

THIS WEEKEND at The Attic . . .

. . . we welcome **Diane Clements** for a two-day workshop featuring her beautiful **Acorn Etui**. The classes will be held in our shop classroom beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, with an hour for lunch, included with your workshop fee, and a morning and afternoon break. There will also be an opportunity to purchase some of Diane's designs, available only from her.



Beginning Linen, usually held on the first Saturday morning of each month, has been rescheduled for Saturday morning, May 19th.

For those of you waiting to receive your April Sampler of the Month . . .



. . . please know that we haven't forgotten you. The man who makes the hornbooks was away on vacation for a bit, and he's back, has made more hornbooks, shipped them to the designer, and they're on their way to us. If you ordered this during April, you will receive your 15% discount when it ships. Thanks for your patience.

MAY'S SAMPLER OF THE MONTH

In honor of Mother's Day, from **Blackbird Designs**, "Her Honor Due" ~ you may purchase any combination of the following at a 15% discount: chart, \$7; Lakeside Vintage fabric (count of your choice), \$10; and 5 Belle Soie silks from **Crescent Colours**, \$27.50



NEW IN THE SHOP

In addition to our automatic shipments from designers, we've begun to receive the shipments from the online needlework show, and there's lots more to come. Here's what's arrived thus far.

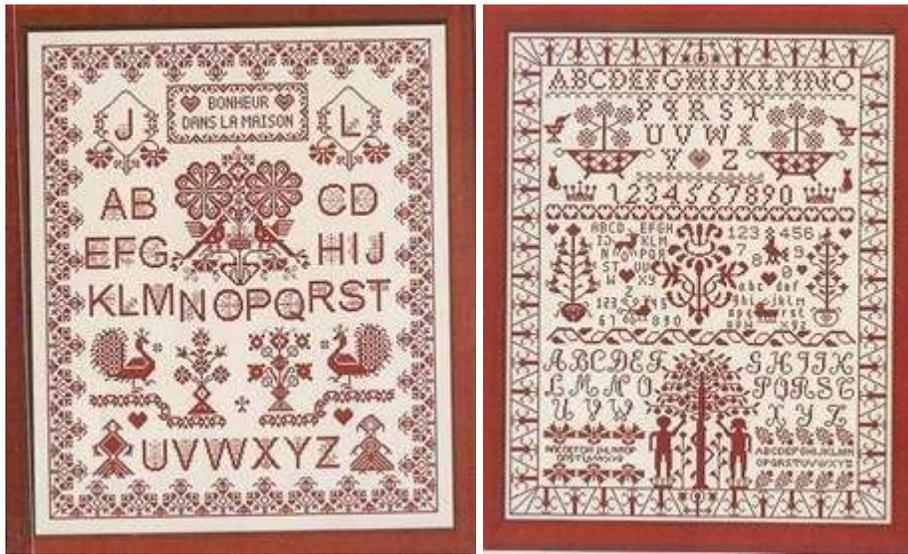
From **Wild-Heart Designs**, three beautiful reproductions and an original design: "Dorotea Colon 1882" (\$12), a gorgeous Mexican sampler; "Quirky Quips #1" (\$8), "Best of Friends"; "Frances Burnyeat 1808" (\$8) with its charming verse: "In looking over this if fault you spy think you once was young as well as I"; and the "MG 1838," (\$16) a gorgeous Spanish sampler stitched in Au Ver A'Soie silks. This one is destined to be a shop model in the near future.





A wonderful array of French samplers from several different designers. First, from *Rouge du Rhin*, "Le plus beau jour," which translates to "The most beautiful day," \$20. Who wouldn't love to receive this as a wedding sampler? Next, the very beautiful "Marquoir aux Roses" (\$15) ~ and three from *Anagram*, "Les ciseaux" (The Scissors) \$18 (this one may not be new because Rhonda already has it in her computer list, so me thinks I forgot); "Bonheur dans la maison" (Happiness in the House) ~ \$22, with an exquisite center motif and peacocks flanking the flower vases in the lower third; and "Sampler Rouge" (\$22).

