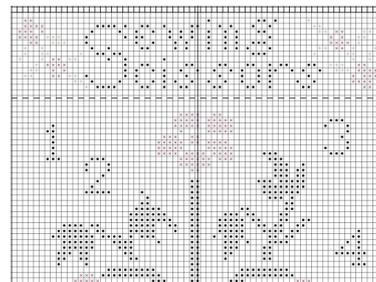


Blog #115 - Finishing of 'The Biedermeier Sampler':

October 2021

As per the previous month, the urge to commit an idea for a design to paper was still strong and so created the chart for a keep for a pair of large sewing shears or scissors. Actually created two charts. That is, one chart in many colours (using a silk overdye thread with complementary solid colours) and the other chart in one colour (an overdye sampler thread with a couple of complementary solid toning colours).



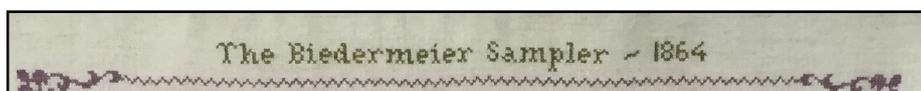
However, before giving in to the urge to begin stitching these designs, continued stitching *The Biedermeier Sampler* and finished the stitching of it.

On this sampler there was no indication of who stitched it - only the date of 1864. And as the design was so dense, there was nowhere in it for me to add my name and initials and date stitched and so decided to do something quite different.

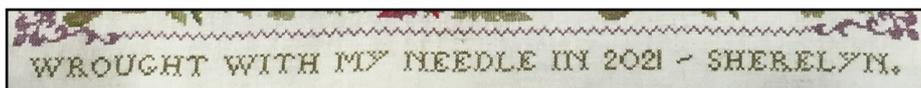


This is what I did -

Centered across the top of the sampler I stitched the title that Gigi had given to this piece



and centered across the bottom of the sampler I added the words, "Wrought with my needle in 2021 - Shereilyn"



When framed, I will show the finished sampler.

Really, really pleased with this piece. I think it is possibly my favourite piece of all the reproduced samplers I have stitched.

Note: I changed a few of the original colours to colour tonings that I like and suit our home décor.

Originally this sampler was worked on a canvas with wool.

I can't recall if I have mentioned this before, but I am privileged to have the original sampler - one of three original samplers - from Gigi's private collection.

Pictured to the right is a pic of the back of the sampler -

In places the canvas has 'given way' and so I have had to do a little repair work to help preserve it but in some places I'm not sure that I can repair the damaged areas.



I plan to attach this sampler to a framed piece of padded fabric - the same as I have done with one of Gigi's other antique samplers - and hang it beside my worked piece.

Pictured to the right (top) is the antique 'Susie Pierce' sampler from Gigi and below it, the reproduced sampler stitched by me some time ago.

Another antique sampler of Gigi's that I have is 'The Rose Wreath Sampler'.

I intend to stitch this too as it is another of my loves.

It is on my TO DO list - with so many other pieces I want to stitch. So much to do. Not enough time.

One afternoon, whilst I was stitching, I was listening to various needleworkers on YouTube and came across one needleworker I had not watched before. Her flosstube name was SABLE.

The interpretation of her name is -
S = Stash : A = Accumulated : B = Beyond : L = Life : E = Expectancy

Don't you just love it!?!

I can't think of a name for not having enough life time left to stitch all the pieces I would like to do. Can you think of one?

Getting back to my lovely old samplers, a reminder of the three of them and the titles of the reproduced designs published for our stitching enjoyment -



Collection Piece
The Biedermeier Sampler, 1864

GR:BS : The Biedermeier Sampler, 1864
\$ 55.00

Collection Piece
Susie Pierce 1889

GR:SP : Susie Pierce 1889
\$ 33.50

Collection Piece
The Rose Wreath Sampler
C. Matthews 1841

GR:ROSE : The Rose Wreath Sampler
\$ 55.00

Please email - barberrycrow@outlook.co.nz - if you would like one of these lovely designs sent to you or order via the website.

