



THE SCARLET LETTER



The newest Scarlet Letter sampler reproductions include a mid eighteenth century Scottish band sampler in which the motifs span two centuries, and an early nineteenth century English pictorial sampler. Both designs are suitable for beginning to intermediate levels of skill.





MS Dated 1752



Sarah Elizabeth Hollings 1835

In my part of the world it has been a season of extraordinarily lush growth, resulting in a great change in the landscape since May. The spring daffodils, always welcome, were prolific, loud, and long-lasting. As if that wasn't enough to thrill a gardener to the bottom of her rubber boots, the summer began with enough rain to ensure a bumper crop of just about everything.

It's pretty obvious which seasons are depicted on an antique sampler because of the stylized depictions of the flora. It is rare to see autumn or winter celebrated. Spring and summer are everywhere, as you can see in these examples spanning almost three centuries.



Lady and the Castle in an Autumn Landscape circa 1700



Ruthy Rogers



Hannah Carter 1748



A Couple in an Exotic Landscape circa 1730





Ann Brockbank 1812



Mary Hammand 1732



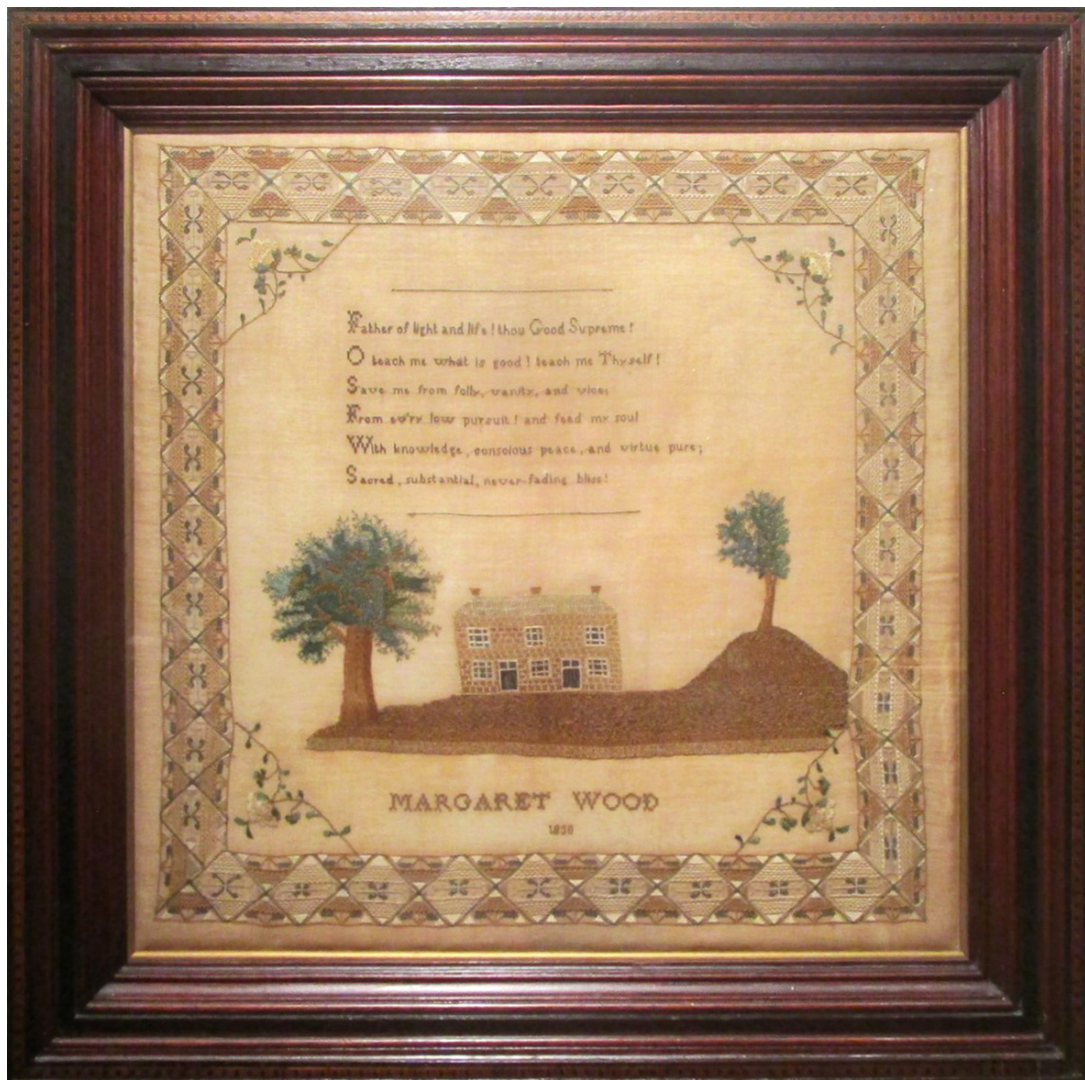
The Piping Shepherd circa 1730



Blessed Are the Sons of Peace

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What's new in the antique landscape department is Margaret Wood's beautiful minimalist sampler depicting a simple landscape with two distinct trees. It's in remarkable condition within a beautiful frame that is probably not original but still has some age.



Margaret Wood 1830

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We still have a month of summer left, so let's enjoy it.

*Mirre it is while sumer ilast
wit fugheles song
oc nu necheth windes blast and weder strong*

There are different translations of this 13th-century English lyric, but this is the essence:

*Merry it is while summer lasts
with bird song
But then comes the wind and the strong weather...*

Peace and hope,

Marsha
Tse

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