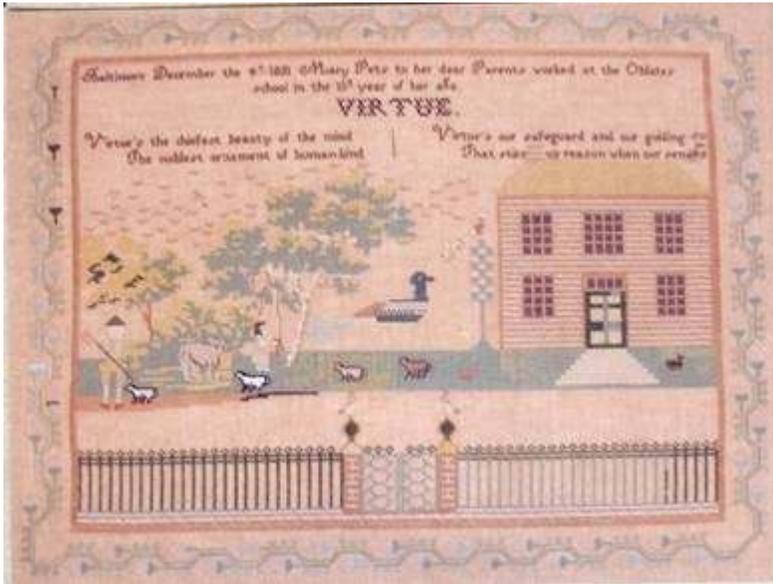




And my very favorite, from *Le Passe' Compose'/Marjorie Massey*, an exquisite sampler, "Maman" (Mom), \$28. I couldn't wait to start this one and I found a most beautiful combination: *Lakeside Linen's* gorgeous 40c Vintage Bittersweet with the most beautiful silk (thus its name, Belle Soie) in a new color that Sharon gave me a bit of to try called Rosebud. Oh, my! I haven't been this excited about putting silk to linen in a VERY long time, and I don't want to do anything but stitch on this project. Moments ago I pressed it before scanning, and I wish the scan could show you the marvelous sheen of the silk. Oh, my! There will be 27 new colors of Belle Soie coming in early June, and my staff has already advised me to order large numbers of these luscious colors ~ I think that's great advice!



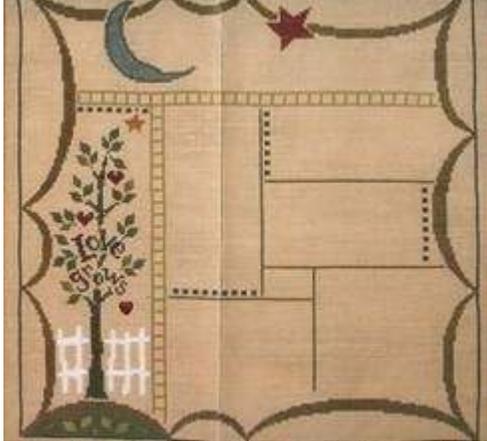
A beautiful reproduction of "Mary Pets Sampler" (\$26) from *Queenstown Sampler Designs* ~ please note that a portion of the sales of this design will benefit the Oblate Sisters of Providence, Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to the chart and its detailed instructions and stitch diagrams, you will also receive a detailed history/provenance with this sampler. This is certainly one that all sampler aficionados will want in their collection since it is the first Maryland sampler completed by an African-American schoolgirl to be reproduced. In addition to its grand house, Mary's sampler also includes some beautiful trees and a shepherd and shepherdess scene along with a glorious peacock.



Bent Creek's next edition in their "Red Thread" series has arrived, "Fly a Kite" (\$4.50) with their apologies ~ it's a bit behind but it's okay ~ so are we! We've shown you the border and the beginnings of this very charming design when stitched side by side with the lovely border and verse ~ there's a red thread connecting each month's "Snapper." The verse, an ancient Chinese belief, reads: "An invisible red thread connects those destined to meet . . . the thread may stretch or tangle but never breaks." Betsy is stitching the model for the shop, so soon we will show you the model's progress.



And here's the reason that **Bent Creek** is behind: a BIG new project called "Love Grows." The first kit (\$68) in this series includes the border, linen to complete the entire project, floss, button, needle and the design. There will be 6 more designs to complete this project. This series is called "The Big Zipper" ~ and as they say on the leaflet, it's one BIG piece of linen, one fabulous BIG design that you get to stitch a little bit at a time. Next to it, "Love You Mom" (\$6) in their Sampler Series.



Below, "This Is The Day" from **La-D-Da** stitched with Needlepoint, Inc. silk on Heritage hand-dyed linen from **Picture This Plus**, shown in the next scan.



