

Just back from the Charlotte Cash 'n Carry Market with LOTS of new things to fill your stitching baskets. This is labeled Part 1 because not all of the scans of all of the new things will comfortably fit in one e-mail, so there will be other parts to come in the days ahead ~ not sure how many just yet because I've only begun to scan.

THIS WEEKEND at *The Attic*

- **Saturday, August 20, Semi-Annual Market Day, with a special opening at 9 a.m. for PSC Club members to shop first.** As in the past, the shop will open at 10 a.m. for the general public. On this special day PSC members receive a 15% discount **all day long** on all in-stock merchandise, with a few exceptions. DMC floss and books labeled "No Discount" are not available at this discount, but everything else is, including the newest items from Charlotte.
- In the past we've held this Autumn Market Day on the weekend following the Phoenix Cash 'n Carry. However, that is primarily a market for needlepoint shops, and we can't wait two more weeks to share with you the goodies from the Charlotte Cash 'n Carry Market. So Saturday's the day. Those of you who are PSC members from afar, you may participate in this special event by telephone or e-mail if you wish. Our toll-free number is 1.888.94-ATTIC.

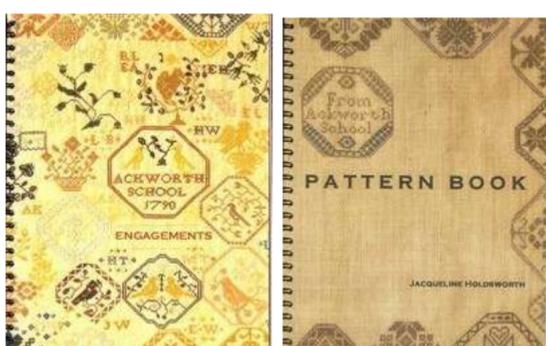
EXCITING NEWS FOR SAMPLER LOVERS EVERYWHERE

Before I get into the new items, there are several items of interest that I can't wait to tell you about:

- I just learned this morning in an e-mail from the author, Jacqueline Holdsworth, that the **Ackworth books** that have been soooooo popular have gone into a second printing; our order will ship August 29th and will be received on or about September 1. Both books are soft cover, spiral-bound, and are \$35 each ~ and you should know that a portion of the books' proceeds are going directly into the Ackworth sampler preservation fund. If you didn't get your name on the list for the first printing, you will not want to miss out on this singular opportunity to add two wonderful books to your collection. Now that I've seen them, I can tell you about them in more detail.

Written in five languages, the **Engagement Calendar** is so much more than its name implies; in fact, some on my staff have said it is their favorite of the two. This book has been formatted so that the calendar pages can ultimately be removed, if you wish and if you really actually write on them, to leave a wonderful historical reference book with fabulous photographs of the Ackworth samplers, of some of the students, and of their school mistresses, as well as very interesting anecdotal information taken from the school records presenting historical insight into life at the school in the Eighteenth Century. Anyone with a love for samplers and samplermakers, particularly Quaker, currently enjoying unbelievable popularity, will want this book as part of their reference library.

The companion book, the **Pattern Book**, is equally valuable as a reference book as well as a design book and presents clearly diagrammed motifs, one per page in the 100-page spiral-bound soft cover, with the stitch count given for each motif, its symmetry, type, border description, if any, i.e., chain, diamond, floral, leaf, line, ribbon, stepped, and trellis. The motifs themselves as well as the borders are indexed. What fun it will be to see many of you designing your own Quaker samplers with the use of this wonderful tool!



These books are, as author Jacqueline Holdsworth says, "a foretaste of wonderful things to come in December 2006: a book on the Ackworth School Samplers by Carol Humphrey and a CD-ROM of the entire sampler collection at Ackworth School."

The next very exciting news for sampler lovers is the projected February 2006 release at Nashville of a limited edition collaboration sampler from 10 very talented designers. Each of the 10 designers has designed a block; the blocks can all be stitched to make a large sampler (408 x 242 stitches) or the blocks can be stitched individually. The model uses linen from **Lakeside Linens, Needlepoint, Inc. silk**, and a **Primitive Traditions frame**. The tentative name of the sampler is "A Most Noble Pursuit," and I can tell you, from seeing a few of the blocks in Charlotte, that it's going to be spectacular. The designers involved are: **A Stitch and A Prayer, BrightNeedle, Carriage House Samplings, Hands to Work, La-D-Da, Praiseworthy Stitches, Primitive Traditions, The Workbasket, Tricia Brage Designs, and With My Needle**. The projected cost of this 10-block sampler is \$40. Since there will be a limited number of these available, we are taking reservations for this very special sampler. If you love houses, you will want this in your collection.

