers to add a bit of nature's beauty. Various bands and motives of nature stitched to mimic a tapestry for the desk base.



Button Pouch - Wanting to capture nature and all the beauty it brings, I stitched a base of green leaves, each of these leaf edges are cupped with tiny Hedobo scallop stitches creating a scallop leaf effect. From these leaves pretty flower buds sprout as if they hold a promise of things to come....I adore buttons and am always on the hunt for more so I needed a special pouch for these tiny treasures. The back of the button-bag features a stitched butterfly.



The sewing case that has two functional ends - the storage case interior features an alphabet paying homage to Jane, her masterful weaving of these letters into timeless stories. The two functional ends consist of a pocket for trinkets, and the second is a padded mattress pincushion that lifts to reveal a needle storage section. Two thread holding Heeded rings embellish the interior. The outside of this sewing case features a circle pattern that is used to frame the desk bottom and can also be seen on the Pin Keep, Messenger thread storage bag. This circle pattern was inspired by regency period wallpaper. When the case closes, it fits perfectly into the desk bottom.

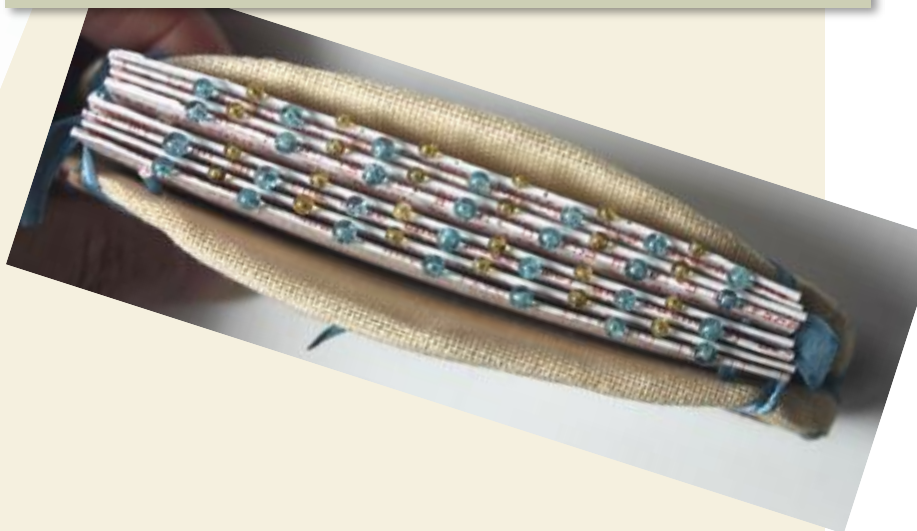
Bottle/trinket holder holds three storage bottles. The top and bottom of these two panels that are pulled at the sides to snugly hold the bottles in place are cupped with a Hedebo scallop edge.



Message bag thread pouch - I wanted to create a special holder for finishing thread that mimic's the message carrier of yesteryear.



Pin Keep case - inspired by from a watered-silk antique from my collection of smalls.



. . . Jackie du Plessis Workshop



Here's what Jackie tells us about **Cherry Berry**: *Inspired by Margaret Towne's sampler I wanted to re-create this charming sampler into a functional sampler roll that would fit into a handcrafted cherry slide-top container that Mr Miller of Miller Carpentry Creations made for us.*

The stunning cherry-colored silk will be used to finish the 36-ct linen sampler roll. Solid and hand-dyed silk ribbon from Mokuba. The cherry berry seen in the sampler is what inspired me to call this piece Cherry Berry - so cherry on the sampler roll and a cherry carrier. The cherry slide wooden container will fit into a silk and linen box-shaped case for display and storage. Tiny smalls will accompany these stitched in the color hues seen on Margaret Towne's sampler.

Mary Lea 1793
from *Hands Across the Sea*
The Attic's 2017 Stitch-Along



“Mary Lea 1793”
from the Design Studios of
Hands Across the Sea Samplers

It is with great pleasure that I announce that this stunning sampler reproduction, “Mary Lea 1793,” from *The Design Studios of Hands Across the Sea Samplers*, will be our 2017 Attic Stitch-Along. Mary embroidered this exquisite sampler when she was only 11 years old ~ the model shown here was beautifully executed by Jacqueline Morris.

