



THE SCARLET LETTER



The Month of the Cats



Hector Paws the Milkmaid

This is the month of the cats! March 18th is the holy day of St. Gertrude, patron saint of cats, and they seem to be popping up everywhere (see them in Jane Dale's and Elizabeth Taylor's samplers). Many projects that I've been designing and stitching over the past year have at last been finished (despite cats doing their best to distract me by sitting on my work). Large and small creatures and the beauty of nature feature in all of these new works, to welcome in the spring. Cats have even cuddled up on this newsletter!



Stitchy Cat

FREE SHIPPING FROM NOW UNTIL APRIL 15TH, 2020

(Shipping will show up in your checkout cart, but it will not be charged.) *Domestic Orders Only, Excluding Antiques*

Good health and happiness to all, Marsha.



What's New



JANE DALE 1843



JANE DALE

Jane Dale has stitched a testament to her love of cats (as well as a parrot, a cockatoo, a dog and a deer). Inspired by the naturalistic embroidery style of Berlin work, the motifs are gently and subtly shaded.

*Talk not to me about your dog,
It is but idle chat.*

*Give me that calm philosopher
Of hearth and home, the cat.*
Anonymous

[More About Jane Dale](#)



MARY ANN CHAMBERLIN

This beautiful 18th century English sampler features the Lord's Prayer in the upper half surrounded by flying cherubs, carnation "trees", dogs, rabbits and birds, in a bold palette of strong primary colors.

[More on Mary Ann Chamberlin](#)





ELIZABETH CHEETHAM

This is a pleasantly quirky, colorful sampler likely stitched in the north of England judging by some of the Scottish influences in the design. The lower verse is:

*Let Little be the Name of Truth this is the Practice
Of my Youth With Care and Cost I have this Rought
And Finished With a virgins Thought*

[More on Elizabeth Cheetham](#)



ANN JONES

In the upper register of this finely stitched English sampler there is featured an unusual vignette of Adam and Eve beneath the tree of life (with a menacing black faced serpent) flanked by mirror image brick cottages (his and hers?), followed by a pious verse:

*Praise the Lord enthron'd on high
Praise him in his Sanctity
Praise him for his mighty Deed
Praise him for mity Seeds*

[More on Ann Jones](#)



MAN, DOGS AND DEER

Flora and fauna were highly celebrated in nearly all 17th and 18th century pictorial embroideries. The two prominent themes in all of these embroideries is either biblical or the natural world. [More on Man, Dogs and Deer](#)





Couple in an Exotic Landscape

This is an usual early 18th century needlework picture (circa 1730). The formula is similar to other examples: a couple flanking a tree, but it is usually more like a biblical "Tree of Life" with deciduous leaves and fruit, and the couples look more traditionally western. [More on Couple in an Exotic Landscape](#)



These are not mirror images.





JANE DALE

JANE DALE 1843

English sampler stitched with wool on linen depicting two large cats, a parrot, a cockatoo, a duck, a stag and a dog, worked mostly in cross stitch with eyelet lettering.

[More on Jane Dale](#)

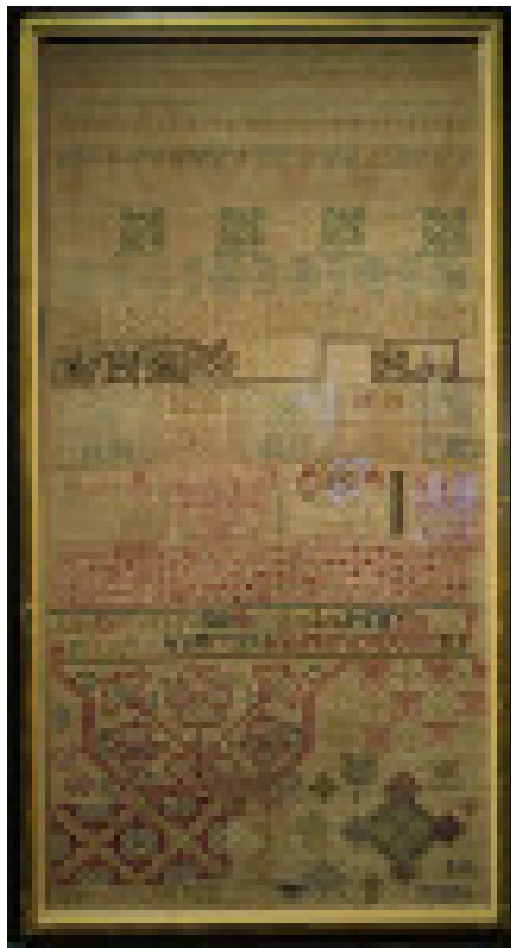


ELIZABETH TAYLOR

ELIZABETH TAYLOR

1823

An "Adam and Eve" sampler, probably English, with a four sided berry border surrounding various pictorial elements, most prominently an enormous white cat and a grand house atop a groomed lawn, flanked by an enormous white sheep on the left and a brown horned cow on the right. [More on Elizabeth Taylor](#)



MP AGED 13

MP Aged 13, 1733

**Early English band sampler executed in a variety of stitches including double running, counted satin, cross, eyelet, montenegrin, diagonal cross and rice. It features many traditional early motifs such as linked hands, stars, strawberries, artichokes, pansies, as well as an adorable little green frog and a bird with an oversized head done in double running stitch. The sampler has been cleaned and conservation mounted, very good color and condition. 9" x 18". [More on MP Aged 13](#)



MARY BROWN

MARY BROWN 1829

**A Scottish sampler executed with wool and silk on linen, featuring many traditional Scottish needlework motifs including an arcaded pansy band across the top, illuminated letters, family initials, peacocks, "stacked" trees, and a fine stone mansion house.[More on Mary Brown](#)



MARY SHERWOOD 1826

This museum quality sampler was made with an enormous variety of minute stitches and retains its original vivid color on both the front and the back. It has been professionally cleaned and conserved and has been framed between sheets of conservation glass to display the remarkable reversible and unfaded stitching on the front and the back. The pious verse at the bottom is followed by her attribution: MARY SHERWOOD MADE ANNO DOMINI 1726. [More on Mary Sherwood](#)

Teach me to love the Lord with all my heart and might...



MARGARAT MURE

MARGARAT MURE AGED NINE circa 1765

Very finely stitched Scottish sampler featuring the traditional mansion house seen on so many Scottish samplers of this period. The verse is:

Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the lord thy god giveth thee.

[More on Margarat Mure](#)



ELIZABETH ALFORD

ELIZABETH ALFORD 1818

Very fine English sampler with a large central motif of elaborately cross stitched roses, with pious verses on either side. Adam and Eve are stitched at the top with cherubs flying above them along with the moon and stars, elaborate crowns and evergreen trees on either side. [More on Elizabeth Alford](#)



HARLEQUIN AND COLOMBINA

UNSIGNED ENGLISH SAMPLER DEPICTING HARLEQUIN AND COLUMBINA, circa 1800

**The story of Harlequin and Colombina (Columbine) originated in Italy in the early 17th century in the Commedia dell'Arte. Colombina's father, Pantaloon, a greedy and foolish merchant of Venice, tries to separate the lovers, and

Harlequin, in a black mask, spends most of his time plotting mischief.[More on Harlequin and Colombina](#)



Frida on the Bidet

©2020 The Scarlet Letter | N3157 Lundt Rd Helenville, WI 53137 Phone: 262-593-8470

[Web Version](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®