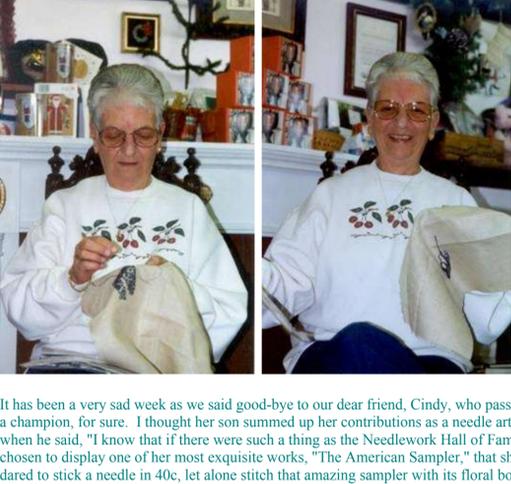


CELEBRATING CINDY



It has been a very sad week as we said good-bye to our dear friend, Cindy, who passed away a week ago today. The needlework world has lost a champion, for sure. I thought her son summed up her contributions as a needle artist most profoundly in his eulogy at her memorial service when he said, "I know that if there were such a thing as the Needlework Hall of Fame, my mother would surely be in it." And the family had chosen to display one of her most exquisite works, "The American Sampler," that she stitched on 40c long before the rest of us even dared to stick a needle in 40c, let alone stitch that amazing sampler with its floral border with thousands of queen stitches.

She loved samplers long before many of us knew what a sampler was. She worked at The Attic in the '80s, and that's where she met Maureen Appleton of *The Heart's Content*, who was visiting in the area, came into the shop, said she was looking for someone to stitch her models over one, and Cindy quickly volunteered. Thus began a friendship of more than 30 years. Cindy was most generous with her artistry, and some very lucky people have a special masterpiece with the words, "Hand wrought by Cynthia Winn."

The Attic has been fortunate to have her as our premiere model stitcher for the past several years. She'd come into the shop on Monday mornings, fresh out of something to stitch; we'd kit up an intricate sampler on 40c or over 1 on 29c, and she'd be back with it finished in several weeks. It truly was an amazing thing! I remember the day she came in without her usual smile and was very distressed because her lamp that she'd used for many years finally gave out. Her big smile returned and the bounce in her step as we sent her home with a new Daylight lamp. I loved using Cindy as an example when someone who was half her age would come into the shop and complain that they had to give up their needlework because they couldn't see it anymore. As Cindy knew, if you love needlework, the right tools make it possible to continue to stitch till the end. Cindy was still stitching these past few weeks during her dialysis treatments and while recovering at home, until she lost 60% of her eyesight. And I'm certain that she's continuing to stitch, now with a golden needle in her hand!

Yes, she was an incredible needlewoman but, more than that, a wonderful human being who loved life, loved to laugh, and had a heart of gold. More than anything, she loved her family and was a wonderful wife (of 55 years), mother, and grandmother.

Maureen has suggested a very special tribute: Sometimes in September we will have a "Celebration of Cindy and Her Needlework" at The Attic. Maureen will be here with some of the hundreds of models Cindy has stitched for her, and we will have on display those that she did for our shop. Details will follow in a subsequent newsletter.

AUGUST'S SAMPLER OF THE MONTH

The month is almost over, but we're pleased to show you, finally, "A is for Angel" from *The Sweetheart Tree*. The kit, \$18, comes complete with 28c Cashel Summer Khaki, the Sterling Silver angel charm and all other embellishments, as well as the floss, perle cotton, and Wisper. Receive 15% off this kit as our Sampler of the Month.



MORE NEW IN THE SHOP

More from our Charlotte tradeshow shopping:

- We were thrilled to see Sharon Cohen of *The Nostalgic Needle* at the Charlotte market – here is a needlewoman extraordinaire, self-taught, whose needlework makes you believe she is a reincarnate from another century, like the Golden Age of Samplermaking. Here are some of Sharon's current offerings:

Row 1: "Mermaid Tapestry," tent stitch over 1 on 32c linen, available for \$16 as a chart or \$300 as a Limited Edition Kit (DMC, 32c linen, and a box with a 4" x 6" opening) – and "Jack-in-the-Box Bag" (\$14)



Row 2: "Grape Renaissance Reticule" and "Rose Renaissance Reticule," (both \$12), small purses 3" x 3" and 3" x 3.5" respectively inspired by similar 17th Century purses in the V&A Museum; "Tree of Life with Dragon," (\$10) this one charted in cross stitch (as opposed to the earlier version in tent, double-running, and basket weave)



Row 3: Several designs now combined into a "collection" at a lesser price: "Her Majesty's Costume Collection" (\$18), a delightful set of matching needlework tools: glove scissors holder, tiny coil needlebook, and miniature nightcap that is secretly transformed into a pouch; "Sampler Posy Collection" (\$12), patterns ideal for lovely pouches, ornaments, or gifts; and "Ornament Collection" (\$12), three embroidered ornament patterns of traditional flower and fruit motifs, presented here together for their 10-year anniversary.