The model, *left*, will be on display at The Attic throughout 2017.

At 373 x 445, it's a sizable project, very doable in a year's time. The model is stitched on *Lakeside's* Vintage Meadow Rue with *Au Ver A Soie's* Soie d'Alger.

The overdyed silk conversion is shown on the next page.



Mary Lea's sampler is bordered with lilies and carnations, is filled with wonderful motifs, a plethora of birds as well as several butterflies and squirrels, a sweet cat and dog on either side of the manor house. I love the touches of blue throughout the sampler, the two apple trees and other trees, and the tulips and other flowers. The sampler is cross stitch over two, satin stitch, with the verse and other words cross stitch over one. The verse:

*Great God with Wonder and with Praise
On all thy Works I look
But still thy Wisdom Power and Grace
Shine brightest in thy Book
Here would I learn how Christ had dyed*

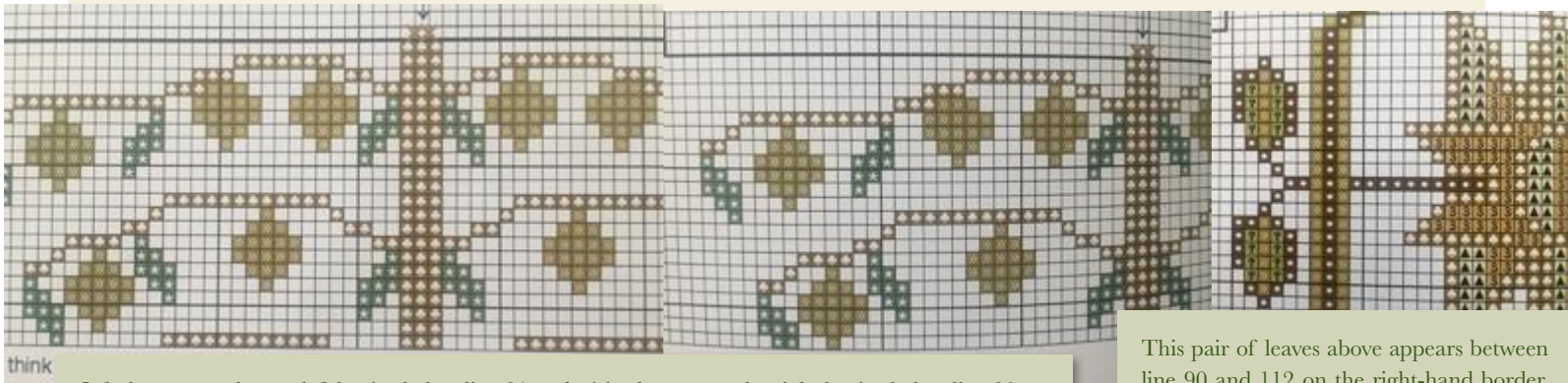
*Not all the Books on Earth beside
Such heavenly Wonders tell
Then let me love my Bible more
And take a fresh Delight
By Day to read these Wonders o'er*



As our 2017 SAL, a special kit discount of 10% is available if you purchase all of the kit parts, chart (\$27) + linen (price varies depending on count) + AVAS silks (\$98.90) OR 12-ply *Gloriana* overdyed silks (\$148.50) OR *Gloriana* Tudor silks (\$99).



Several of our local customers, sleuths for sure, with the model on display in The Attic, found a few variances in the charting. I don't know about you, but I *always* have variances in my sampler from the charting! As many have said, only God is perfect; and it's my attempt at making it my own, often not intentional.



Left, the tree on the top left begins below line 91 and, *right*, the tree on the right begins below line 90.

This pair of leaves above appears between line 90 and 112 on the right-hand border, third motif from the top, and each has a missing stitch on the lower left of the leaf.

Stitch-Along Goals/Assignments

Some of you have asked if we are going to give monthly stitching assignments. I'm reluctant to do that, for several reasons: Some of you stitch the entire border before taking a stitch on any other part of it; some of you stitch the border as you go. Some of you begin on the upper left, some on the upper right, some in the lower left, some in the center, etc. So who am I to change your preferred order?

The verse, all over 1, is something I prefer to stitch in segments, breaking it up with the motifs that are on either side of the cartouche that surrounds it.

