

THIS WEEKEND at *The Attic* . . .

. . . there is nothing special happening because it's Labor Day weekend – can it really be September 1 already? My mother was right about another thing: the older one gets, the faster time flies, something which didn't make sense to me as a child, but it becomes another truism as the years go by. We will be open **Saturday 10 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.**, our regular hours, and **closed Monday for Labor Day.**

SEPTEMBER SAMPLERS OF THE MONTH

With the beginning of another month, we are pleased to present September's Samplers of the Month. The first, not really a sampler but we thought appropriate for the beginning of another school year, "The Music Teacher's House," is a *Ronnie Rowe* design, a pen-and-ink drawing translated into needlework. Our model, beautifully stitched by Evie Hastings (It's actually her model, but she's kindly let us exhibit it since receiving two 100/3 Soie d'Alger in last year's Phoenix Needlework Show, and it's easy to see why one of the awards it won was the People's Choice Award.) Evie's piece is stitched with one color of 100/3 Soie d'Alger silk over one thread on Cashel linen – and yes, it is done on a lilac linen with dark purple silk, only one shade – the shading you see is in the design itself.

Our second September Sampler of the Month is a repeat from last year but we feel apropos for this September and many more to come. It is a *Blackbird Designs* chart, "Home of the Brave," (shown on the right) that we have modified slightly, replacing the alphabet with words from our National Anthem and dedicating the piece at the bottom in memory of September 11, 2001. We present this in a Limited Edition Kit with 34c Attic Legacy, a special fabric dyed especially for us by *Lakeside Linens*, and with 5 meters of silk, Color 226 from *Needpoint, Inc.*, and, of course, with the charted verse and dedication.

Receive 15% off the materials (except DMC) for either or both designs during the month of September.



SEPTEMBER PSC DISCOUNTS

During September PSC Club members will receive a 15% discount on:

- All *Ronnie Rowe Designs* – go to <http://www.hoffmandis.com/productlist.cfm> to see them all
- Anything from our *Au Ver A'Soie* line (Soie d'Alger, Perlee, Gobelin, Soie de Paris, and Soie 100/3)
- All regular linens (as opposed to hand-dyed linens)

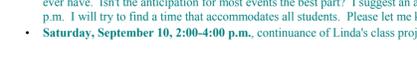
SEPTEMBER ALSO MEANS . . .



. . . this year's *JCS Ornament* magazine will soon be here for our Holiday stitching baskets ~ if you're not on our [Reservation List](#), it's not too late!

ACKWORTH BOOKS . . .

. . . were shipped via Air Mail from the UK on Tuesday, so the arrival of our second shipment is imminent. Again, if you're not on the Reservation List and don't own these, don't wait – these will go fast again – \$35 each.

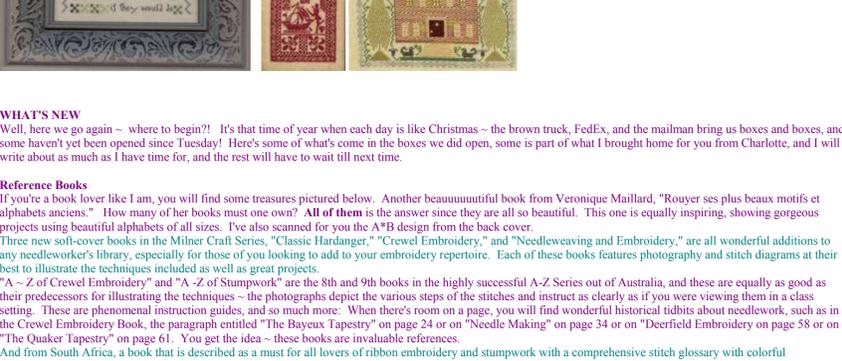


NEXT WEEKEND at *The Attic*

- Saturday morning's continuing class for **Design Your Own French Alphabet Sampler** necessarily has to be rescheduled as I will be in Wisconsin for my brother's surprise 60th birthday party – ssssssshhhhhhhh, don't tell him! It's going to be so much fun! We're having more fun planning for this occasion than he will ever have. Isn't the anticipation for most events the best part? I suggest an afternoon class, in order to keep it in September, either the 17th or 24th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. I will try to find a time that accommodates all students. Please let me know by e-mail or telephone which will work for you.
- **Saturday, September 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, continuance of Linda's class project, "The Cranberry Sampler."

