

December's Samplers of the Month

We're featuring two new designs from *Midsummer Night Designs/Deborah Thorpe* as our December Samplers of the Month. I've just begun the angel's wings in my "Fear Not" (\$8), which I'm stitching over 1 on 29c Croissant, The Attic's exclusive hand-dyed 29c Glenshee, with *Belle Soie* ~ and I'm still working on the beautiful words from the Christmas story as recorded in Luke in the King James version.



The second Sampler of the Month is "A Christmas Sampler" (\$9) with its very meaningful verse ~ "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year" ~ we've converted to Belle Soie scanned on *Lakeside Linen's* 40c Vintage Sand Dune.



Save 15% during December on any combination of the chart, silk, and fabric.

Holiday Happenings

Our Annual Kris Kringle Party

Please join us on **Thursday evening, December 20, from 6 ~ ???** for a Christmas celebration that will include food and fruit punch and, for some who have finished theirs, an ornament exchange. Do come, though, even if you're not participating in the exchange. It's an inspiration to see the beautifully stitched and finished ornaments ~ and gives us great ideas, with an annual resolution that next year I will begin earlier so that I can stitch more ornaments!

Holiday Hours

Monday, December 24 - Closed

Tuesday, December 25 - Closed

Wednesday, December 26 through Saturday, December 29 - regular hours

Monday, December 31 - Closed

Tuesday, January 1 - Closed

Attic Staff Changes

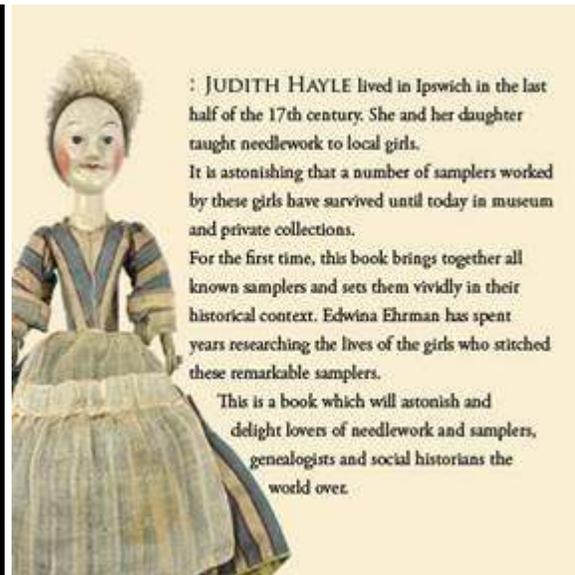
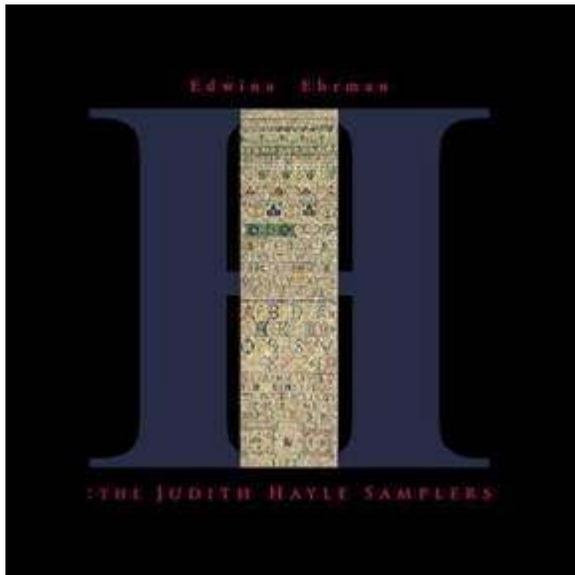
As we told you in our October 4th newsletter, Janet and Joy of our staff found a new passion. They were so taken with the technique they learned from Cathy Campbell in her November 2006 workshop that they decided to fill the void created in our marketplace by Cathy's move away from her beautiful frames toward designing. Several months ago as *Valley House Primitives'* corner samples began circulating in the industry, Joy and Janet became increasingly busy making frames. The growth in their new business has now necessitated their devoting their time and energy there, so while you won't be seeing them in The Attic anymore as part of our staff, you will see beautiful examples of their work as we frame new shop models with their hand-grained frames. Pictured below is a gorgeous frame they did for Betsy's Thanksgiving piece. We know you join us in wishing them much success in their new business.