To provide General Guidelines for stitching and completing this beautiful reproduction from *Hands Across the Sea* in this calendar year, I would suggest breaking it up in two-month segments because, as I look at the sampler, I can visualize six sections: (1) the top border + owl and butterfly motifs (2) the row flanked on both sides with the trees (3) and (4) the cartouche, verse, and motifs on either side of the cartouche (5) the manor house and trees & (6) the bottom border. And at the end of December you should be ready to stitch our 2018 SAL!

If you have any questions along the way, please email or call, and we hope you enjoy reproducing Mary's beautiful sampler.

Our Customers Share Their "Mary Lea"



Michele shares her progress, saying "Unfortunately the picture doesn't show how beautiful the Vintage Meadow Rue is with the silks." Well, I think it looks pretty stunning, Michele. Thanks for sharing your progress.



There's an informal group that has been gathering at The Attic on the 1st Saturday of the month to stitch on their "Mary Lea" or another *Hands Across the Sea* sampler.

Don't make me have to say, "I'm sorry, you're too late ... they're all gone!"

THE ATTIC

Only a Few Left in a . . .

PAGE 13

. . . Very Limited Run of These Two OOP Charts from *HandWork Samplers*

Left, "Sovine Palphreyman" \$30, an 1836 American sampler reproduction, with a prominent young woman holding a basket and flowers, surrounded by a pastoral scene with a green lawn, sheep, deer, lush trees, and houses in the background.

Verse: *If I inquire of those around
Wear my dear father may be found
I am answered thus he is in the ground
A lifeless lump of clay*

The model, stitched on 32c ivory linen, finishes to approximately 15.5 x 16.5. However, we encourage you to stitch this on your favorite count linen. On 40c, for example, its size will be approximately 12.4 x 13.2.

Stitches used: Cross Stitch over one and two threads and Backstitch.

Below is our conversion to overdyed silks.



Right, "Frances Eden" \$30, an 1809 American sampler reproduction, filled with bold colors of houses and shingled roofs, angels, animals and insects, clouds, stars, moon, and sun.

Verse: *Make use of present time because thou must
Shortly take up thy lodging in the dust
Its dreadful to behold the setting sun
And night appear before thy work is done*

The model, stitched on 32c French Latte linen, finishes to approximately 15.5 x 20. However, we encourage you to stitch this on your favorite count linen. On 40c, for example, its size will be approximately 12.4 x 16. Stitches used: Cross Stitch, Eyelet, and Backstitch.

Below is our conversion to overdyed silks.



The Attic, Mesa, AZ Toll-Free: 1.888.94-ATTIC (1.888.942.8842) www.atticneedlework.com

. . . My Big Toe Designs

Left, DISTURB US LORD - The Prayer of Sir Francis Drake \$22, 259 x 331, charted for Gentle Art Sampler Threads ... and if you prefer to stitch this beautiful sampler in silk, we are happy to provide the hand-dyed silks with a conversion.

Below left, GRATEFUL EVERY DAY \$8, 71 x 71, charted for 4 Weeks hand-dyed cottons, how perfect for hand-dyed silks, and it will be so sweet on a small-count linen. I can see this as the perfect gift, by adding the words "for you" or "for your friendship" ... easy to do, with words charted over 1.

Below, I FOUND THE ONE \$8, 59 x 91, design inspired by the words from Song of Solomon 3:4, charted for 5 Gentle Art Sampler Threads



. . . Samplers Not Forgotten



We showed you this in our last issue, and now so many of us want to stitch this *very limited & very sweet* GARDEN URN PINKEEP KIT \$25 that the designer agreed to make a few more kits for us. The kit includes Lakeside's 36c V. Pear, *Gentle Art Sampler Threads*, the buttons, lovely finishing fabric & red felt heart! Add your name to our reservations list if you find this irresistible, like many of us have.

. . . La-D-Da

No more limited-edition kits, BUT Lori has now made available the chart for this absolutely adorable three-dimensional charmer, \$12. Sandy brought hers, *right*, to March's Sampler Sunday ... it is so sweet! Each one of us there wanted to own it, to stitch it. And now we can! The chart includes the same detailed finishing instructions that were in the kit.



