

## Delightful Georgian Pocket Watch Sampler Circa late 18<sup>th</sup>/Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Derived from the Latin 'exemplum' - an **example** - a sampler is a piece of **embroidery or cross-stitching** produced mostly in the **19<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century** as a demonstration or a test of **skill in needlework**. They often took **many months, even years to complete**, & typically included the alphabet, numbers, figures, motifs, decorative borders & frequently the **name** of the person who embroidered it & the **date**. Their **aim** was essentially to either **instil religious values or worthy personal qualities** such as perseverance & concentration in the young girls (invariably) who worked them. Often also they acted as a 'Curriculum Vitae'; providing a practical example of the stitcher's skills of embroidery when seeking employment as a **Lady's Maid, a life 'in service'** - sometimes also a **husband!** Today, samplers are much sought after both as **highly decorative works of art** in their own right - they **look especially great when presented in a group** - but also for the **fascinating social history** which can often be gleaned from them. We always have some **early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century samplers** - occasionally **even earlier** than this. Our samplers are **always researched** as fully as possible, & we sell each one with as much **detail** about them as we can.

- **Age.** Although undated, research (see provenance below) has placed this **George III sampler** firmly in the late 1700s or very early 1800s.
- **Condition.** 'Exceptional'; the piece is completely undamaged & the colours amazingly vibrant.
- **Quality, content, constituent material & originality.** Here is a **very rare indeed**, delicate miniature silk pocket watch sampler made These miniature samplers were made by **lovers as a reminder to their sweetheart** - especially if they were travelling or apart for any reason.; accordingly this vibrant example features what appears to be a **single red rose** surrounded by a **very fine circular border** (stitched in red, green & gold) finished off with an incredibly detailed **half crescent or leaf surround**.
- **Provenance:** This sampler was bought from a **watch dealer** who found it inside a **Georgian pair case pocket watch** who has provided the **following outstandingly detailed provenance** which is supported by **further enclosed documentation & various images below & overleaf**. *"The pocket watch is gilt inside a horn casing so the exact age is not known however the mechanism certainly puts it into the area of late 1700s & early 1800s. The watchmaker is William Fairer of Asby, Westmoreland and I have done some research and ascertained that he died in June 1811 so it is therefore before that date. The pocket watch also had a paper repair label dating to 1816."*
- **Other.** We have taken this sampler out of its **original period frame & then conserved it by placing on an acid free Conservation Pro mount board with fresh pure linen**. It has then been **re-framed it in its beautifully patinated, stunning ebonised & gilt frame** - in itself is a fabulous antique. The **condition, incredible colour & utterly un-faded condition** of this quite beautiful sampler make it an **absolutely superb example**. It is one of the nicest we have owned! **Something really special to treasure!**