Most fortunate, for us, Linda Vinson of our teaching staff was available to fill the opening on our in-shop staff, so you will be seeing Linda on a regular basis in the shop in addition to her continuing on our teaching schedule. As many of you know, Linda is a very accomplished needlewoman who has begun designing, so we have the best of all worlds. In a future edition of this newsletter we will share some of Linda's memories of a few months ago when she lent her needlework talents to the Plimoth Plantation needlework project that is recreating a 17th Century embroidered jacket. You may go to <http://www.plimothplantation.com/embroidery-blog/> to follow its progress.



What's New in the Shop

There's a great deal, much more than I can include here today, so for the most part I've limited it to Seasonal items or last-minute gift ideas for someone on your list, including yourself!



Coming next week, *The Judith Hayle Samplers*, a new book from Edwina Ehrman, who has spent years researching a very special group of samplers from the last half of the 17th century. The book is filled with historical information about this special group of samplermakers, including color photographs of much of their work. While I haven't yet received our shipment nor the invoice, I believe this soft-cover book will be priced around \$50. Word has been out about this book's publication, and we already have a reservations list ~ let us know if you'd like to reserve a copy as well.



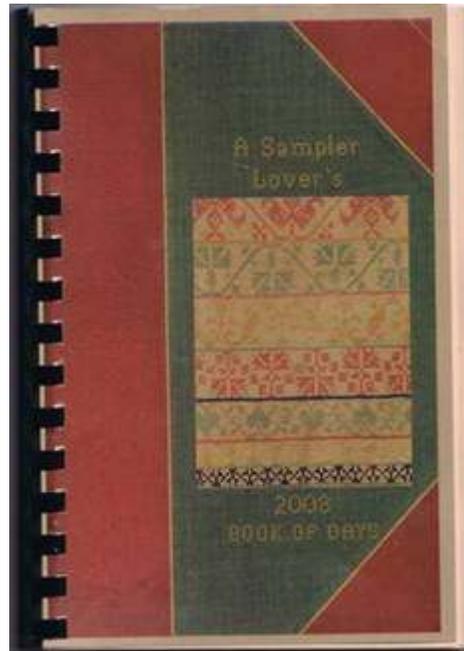
Just in, scissors inspired by the Charles X style, the mother of pearl effect handles simulating what was a very popular material of the time. The blades are fine and delicate, and together they make a very light pair of scissors. Quality scissors can be recognized by, among other things, their pairing marks; these are the signs that the blades have been perfectly adjusted from the start of their fabrication. The scissors as well as the pom-pom were made entirely in France ~ the brochure tells us that it takes a dozen qualified people to make each pair. There is a matching thimble and thread winder as well. Scissors (\$88) ~ thimble (\$40) ~ thread winder (\$12.50)



We've shown you these tortoiseshell effect scissors (\$80) previously, but now we have the matching thread winder (\$12.50) and thimble (\$40) as well, a wonderful set.



We have other Sajou thimbles as well, some with initials and some with embroiderers (\$16) ~ and, finally, the new Limited Edition Gingher Bianca 4-inch embroidery scissors (\$33).



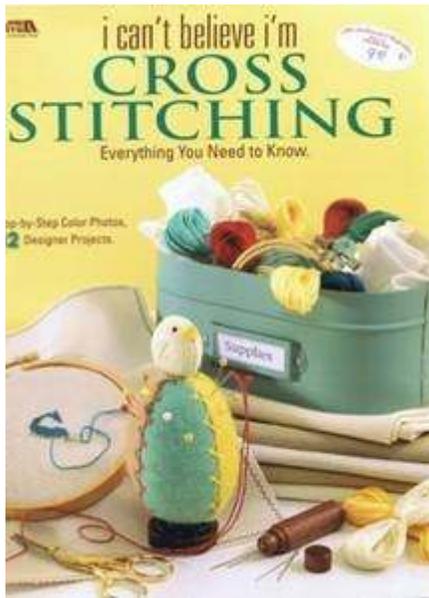
A gorgeous tote bag (\$135) using Moda fabrics designed by Barb and Alma of *Blackbird Designs*, handmade by Bunny of our staff as a special item for the Merry Cox Workshop weekend in November. We are temporarily out of stock for this item, and Bunny is making more, available sometime in January. And the VERY popular *Sampler Enthusiast's Book of Days* (\$19.95) published by friend-of-The-Attic *Vickie Jennet/NeedleWorkPress*.