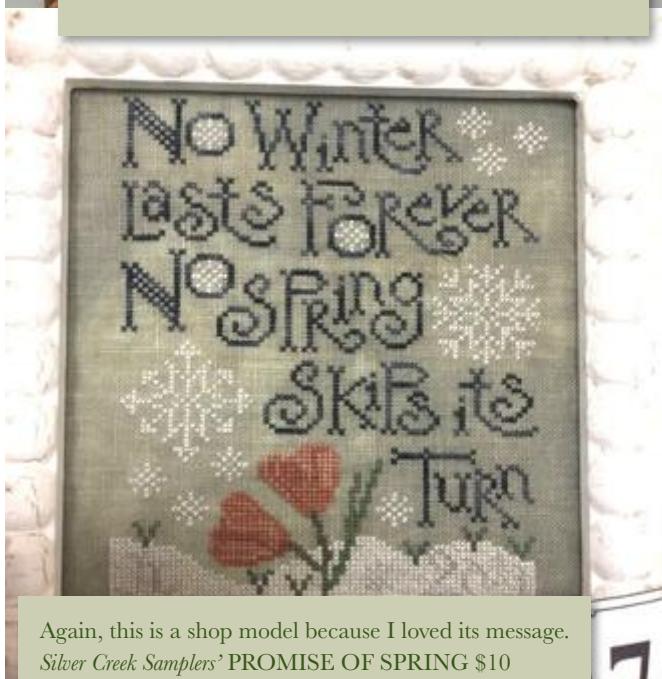
I was looking at some of our models and displays the other day and thought about doing a video ... just thought about it ... still thinking about it. But in the meantime, here are some still shots of several special models that you may not have seen, some that are out of print, some that are only available at The Attic, a variety of beautiful needlework to inspire you.



I selected this *Plum Street Samplers'* design because I loved the verse. FROM HIS HAND \$10, 126 x 241



Andrea's model of this OOP *Just*nan* design that features a fabulous verse, a sweet bucolic scene, and a beautiful border. COMMON GROUND \$40 w/embellishments



Again, this is a shop model because I loved its message. *Silver Creek Samplers'* PROMISE OF SPRING \$10



Heartstring Samplers' INSTEAD OF SHEEP \$10 is another design with a meaningful verse ... and I love the motifs!



Erica Michaels' HARK \$15 w/silk gauze, a stunning silk gauze design enhanced by the black background, is also enhanced by a fabulous frame that doesn't show at all in this photograph.



Barbara Ana's LET IT SNOW \$14, 178 x 95, is one of our most popular shop models. Such a whimsical design that we put on 52c linen w/Tudor silks.



Two OOP designs from Erica Michaels, both quite perfect for this time of year, SPRING IRIS \$6.50, 59 x 70, & ISAIAH 40:11 \$6.50 65 x 99 ~ the background fabric should have been a bit darker so that the lambs would show up more, a good lesson when choosing background fabric.

. . . Cross-Eyed Cricket



Vintage Eggs

These have been so popular since they first came through the door that we can't keep the charts in the shop!
VINTAGE EGGS, 35 x 43
FREE RANGE, 164 x 66 & 35 x 127

Each leaflet is \$9



Free Range

designed by Vicki Hastings

THE ATTIC

New in the Shop from . . .