And now, more of my time in the UK:
Wednesday, 9 October 2019 - Another sampling of York

A lovely day in York once again enjoying wandering the streets of the old city and pointing out the highlights of it and the special places Melissa should visit whilst she was there.

One of the places was
The Treasurer's House.

Whilst she wandered through it I enjoyed some time in the tearooms after which she



and I went to the Jorvik Viking Centre (which I had missed when in York previously).

After descending about 9 metres below York's current street level and while listening to an explanatory recording, we sat in a two-seater chair/time car that trundled along a rail past recreated scenes of the times and watched animated figures - a trader, a weaver, a dyer, a leatherworker, a priest, a blacksmith, a fisherman, a skald (a poet & story-teller), a traveller, a captive, a young woman and her elderly foster-father - doing what they would have been doing at that time. The detailed reconstruction was of the city as it would have been in AD 960 and was based on the evidence found in an archaeological excavation between 1976 and 1981. Fascinating.



In addition to the time car experience one could walk on a glass floor and see the results of part of the excavation.

There were the remains of two houses - house one revealing a hearth and walls made of wattle and daub and house two, a cellar with oak timber walls. Both were on tenement plots roughly 5m wide by 30m long, backing on to the River Foss. There were also fences, pits, a drain & a pathway.



And in the museum area, over 400 items were on display - keys, knives, scabbards, files, shoes, bowls, spoons, pottery vessels, coins, horseshoes, fish hooks - to name a few. There was also a complete human skeleton of a woman aged between 26 and 35 years and the partial skeleton of a male aged about 46 years of age. All of these things now over 1000 years old!

Jorvick - the old Norse name for York. The first Vikings to arrive in England were from Scandinavia, and their skill in building boats was key to their success in both raiding and trading. Their vessels were shallow enough to navigate rivers and estuaries, yet strong and flexible enough to cross the open sea. This allowed them to launch surprise, summertime attacks on coastal or riverside settlements then quickly escape with their plunder. As Viking boat technology improved, the scale and scope of these missions increased, opening up new markets for trade, and new lands to conquer and settle.

In AD 960 York was a busy and populous trading centre at a time when there were few large urban sites anywhere in the British Isles. Formerly the capital of the independent Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, it had been captured by a Viking Great Army in AD 866, and had since that time experienced rapid growth. By the Late 10th century it occupied a key position in a vast network established by Viking crafters, explorers and settlers.

Under Viking rule the city passed between a succession of competing kings and their dynasties, including from AD 927 a new, emerging kingdom : England. The last independent Viking ruler of Northumbria, the Norwegian Eric Bloodaxe, was expelled in AD 954.

On our way back to the hotel next to York Cathedral (the same hotel as had stayed at as part of the Lady Anne's Needlework Tour) stopped off at a little shop selling exclusively made Italian products and purchased the pair of shoes that I had admired when in York previously but had resisted the urge to purchase them being conscious of my luggage weight for the tour ahead.

No weight problem now!

Not only did I buy this pair of shoes but a second pair (burgundy flats) and two beautiful shawls - a grey one edged with a dandling pearl bead trim and the other a beautiful olive green light-weight Cashmere all covered with little domed black jets.

I also bought Keith a couple of impeccably made shirts at a classy mens wear shop - each differently coloured and each with different patterned paisley prints. He has received so many compliments on both of them whenever he has worn them.



Didn't purchase the black - but the other style.

Both gorgeous though. Don't you agree !

That evening Melissa and I went to dinner at the Guy Fawkes Inn restaurant.

A 3-storey Georgian townhouse said to have been the birthplace of the notorious plotter, Guido Fawkes, known as Guy Fawkes.

Pictured below is a sign that was on the wall of the restaurant -



And so another day came to a close.

Whilst we were away during the day the hotel staff had moved all our belongings from our upstairs room to a downstairs room so that I did not have to climb any stairs. So thoughtful of them.

The room had no windows - only a very large skylight. But that was not a worry.

It was wonderful lying in bed and looking up at all the stars.

Sincerely hoping you can spend time with your family and tell them how much you appreciate them and all that they do for you.

And, of course, spend some time with your needle.

Bye for now.

