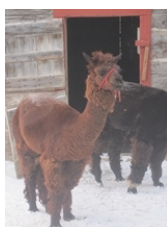


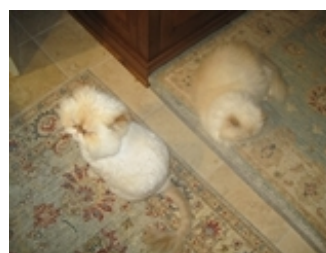


THE SCARLET LETTER

WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER



While this winter hasn't been aggressive as many have in the past, it's still cold! The outdoor animal family have very thick coats and remain toasty, while the indoor fellows enjoy basking on the heated "rug buddies", or lounging before the fire. As for me, I am counting the days until April 28th, the first possible due date for Shetland lambs.



Rug buddies

I'll be introducing many new samplers over the next few months, and some wonderful antiques for sale that are currently being cleaned and conserved.

By popular demand, two samplers have been resurrected, newly charted in a beautiful new format that is very easy to read: Amelia Boyce, and A Scottish Sampler featuring a Red Mansion House (formerly titled "The Red House Sampler" but that title has been used by other designers and I didn't wish to create any confusion).



My conversion chart from DMC to AVAS soie d'alger has been removed from my website. Over the years the dye lots have changed so often, sometimes quite dramatically, such that it is impossible to keep up with colors that have changed or are indefinitely on back order.

If you know the colors that you need you can order them at my website, and please know that I always adjust the cost of shipping. If you order four skeins and the shipping charge pops up at \$6.00, I will change that to \$1.00 when processing your order.

The best way to order AVAS silk, to achieve the closest color matches, is to give me the DMC number, and I will take it from there. I have a large supply of AVAS silk in stock and can surely meet your needs at a very reasonable price.

Wishing you warmth and contentment always,

Marsha



Re-Released Reproduction Samplers



Amelia Boyce

Amelia Boyce

Amelia Boyce's pictorial sampler demonstrates two popular art forms of the early 19th century manifested in the sampler mode: the image of an architectural engraving, and the influence of Berlin patterns in the naturalistic (rather than naive or stylized) floral patterns. A widely mixed floral meandering border surrounds a brief verse and scenic panel over a large cathedral, flanked by mammoth trees, one with an oversized parrot perched in the branches.

Amelia Boyce Reproduction Sampler Kit



Scottish Sampler featuring a Red Mansion House

A Scottish Sampler featuring a Red Mansion House

This reproduction of a Scottish sampler, formerly in the collection of The Scarlet Letter, is unsigned and undated but includes initials of the maker and presumably some of the members of her family. Two figures in period dress, a man in a kilt and a woman, dance over the roof of a rambling red brick house. The stylized daisy border is strikingly beautiful.

**A Scottish Sampler featuring a Red Mansion House
Reproduction Sampler Kit**

Embroidery on William Morris's Bed at Kelmscott Manor

One of my earliest designs is called "Winds on the Wold" inspired by my visit to Kelmscott and the designs of William Morris. I used the first four lines of the verse, then designed a sampler around it. I thought the verse was poignant and comforting for cold winter nights. I hope you enjoy the poem and the photograph of the William Morris bed embroidery.



In William Morris's room at Kelmscott Manor, the early-seventeenth century carved oak bed has an embroidered valance and bed-hangings that were designed in 1891 by May Morris, his daughter, and worked by May with the help of Lily Yeats and Ellen Wright (two Morris & Co. embroiderers). The poem "For the Bed at Kelmscott" was written by William Morris for the project. May Morris also designed the bedcover, which was embroidered by Jane Morris, William Morris's wife. Further information can be found in a chapter on 'May Morris, Embroidery and Kelmscott' by Linda Parry, from the book: William Morris, Art and Kelmscott, edited by Linda Parry, Suffolk, England: The Boydell Press and The Society of Antiquaries of London, 1996. Here are the first 8 lines of the poem:

For the Bed at Kelmscott by William Morris

The wind's on the wold
And the night is a-cold,
And Thames runs chill
Twixt mead and hill,
But kind and dear
Is the old house here,
And my heart is warm
Midst winter's harm.

For more information see:

- * [Embroidery on William Morris's Bed at Kelmscott Manor](#) (full text of poem)
- * ['But kind and dear is the old house here': William Morris's Bed and Kelmscott Manor](#)(more pictures)
- * [Pre-Raphaelites: William Morris' Bed](#) (Youtube Video tour)

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