. . . *The Drawn Thread*

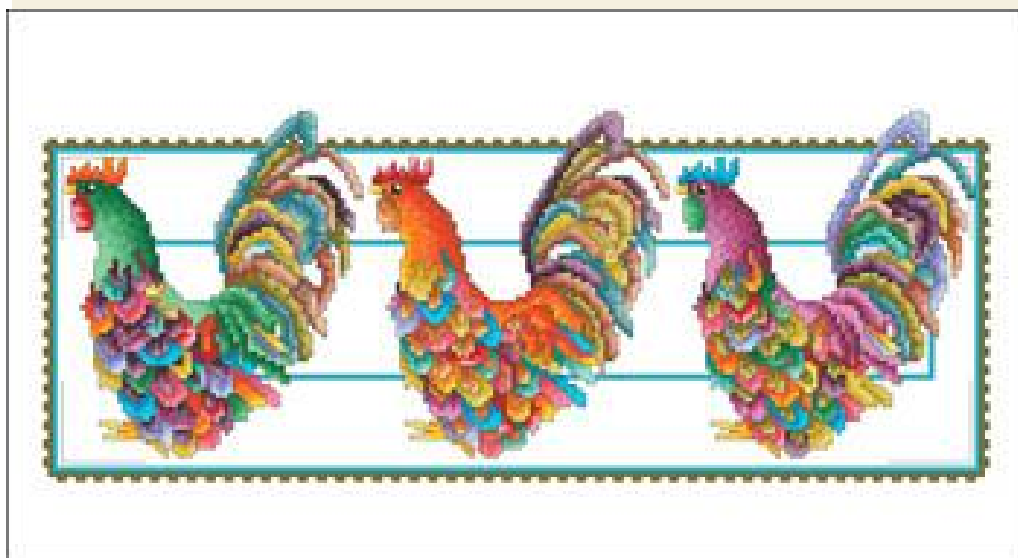


A bit after-season, I apologize, because these have been here for a bit, just hadn't made it into a newsletter yet.



From the left: STARS \$12, 87 x 171, charted for silks ~ WELCOME WINTER \$10, 216 x 30, charted for silks ~ SNOW DAY \$10, 127 x 60, charted for silks

. . . *Vickery Collection*



Roosters are enjoying huge popularity once again, or maybe I should say still, and this very colorful design is quite timely. ROOSTER ROW \$9, 204 X 80

. . . Samsarah Design Studio

Left, OUT OF THE WOODS: RACOON \$11.50 w/ buttons, Part 1 of a 3-Part Series, 177 x 76 for the full design, right ~ \$20 for the bellpull

Below, HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, Part 1 of a 3-part Series, \$9.50, 285 x 11 for the full design, below left

Below right, RORSCHACH \$14.25 w/buttons ~ such a clever design that begs the question: So what do you see in this design? Very, very clever.



. . . Lila's Studio

LET FREEDOM RING \$24, 311 x 238 ~ Released in February, we cannot keep this design in stock. It is simply wonderful in every way. The building, which could get boring to some, is charted for the *perfect* hand-dyed fiber, Classic Colorworks Calico Kitty, above.

Or you could stitch a part of it:



. . . Little House Needleworks



THESE IS MY WORDS \$15 was inspired by the book by that name by Nancy Turner ~ in fact, it's really a trilogy, with the other books titled *Sarah's Quilt* and *The Star Garden*. You will have a difficult time putting down the books in order to stitch ~ but if you get the audiobooks, it's the PERFECT combination.

Author Nancy Turner and designer Diane Williams have become personal friends since first meeting at a Tucson book festival, and Diane designed this sampler, 181 x 181, as a tribute to Nancy's trilogy.

The sampler verse was written by Nancy Turner and is protected by copyright.



The Early Americans is a new 9-part series that has begun, with BETSY ROSS as the first release. Each in the series will have a stitch count of 69 x 69.

The rest of the series:

- * John Hancock
- * Martha Washington
- * Nathan Hale
- * Freedom Block
- * Paul Revere
- * Abigail Adams
- * Patrick Henry
- * Molly Pitcher



Gayle's amazing over-one-on-35c finish of *Little House Needleworks'* "ABC Samplers" that she stitched in cross stitch, except for the grassy areas, which are done in tent stitch. The ruler along the bottom tells the story!



Tanya brought her "Charlotte Clayton" in for framing ... she says it's her favorite sampler that she's stitched. Now, that's saving a lot!



Bethany's amazing finish of "Eleanor Parr" from *The Scarlet Letter* stitched in overdyed silks using our conversion. You will also see that she used the stem stitch for the ladies' dresses and REAL hair for their hair. It is so inspiring to see our customers' skills with the needle and truly discover its magic power!

A Bit About Zweigart's Bergen Linen, Advertised as 46-count Linen

Many of you have come to love this linen, one of the newest products from the "orange-line" (referring to the identifying orange line in its selvage) German linen manufacturer. In fact, many of you have come to prefer it to their 40-count Newcastle linen. It is a lovely fabric. And here is how Zweigart describes the linen: *Elegant fabric with the slightly irregular structure of the flax fibre. Suited for most embroidery techniques.*

There are several things to know about this linen:

* Although it is advertised as 46-count line, I have very recently learned that it really is more like 44- or 43-count linen. I've counted a number of pieces and have yet to find one that is 46-count. Therefore, effective immediately, we will no longer cut this linen with 2-inch margins but, rather, 2.5- or 3-inch margins.