And from *My Big Toe Designs*, more beauties for your project basket: "Gordian Knot" (\$14) shown in NPI in black and Chinese red ~ the chart also pictures five other color combinations, black and gold, reds, blues, greens, and purples!!!! Next, "Masquerade" (\$10), stitched in *Gentle Art's* Tin Bucket and Weathered Barn. And "Always Remember" (\$6), with two color options, cancer-survivor colors as well as patriotic colors as a memorial for our brave Armed Forces.



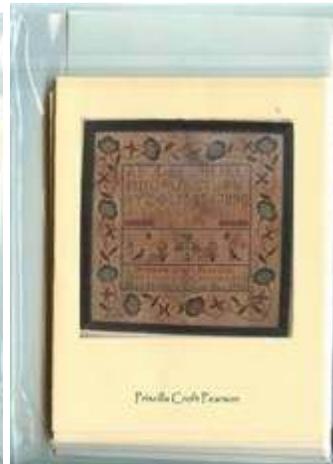
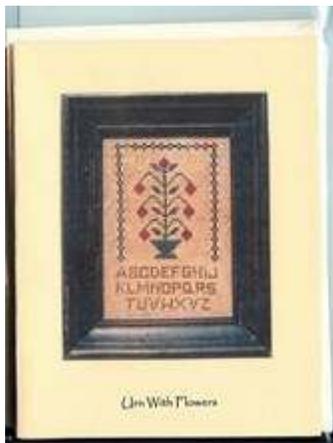
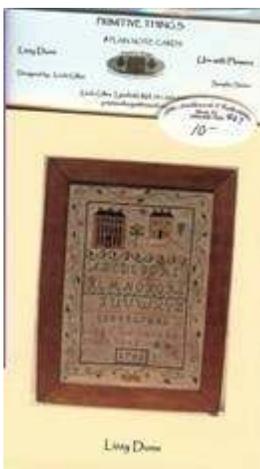
Another beautiful Scripture design from *My Big Toe* called "1 Corinthians" (\$16) with the very beautiful and familiar words: "Love is patient, Love is kind. It does not envy, nor boast. It is not proud. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in truth. Love always protects. Love always trusts." And two from *Marc Davis/Needlemania*, "Jardin de Versailles Fantasy" (\$8) stitched in *Gloriana's* Summer Foliage on navy and "Animal Crackers" (\$6) ~ don't you just love the clever titles designers come up with?! ~ stitched in *Gloriana's* Lorikeet (wool) Rosewood Dark.



Several charming new designs to welcome a new baby from *Sandra Sullivan/Homespun Elegance* in her Pampered Ones Collection: "Birth Sampler" (\$12 with charms) shown as a memory box, a pillow, or a door hanging, and next to it, "Baby Pillows I" (\$8) ~ the pillow shams include the stuffed pillow form and, I'm sorry, I don't have their price at the moment. They're from *Pam Reid/Olde Colonial Designs*, and they're very busy this weekend at their Celebrations event in New Hampshire. We'll be getting these, though, in our next shipment and can tell you then.



Two different packets of wonderful sampler notecards from **Linda Gillon/Primitive Things**. Each packet (\$10) includes 4 cards each of two sampler reproductions. The first set includes Lizzy Dunn's sampler and Urn with Flowers; the second set features samplers by Sarah Hull and Priscilla Croft Pearson.



That's all for this week. Next week promises to be a bonanza with many more beautiful designs from the online needlework show and with **Blackbird's** newest in the 2007 Loose Feathers Club series, "Awake the Dawning Day," which is winging (or trucking) its way to the Southwestern Desert this very moment. Here are some other winged things, the gorgeous pair perched in a tree outside John's workshop a few weeks ago, and the neighbor's cat hiding quietly in the same tree watching for an opportunity ~ and more winged things just passing through with a brief pause one Sunday morning in our swimming pool before they continued on their long journey north.



It's been a busy week here, with the lower grades in Hannah and Tyler's school presenting their Fine Arts Festival Tuesday evening. The upper classes, including Tyler's will have theirs in two weeks.



It's time to close for this week and begin a very busy weekend. We'll be inside learning reticella under the expert tutelage of Diane Clements while the last moments of a beautiful Spring in the Desert try and entice us outdoors. I know, the high 80's doesn't conjure up thoughts of beautiful Springtime for many of you ~ believe me when I say this is gorgeous weather for early May. With the humidity around 10%, temperatures in this range bring chills in the shade. We hope you have a beautiful weather weekend as well wherever you are.

Jean Lea

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