NEW MODELS IN THE SHOP

From *Blackbird Designs*, "Something Sweet," a birthday gift from Betsy, will only be here for a short time, but I wanted you to see this gorgeous piece. Betsy stitched it on 40c Biters from *Lakeside Linens* and Sandy picked a most fitting frame. As usual, the picture doesn't do this justice. If you can't read the beautiful verse, it is: "I looked for something sweet to send you . . . the violets asked if they would do." I just love it! Next is another beautiful piece in the Splendor Series by Maureen Appleton of **The Heart's Content**, Splendor IX, "Escapade en France." As Maureen says about this piece, it's all about Paris – the Eiffel Tower, wine, the French fashions, fleet, Fleur de lis, and French royalty. Sandy hasn't popped this one into its frame yet, but I couldn't wait to show you. The sampler on the right, "John Foster Sampler," is a reproduction from **Historic Stitches**. Our model is stitched on 29c Glenshee over one with a Continental stitch in silk threads, some *Gloriana*, some *Soie d'Alger*. This one hasn't been framed yet either, not even mounted, but I'm anxious to share this one also. It's one of my favorite reproductions ever, a really beautiful sampler, well balanced, colorful, with touches of red, my favorite color ~ originally stitched by a man! That makes it even more unique.



WHAT'S NEW

Well, here we go again – where to begin?! It's that time of year when each day is like Christmas – the brown truck, FedEx, and the mailman bring us boxes and boxes, and some haven't yet been opened since Tuesday! Here's some of what's come in the boxes we did open, some is part of what I brought home for you from Charlotte, and I will write about as much as I have time for, and the rest will have to wait till next time.

Reference Books

If you're a book lover like I am, you will find some treasures pictured below. Another beautiful book from Veronique Maillard, "Rouyer ses plus beaux motifs et alphabets anciens." How many of her books must one own? All of them is the answer since they are all so beautiful. This one is equally inspiring, showing gorgeous projects using beautiful alphabets of all sizes. I've also scanned for you the A-B design from the back cover. Three new soft-cover books in the Milner Craft Series, "Classic Hardanger," "Crewel Embroidery," and "Needleweaving and Embroidery," are all wonderful additions to any needleworker's library, especially for those of you looking to add to your embroidery repertoire. Each of these books features photography and stitch diagrams at their best to illustrate the techniques included as well as great projects.

"A – Z of Crewel Embroidery" and "A – Z of Stumpwork" are the 8th and 9th books in the highly successful A-Z Series out of Australia, and these are equally as good as their predecessors for illustrating the techniques – the photographs depict the various steps of the stitches and instruct as clearly as if you were viewing them in a class setting. These are phenomenal instruction guides, and so much more: When there's room on a page, you will find wonderful historical tidbits about needlework, such as in the Crewel Embroidery Book, the paragraph entitled "The Bayeux Tapestry" on page 24 or on "Needle-Making" on page 34 or on "Deerfield Embroidery on page 58 or on "The Quaker Tapestry" on page 61. You get the idea – these books are invaluable references.

And from South Africa, a book that is described as a must for all lovers of ribbon embroidery and stumpwork with a comprehensive stitch glossary with colorful illustrations of over 40 stitches, along with general information on stumpwork techniques. "Ribbon Embroidery and Stumpwork" is a soft-cover book that is will be a welcome reference to anyone learning stumpwork.

Speaking of stumpwork, there's a new hard-cover book from author Jane Nicholas, "The Complete Book of Stumpwork Embroidery," that brings together in one volume the first two titles from Jane. It is described by its publisher as "a must-have for all embroiderers," and I will agree with that wholeheartedly as it is a most comprehensive reference on the subject.



Halloween/Autumn

Fun, fun, fun designs for your autumn stitching! We look forward to this time of year here more than anywhere else in the country, I think, because with Autumn comes cooler temperatures, but not for a little while yet. In the meantime, we can pretend. Here are some autumn adorables:

From *Blackbird Designs* a new, "Trix or Treat," brimming with Halloween projects, and so we've made a Fabric Project Pack combining all of the R&R fabrics cut to sizes for the projects featured in this book, 30c Pepper, 30c Garden Slate Java, 30c Pumpkin Spice Java, 30c Patriarch's Blend, 32c Glen Eilyn Blend, and 30c Witches Brew, \$50 worth of fabric at a 15% discount – the Project Pack price is \$42.50. Also pictured in the "Trix or Treat" book are sampler pillows made from fabric designed by Barb and Alma, who also spend time designing for the quilting world. This fabric, available in quilt shops in October, will also be available from *The Attic*.

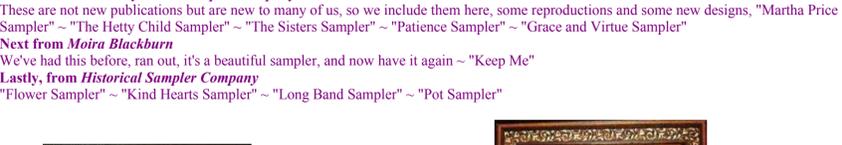


Yesterday an automatic shipment arrived from *Trail Creek Farm*, and we are always delighted to see the newest things that Susan has created. These pillows are fabulous – one in the shape of a nut, "Nuts 'n' Stitches Here" (designed especially for our friends at Portland's Acorns & Threads), a matching square pillow embellished with a stitched acorn design that is embellished with an acorn charm – another group of adorable autumns, "Boo, Eek, Hiss" – and, lastly, a pumpkin pillow, "Fall Colors."



