

CHRISTMAS AT The Attic

• **Thursday, December 22, 6 - 9 p.m.** ~ Our annual Kris Kringle Party. Please join us for some Seasonal music, food, and conviviality ~ and join in the ornament exchange, either as a participant or an observer ~ a great place to get ideas for next year's ornament stitching!

Special Holiday Hours

Saturday, December 24, 10 - 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 25, and Monday, December 26 ~ CLOSED
Saturday, December 31, 10 - 2 p.m.
Sunday, January 1, 2006 ~ CLOSED
Monday, January 2 ~ 10 - 2 p.m. ~ SALE!

"A MOST NOBLE PURSUIT"

Well, here it is, for all to see but, unfortunately, not available for your stitching baskets till after the February Nashville Market.



This incredible sampler is the result of a collaborative effort between ten of your favorite designers: *Brightneedle, Carring House Samplings, Hands to Work, La D Da, Patricia Ann Designs, Praiseworthy Stitches, Primitive Traditions, A Stitch and A Prayer, With My Needle, and The WorkBasket*. It's fun to try to guess which designer did which block ~ some are easy, with the designer's initials giving it away. The model is stitched on 36c *Lakeside Linens'* Light Exemplar with *Needlepoint, Inc.* silk. There will be precut linen and threadpacks also available. The price of the chart will be \$40.

We are taking preorders on this now. Some of you are already on our list from August when we originally told you about it after the Charlotte market. When you preorder the chart, please let us know if you also want the linen and, if so, what count ~ 36c or 40c ~ and threadpacks. I'm sorry, I don't yet have those prices for you.

SOME OF WHAT'S BEEN SHOWING IN THE SHOP

• We've had this wall, all from the Needle of Courtney, hanging together since October but just haven't been able to take newsletter space to show it to you. It is a spectacular display of samplers, and we are so grateful that Courtney graciously shares them with all of us. A marvel it is to behold, especially when you see so many of them with the year "2005" and also know that she works full time. Greg is very supportive of Courtney's passion, and not very many evenings pass without some time spent with her needle.



• "Have A Merry Little Christmas" is a very unique design that a customer kindly lent us for a few weeks after it was framed. Those of you lucky enough to see it understand when I say this is truly one that must be viewed to be appreciated. The little felt mittens are hanging by ribbons, and when you lift them up the message is complete: "Have "yourself" "A" is under each of the mittens respectively. And the message finishes at the bottom, "Merry Little Christmas." These are from a new designer, *Woolen Thread Designs*, and there are more equally as charming. Their newest is "Run Run As Fast As You Can." See them all by clicking here: <http://www.nordenstrafs.com/CHARTS/WTD/WTDMAIN.html>.



• Two new models that have just been framed: "Serenity" (without the border) from *Exemplars from the Heart* stitched in Crescent Colours on 40c Lakeside and "Caroline Bradine 1801" from *Threads of Gold* stitched on 40c Vintage Pear in silk. As always, thank you, Cindy, for lending your stitching talents to our shop. Your beautiful stitching adds so much enjoyment to our sampler world.



NEW IN THE SHOP

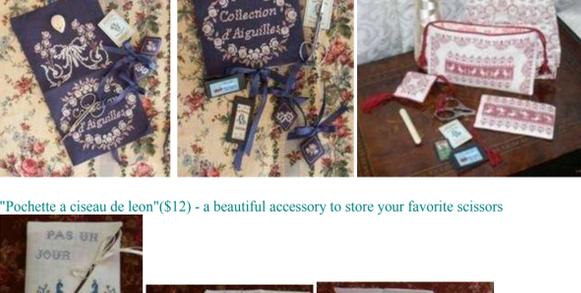
• New this week from *Bent Creek*, "Ze Rink" (\$4). These charming monthly Snapper charts are part of a 4-month series. I've also shown you the first one, "Chalet." There is a free border available for these if you wish, with wintry swirls and snowflakes and a verse: "One kind word can warm the winter months." The design is recommended for either 32c Country Grain Belfast or Opalescent Raw Belfast, with the sparkle adding to these wintry, snowy designs.



• Also new from *Bent Creek* this week, two new kits, "Santa's Reindeer" and "Cheer," both \$20.