- Beautiful "knot" work birds (created with French and colonial knots) from *Crossed Wing Collection*: "Black-capped Chickadee & Berries" (\$14); "Purple Finch & Lilacs" (\$14); and "Four Seasons Chickadees No. 1 ... Black-capped Summer" (\$16). If you think these are beautiful here, I only wish you could see them in person. I LOVED them!



- Several new designs from *Praiseworthy Stitches*, here's two of my favorites: "Red Stag Sampler" (\$10), a two-color design (cranberry red and gold) which I started stitching on the plane to Portland last weekend, and then realized the symbol colors were reversed in the chart, so mine looks a little different, and "Harvest House" (\$12), a very charming autumn design



- Several new "smalls" from Italian designer Giulia Manfredini/GPA:

Row 1: "Old Italian Sewing Set" with finishing info enclosed (\$14); "While I Darn Sewing Set," needlebook photographed closed and then the front and back of it fully open – and a boy chart, to replace the girl, is also enclosed – (\$17, includes bone rings)



Below, "A Canadian Journey Necessaire," (\$22, includes waxer), as part of the Designing Ladies 2006, photographed open, front and back.

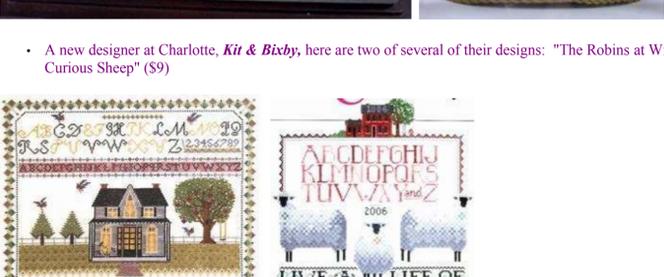


- On display in our front display, models on loan from *The Marking Sampler*:

Christmas ornaments, with the newest near the top," Four Calling Birds" and "Heart & Home" – and a Quaker reproduction, "Elizabeth Foster." Sorry, I forgot to note the prices for the designs and I apologize for the glare on the sampler – even without a flash it's difficult to avoid.



"A Pair of Quaker Pyn Keeps – A Trifle with York & A Quaker Pyn Keep," with finishing info included, \$14 – and another idea for finishing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Again, my apologies for the glare from the beveled glass enclosure we have it displayed in. I should have taken off the glass cover. Finished as an ornament, you can see it at the bottom of the ornament swag above.



- A new designer at Charlotte, *Kit & Bixby*, here are two of several of their designs: "The Robins at Willowby Farm" (\$9) and "Three Curious Sheep" (\$9)



- Several have-to-own accessories:

Carved bone needlecases, Filigree (\$22) and Hook Umbrella (\$14), both with screw caps – and a sampler bag for "stuff," measures about 8 inches tall (\$14).



There's so much more, but I'll avoid an overly large e-mail this week and save more lovelies for next week. Here are a few shots of our seasonal in-store display. Most often this happens after Labor Day, but this year we just couldn't wait for Autumn, a season we don't really have here in Arizona – we just pretend that it's getting colder and that the frost is on the pumpkin. No! How come so many people are moving here? Haven't they heard about our weather?



And some photos from our girlie weekend at Chez Vincils in Portland: First, our visit to Leslie Heaver, Leslie's beautiful and generous collection of samplers from needleworkers from centuries ago from many countries. Leslie is a true sampler lover who graciously shares her collection with others who appreciate it. Here's a small snippet of what we saw, photographed in Leslie's dining room.



And while it was a girlie weekend, Roz's husband Lynn was most tolerant of this female invasion, and even made a turkey on the grill for us on Sunday. Here are our smiling faces just before we sat down to enjoy his efforts. Now, there's a very special man! Thank you, Roz and Lynn, for a most memorable Portland retreat.



Thanks for your interest in The Attic's e-newsletter. As always, if you wish to be deleted from our e-mail database, please send an e-mail to the above address with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Enjoy your week.

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