Elegant Samplers

Samplers from Debbie with a not-easily-forgotten design name, *My Big Toe Designs* ~ these are exquisitely elegant alphabet samplers. The "Namesake Sampler" can be ordered by your monogram initial (you choose either first or last initial) for the upper left corner and personalized in the lower right corner using the heart of her husband trusts safely in her. Strength and honour are her clothing. Her children rise up and call her blessed." This is a true heirloom piece that can easily be personalized with your color and fabric preferences. Equally as beautiful is a stunning presentation of "The Lord's Prayer" with the words in beautiful fonts and interspersed with lovely motifs surrounded by a fitting border. And finally out of character with these elegant pieces, "Eat the Chocolate," featuring buttons by *Just Another Button Company* (the scanner tried but failed to get the plastic out of the scan :-).



Just*Nan's WhimZi & More

More beautiful letters, "Ornamental Letters" from *Just*Nan* to fit her, well, whimsical WhimZi frames, and the chartpack includes the entire alphabet, of course, not just "J*O*N" ~ and three jolly Santas also for the WhimZi frames ~ and "Frightful," complete with the new Ghost charm that can either be framed or WhimZi'd



More Samplers

These are not new publications but are new to many of us, so we include them here, some reproductions and some new designs, "Martha Price Sampler" ~ "The Hetty Child Sampler" ~ "The Sisters Sampler" ~ "Patience Sampler" ~ "Grace and Virtue Sampler"

Next from *Maira Blackburn*

We've had this before, ran out, it's a beautiful sampler, and now have it again – "Keep Me"

Lastly, from *Historical Sampler Company*

"Flower Sampler" ~ "Kind Hearts Sampler" ~ "Long Band Sampler" ~ "Pot Sampler"



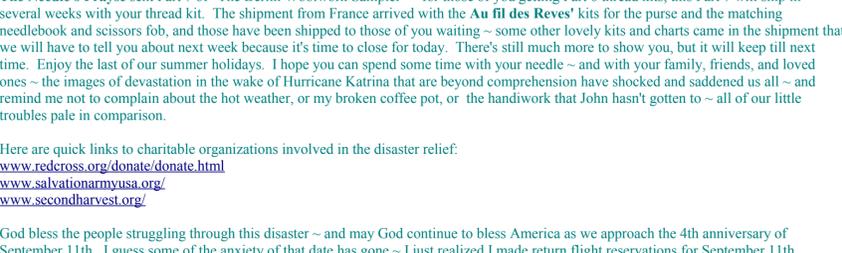
Dinky-Dyes Designs: "Shiraz Sampler" ~ "Vines" ~ "Southern Stars"



Crossed Works' 2005 Christmas ornament, "Christus natus est nobis" (Christ is born for us) and beadweaving with the Peyote Stitch, "Gold Fantasy Needlework Kit" from *Threaded Needle Designs*



New birds from the *Crossed Wing Collection* ~ "Belted Kingfisher" ~ "Green Kingfisher" ~ "Bluebird"



It's been a busy week, beginning with the Stitch to Win Against Breast Cancer event last Friday night, followed by the Phoenix Needlework's Cash 'n Carry show, with designers, friends, and fellow shopowners in town from around the country. We enjoyed opening the shop on Sunday evening and sharing pizza and dessert with Becky, Cindy, Caroline, Debbie, Jeannie, Lois, Bruce, Pam, Marla and Sharon. Monday night dinner and sangria at the Havana Cafe on the way to the airport was a great send-off and, as Cathie said, we had fun despite Deb and Roz's absence.

The *Needle's Prayse* sent Part 7 of "The Berlin Woolwork Sampler" ~ for those of you getting Part 6 thread kits, this Part 7 will ship in several weeks with your thread kit. The shipment from France arrived with the *Au fil des Reves*' kits for the purse and the matching needlebook and scissors fob, and those have been shipped to those of you waiting ~ some other lovely kits and charts came in the shipment that we will have to tell you about next week because it's time to close for today. There's still much more to show you, but it will keep till next time. Enjoy the last of our summer holidays. I hope you can spend some time with your needle – and with your family, friends, and loved ones – the images of devastation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that are beyond comprehension have shocked and saddened us all ~ and remind me not to complain about the hot weather, or my broken coffee pot, or the handiwork that John hasn't gotten to ~ all of our little troubles pale in comparison.

Here are quick links to charitable organizations involved in the disaster relief:

- www.redcross.org/donate/donate.html
- www.salvationarmyusa.org/
- www.secondharvest.org/

God bless the people struggling through this disaster ~ and may God continue to bless America as we approach the 4th anniversary of September 11th. I guess some of the anxiety of that date has gone – I just realized I made return flight reservations for September 11th.

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

Jean Lea
Attic Needlework & Collectibles

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