• *Blackbird Designs* just keeps filling up my stitching basket with must-do's. The latest in their *Loose Feathers Club*, "Evergreen" is a beauty, as is the previous one, "Garland Fair," as are most of them. I haven't heard yet whether this "club" will continue next year, but if you haven't joined and received these designs, you may want to reconsider. These \$8 charts are released every other month, and the designs remain available for one year and then are retired. Most are very suitable for over-one stitching or 40c fabric, and they're so inviting to stitch that it's difficult to put them aside. The third one pictured here was released several weeks ago, "Blessings Be Thine." I just love the red and green, the deer, the cardinal, the holly and ~ well, I love it all!



• This next grouping, from Isabelle at *Reflets de Soie* in France, has been in the shop for a bit ~ we're very excited to be able to offer them to you, all lovely designs, whether you're looking for smalls as needlework accessories or beautiful samplers, reproduction Berlin-style or redwork designs. These are, in order of appearance:

"Pochette Versailles" \$18 (showing the front, the front and back opened, and in the inside opened) and "Accessoires Versailles" \$15 (showing the front and back opened and the front) ~ both charts come with the beautiful charm ~ and "La Brodeuse et L'oiseau," (\$12) beautiful accessories in red Assisi work and double running stitch with red silk



"Pochette a ciseau de leon" (\$12) - a beautiful accessory to store your favorite scissors



"Lettres a Elise," a six-part sampler, each part \$9, and "Stella's Sampler" \$39, both wonderful samplers reminiscent of Darlene O'Steen's "Berlin Woolwork Sampler," both in the horizontal style.



"Theresia 1868" (\$39) is another Berlin woolwork-style samplers, shown first with a closeup of what really comes at the end of this very long reproduction that begins with a number of beautiful alphabets before it moves to its motif section.



Last, but certainly not least, three redwork designs, "Chante, Rosignol Chante," "Rouge de Soie," and "Rubis d'Orient," each chart \$12.



• Two new scissors from DOVO, our favorite scissors from Germany ~ these have also been in the shop for a while but we've failed to include them in previous newsletters. The first one is called "Free on Board," (\$28) with those words actually imprinted on the blade, measures less than 3.5 inches, and was developed for use during airline travel. Although the TSA has announced lifting the restriction on 4-inch or smaller pointed scissors, I think I'll opt to continue to use these special ones. In this post-9/11 world we live in, these are more likely to avoid raising the discomfort level of the airline personnel and fellow passengers.



• Also new in the shop within the past month, our very own "Chocolate Sampler," (\$9) originally designed as a kit for one of our 2003 lock-ins, now available as a chart. Our model is stitched with Needlepoint, Inc. silk over one on 28c Belfast Vintage Country Mocha. And next to that is our next kit in our Holiday Heirloom Ornament Club from this year's *Just CrossStitch Ornament Issue*. "Love," designed by *Jeanette Douglas Designs*, is stitched with a variety of overdyed threads, metallics, and beads on 32c Opalescent white linen from Zwegart. Our kit will include everything you need to complete this ornament, including the finishing materials: red organza ribbon and the polyfill ~ \$11. In writing about her design, Jeanette includes a number of wonderful quotes about "Love" from a variety of sources, everything from Shakespeare to the Bible, as well as Victor Hugo, Thoreau, and Tennyson. This will make a lovely (no pun intended) addition to your Holiday decor.



Well, I do go on, don't I? Now it's time to get on with their Christmas to be done today. There's still lots to do ~ presents to Hannah and Tyler wrapped, cards to address, baking to do, but we have taken time this week to enjoy our family and the reason for the season ~ Hannah and Tyler help me decorate our tree last Sunday afternoon, and last night we enjoyed their Christmas program, where the children sang like angels. And before we left the Sanctuary following the program, there was time for a family photo op with the beautiful tree as the backdrop.



Some of you have told me that you enjoy the family photos, and I enjoy sharing them with you, my extended family. Enjoy your week and minimize your stress by focusing on some good advice I heard this week: "Enjoy the things you do get done and don't stress about the things that you don't." Thank you, as always, for your interest in our corner of the needlework world.

My best to all of you,
 Jean Lea

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