

Blog #8 - Favoured Shades : A Mystery Sampler

Saturday, 17 May 2014 ~

Towards the end of 2012 and most of the 2013 year, hundreds of ladies throughout New Zealand participated in "The Mystery Sampler" project - that is, working a needlework sampler without knowing what the finished piece of needlework would look like. And this not knowing was the appeal. Over a period of six months each participant would receive a section of the sampler - usually about five to six bands of different stitches.

This is my completed sampler -

All the 'girls' that met at my home once a month were involved with this project and loved it - so much so that when it was finished they missed the excitement and enthusiasm of seeing everyone's progress on their samplers and so at the end of 2013 the decision was made that in 2014 we would all participate in another such project using a sampler I had originally designed and stitched for myself in 2006 - the project beginning on the 1st of April.



My original sampler stitched in 2006 -

Of course, at the time I stitched this piece in 2006 I never wrote any instructions for working it (as it was never intended for anyone else) and my working charts were only roughly hand-drawn. Definitely not suitable for others to work from. Thus, in January 2014 and over the following months I had to begin writing instructions, drawing stitch diagrams and charting the design and to 'check' that everything I had written, drawn and charted was correct, I had to begin stitching another piece for myself.

This time though I chose a different colour to my original and chose a 35 count fabric rather than a 28 count.

We named this project the 'Favoured Shades Sampler'.



Favoured Shades Sampler

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This sampler was also a little different from most needlework designs in that no colours were given. Instead, the needleworker had to choose their own colours - firstly, their favourite colour and then, secondly, seven tones of that favourite colour from light through to dark.

I worked a few sample stitches before I began my sampler to ensure that all the colours worked well together and they were all to my liking. So often colours can look so different when they are stitched than they do when they are in a hank.



The beginnings of my second sampler -

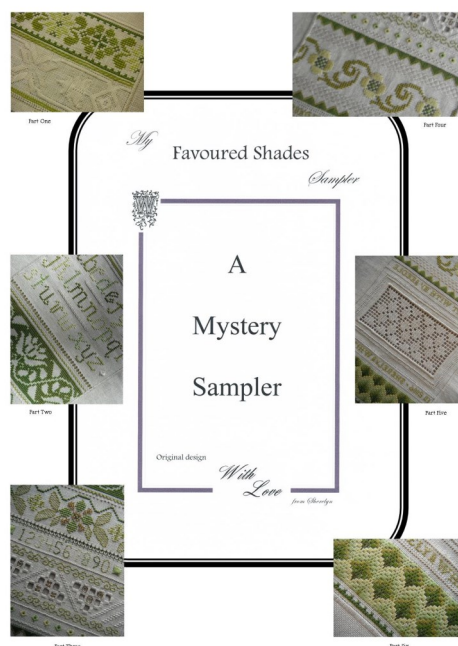
Throughout the year from January through to the 1st of September I was often "hard-pressed" to have the instructions written, the chart finished and the stitch diagrams drawn and the stitching of that segment of my sampler worked before the release date of the first of each new month.



This project as a 'mystery' has now come to a conclusion but at the time of the journey over seventy ladies were participating.

The complete instructions for this design are now available for purchase -

Favoured Shades : \$45.00



That's all for the moment.