Only a few remain from our last order, *Liberty Hill/Historic Stitches'* newest items: Christmas Nite Threadboard (\$32) ~ Quaker Pynkeepe (\$50) ~ Haunting Thredwinder set (\$48) ~ Holiday Threadwinder set (NOT PICTURED but very adorable ~ \$48)



A very charming set of three new designs from *Paulette Stewart/Plum Street Samplers* (each \$9), each stitched on 40c Vintage Light Exemplar using the same five Needlepoint, Inc. silks, each framed in a very wonderful frame from *The Family Tree/Crescent Colours* ~ we have the charts, the silk, the frames ~ and a 40c that will be lovely.



Take time during this very busy Season to teach your daughter or granddaughter to stitch ~ we have the perfect book, "I Can't Believe I'm Cross Stitching" (\$9.95) ~ as I was paging through I saw a familiar-looking design, "Plant Humility" ~ you guessed it! Designed by **Diane Williams**.



Here's Debra's granddaughter Sarah as she tried her first stitches in emulating her grandmother. Debra says, "Sarah loves stitching although at 4 ½ her mom has decided to present it as drawing with thread so there isn't any frustration trying to make an X. She can thread her needle, enjoys selecting colors, and has a proper right side & wrong side without getting her thread wrapped around the hoop. I wonder what she will think when we stitch together and she sees all the X's." We have 7-count Klostern, the perfect fabric for a beginner.



From a new designer to us, **Couleur d'Etoile**, "Nuit Magique" ~ "Passionnement ... Brodeuse" ~ "Une histoire de Coeur" (each \$21) ~ and more below:



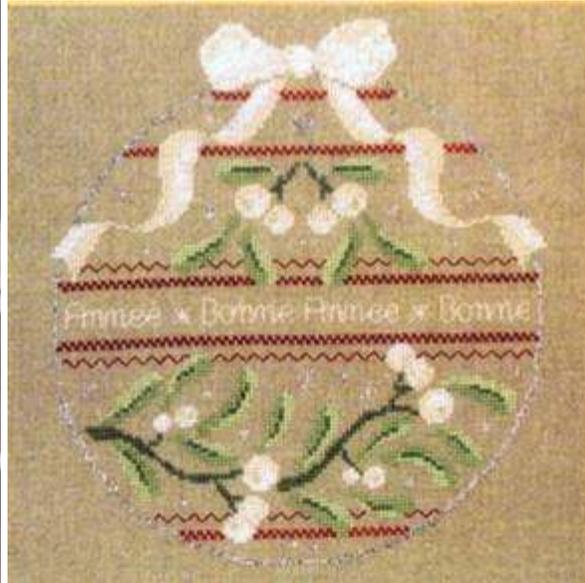
"En attendant Noel" ~ "Tout Id-haut" (each \$21)



"ABC Montagne" _ "Nuit blanche" - (each \$21)



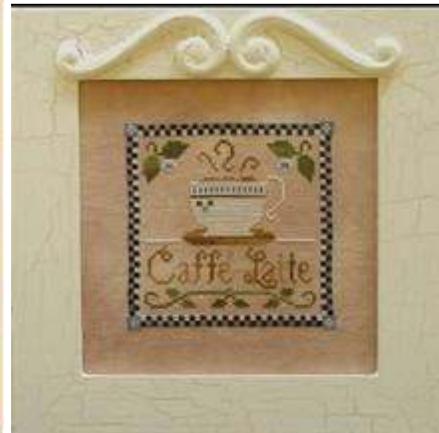
From *Derfeine Faden*, a wonderful red sampler (\$13) ~ and two winter hearts (\$16 each) from *Bleu de Chine* made into cushions, as they call them



From *Rouge du Rhin*, two "ornaments": "Bonne Année 2008" and "Joyeux Noel 2007" (each \$16) ~



~ and a most adorable winter scene with a deer between two pines, "Boule de Neige" (also \$16)



From *Little House Needleworks+Crescent Colours*, two charming designs using Belle Soie in the threadpack: "Winter Sampler," (\$15.50) and "Cafe Latte" (\$13)



Two new chartpacks from *Knotted Tree*, both \$6: "Winter Floral Sampler" and "Ho! Ho! Ho!"



That's all there's time for this afternoon ~ more next time ~
Scenes of the Season from our corner of the world: Tyler and Hannah's Christmas program presented last night at Joy Lutheran Church ~ and several photos taken this past weekend as we showed brother Jerry some of Mesa's very best light displays: a small portion of the 2 million-plus light display at the Mormon Temple in Mesa, listed on ABC's Good Morning America a year or two ago as one of the country's best ~ and the houses on Cherry Street here in Mesa, the residents who all join together to make an absolutely stunning block of Christmas lights.
How wonderful it is to enjoy the special moments of this very special Season of the Heart with our loved ones!

Jean Lea

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