* The linen takes the dye differently; that is, it dyes much lighter in every color that we have seen from *Lakeside Linens*. If you have come to know *Lakeside's* colors and the depth of color in each shade, please be aware that the same color in the 46-count line will be several shades lighter. It is still very beautiful but not the same deepness of color as in the other counts.



Just as the count may vary from mill run to mill run, so does the way they accept the dye. On the left is a photo of two different pieces of 46-count linen, both having come from the same exact dye bath. Obviously it is the base linen that has affected the dye outcome.

This is the kind of problem our linen dyers deal with. The *best* part about this is that it gives us more color choices from which to choose.

A Sneak Peek . . .

We are so very excited about our May Sampler of the Month, we couldn't wait to give you a peek at what's coming in May ... from the Design Studios of *Hands Across the Sea Samplers* ... and we are most fortunate to have both the antique sampler **and** Sigrid's exquisitely embroidered reproduction on display in the shop for you to view side by side. It's a wondrous thing, to see how exacting Sigrid's reproduction is. I think you will be awed and intrigued and inspired to view these in person.

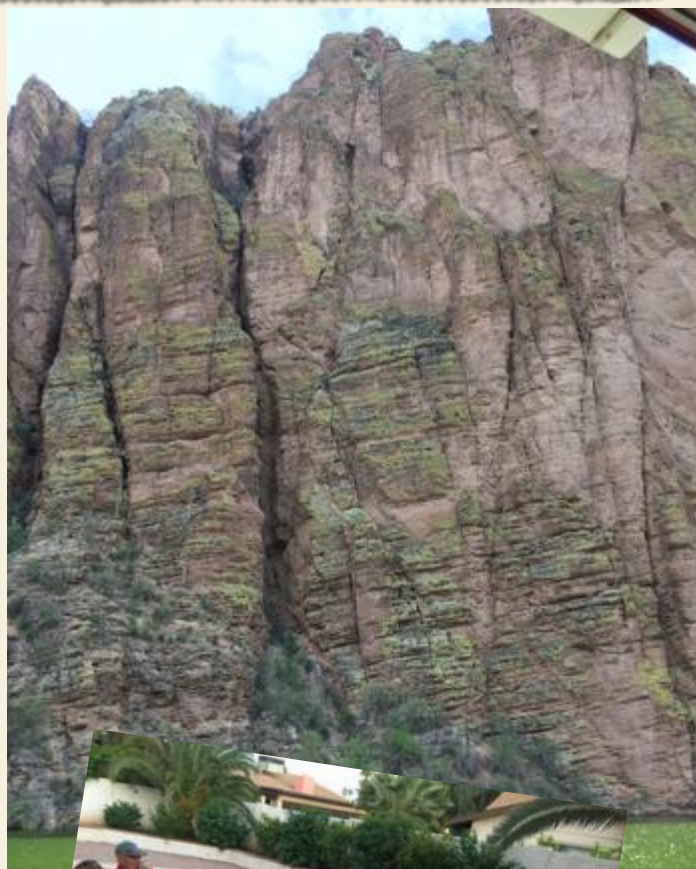


It's prom time once again, and granddaughter Hannah was elected to the prom court by her peers. Love her red dress ... love her!





It was a beautiful Arizona afternoon for a ride on Dolly's Steamboat at Canyon Lake with incredible Southwestern scenery decorated with bald-headed eagles and bighorn sheep adding to the panorama. It was Jerry & Nancy's last afternoon in Arizona before starting their return journey to Wisconsin the next day. We so miss them!



The "new" Guedo's Taco Shop recently opened in Gilbert, just in time for Jerry & Nancy to get some of their favorite tacos in the universe. The new owners have captured the essence of the old Guedo's, atmosphere even without the patio. The most important part, the same recipes, same fabulous food, are there to satisfy the yearning for the unmatched flavors from the once-landmark Chandler restaurant, now re-opened by a former customer at 3107 S Gilbert Road in Gilbert.