WHAT'S NEW

Oh, my, where to begin! These are appearing here in no special order, just as I happened to pull them from the classroom tables for scanning.

From one of my all-time favorites, Page Dorsey of **The Sampler Workes**, two beautiful new samplers: "Petite Mexican Sampler," whose photograph does not do it justice, so I've also scanned the beautiful **Soie De Paris silk** that it uses on the Light Exemplar linen from **Lakeside Linens**. This is a wonderfully small project for you to try out these silks if you've not yet given yourself that pleasure. The 103w x 112h design is a several-evening project for some instant gratification ~ and the very beautiful "Victorian Berlin Work Sampler" using Soie d'Alger on **Lakeside's** 40c Meadow Rue, a smaller size project than Darlene's nine-part "Berlin Woolwork Sampler." Now that we've all fallen in love with these motif samplers in their rich, jewel-like colors, we have another one to look forward to putting our needle to. There is much more new from Page, but it will have to wait for Part 2 because it hasn't been scanned yet.



Indigo Rose's Catherine has added the much-awaited "My Daughter" as a companion sampler to her very popular "My Son." The verse on "My Daughter" is very touching: "My love is tied to my daughter with beautiful ribbons and bows; and no matter how far and no matter how long, she takes it wherever she goes. Long after I'm gone and she has grown old, tied to children I'll never know, is the same silk thread connecting our hearts with beautiful ribbons and bows." I know many of you have daughters for whom this sampler is a perfect tribute. And in Catherine's "smalls" line comes a wonderful kit she calls "Sweet Baby James"; the first photo shows this darling needlecase closed ~ the second photo shows it open, with the tops of the wooden needlecases peeking out above their needle-size labels of 24, 26, and 28. An adorable and useful small indeed!



One of the most exciting finds at Charlotte was a surprise: 40-count prefinished linen pieces from BrunnerHaus, with the beautiful hemstitching already done. These pieces come square, placemat size, or as table runners in natural, creme, or white linen. Of course, we also have them in the 30-count that has been available previously.



Olde Colonial Designs again has several wonderfully designed needlework accessory kits: "Needlework Garden Snip Basket," whose kit includes everything except the batting for the top padding, has a charming spool as part of its closure ~ and a kit introduced in Nashville but one we again fell in love with when we saw the model, "Mimi's Desk Top Weight," whose kit includes everything to stitch it, as well as all finishing materials. I wish you could see this model ~ a perfect accessory for your desk or an executive friend you need a gift for.



Sandra Sullivan at **Homespun Elegance** has been very busy designing for you and has published several wonderful booklets for your autumn stitching: "Shabby Chic Autumn" features four different projects, a framed piece, a table runner, a purse, and a wool applique with its acorns, pumpkin, and squirrel, all charmingly combined in a pillow that cries out for a wool applique class ~ another "squirrels" piece, "Woolly Squirrels," shown framed and on a premade pillow using again Weeks Wool for the applique ~ "Peace on Earth," another charming "house" design on the Pointedly Stitched premade pillows ~ and "Autumn Gathering," an autumn design that you won't be able to keep from your needle that is shown blanket-stitched to a Weeks Wool bag. I wish all of you could see the **Homespun Elegance** booth decorated with all of these beautiful models. It's truly incredible.



And there's more of Sandra's designs ~ ornaments and punchneedle and cross-stitched tinies in little frames that you can wear around your neck or wear as a pin if you wish.

But they, along with much, much more, will have to wait until Part 2.

Going to a needlework market is one of the very special joys that's a part of this business. Meeting and visiting with these very talented people who make our needlework hobby such a wonderful affair, and admiring their work, is the benefit of going to market. Many of these designs we get on an "automatic" basis, since they have agreed to have their designs as they are published, sight unseen, but the importance to me of traveling to a show is so that I can see the models and come back and tell you about them, how beautiful they are and what makes them particularly special. Seeing the photography just doesn't cut it, even in this digital age. So although it's expensive going to three markets a year, it's a very integral part of our salesmanship. I hope you find much in what we brought back for you to keep your needles flyin'!

As always, thank you for your patronage and your continued interest in Attic Needlework. We can't exist without you.

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