

# PEACOCKS AND POPPIES

May 2001

## Design Inspiration

The challenge for this garment was to incorporate traditional hand-embroidered sampler motifs into a wearable garment. The stitchery was completed to fulfill the requirements for the Embroiderer's Guild of America (EGA) Master Craftsman in Counted Thread, Step 1. The yoke on the jacket pattern that I chose, stimulated the idea of splitting the sampler into four parts, and using an alternating arrangement of stitchery on the front and the back of the garment. Each section is a traditional sampler in its own right with a narrow border, a wide border or alphabet, and a main motif section. All of the sampler elements are drawn from traditional Hungarian motifs and celebrate my Hungarian heritage. The colors are a modern rendition of the traditional Hungarian red and black color scheme.

## Fabrics

Jacket: 100 % silk herringbone, 100 % Irish evenweave linen.

Jacket and skirt lining: Hang-loose lining.

Skirt: 100 % silk herringbone.

## Embellishments

Jacket: counted cross stitch with cotton and rayon embroidery floss. All stitching is done by hand.

## Patterns

Jacket and skirt: Vogue 2403 (modified).

## Special Sewing Techniques

The jacket pattern was first modified to incorporate the sampler sections. The motifs and borders for each section have been chosen in keeping with the overall scale of each section, and with some variation in the style, stitch density and colors. The hand stitching was completed with careful attention to finishing the threads and minimizing the traveling stitches to prevent shadow through. The hand stitching has been underlined with batiste for additional support, and the jacket and skirt have been constructed as usual.

## **Exhibitions and Awards**

Step 1, EGA Master Craftsman in Counted Thread, September, 2000.