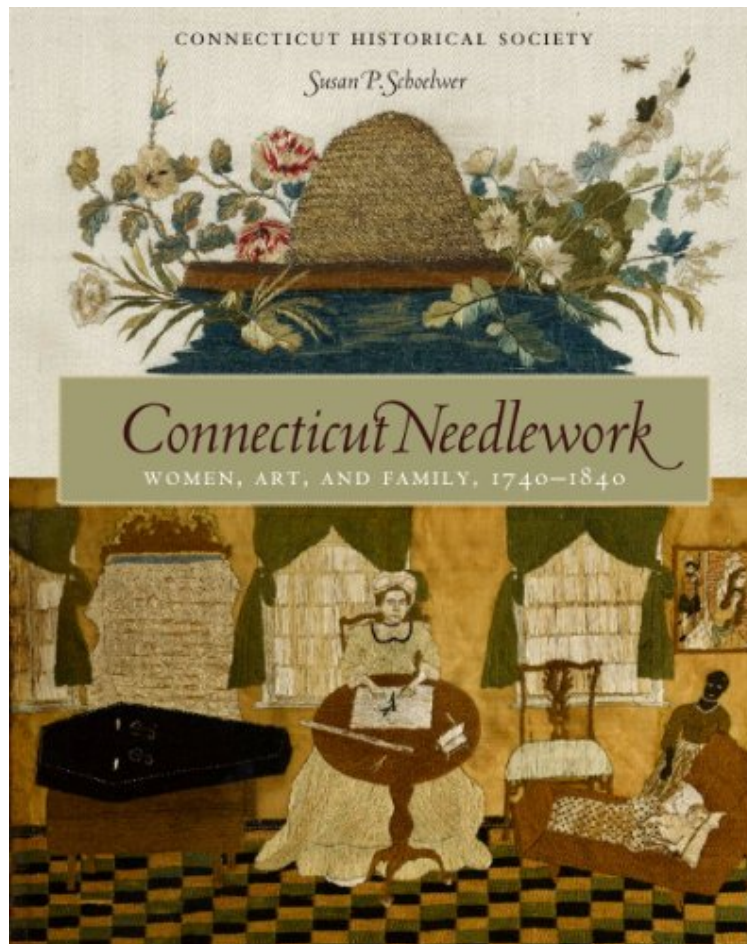


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Connecticut Needlework: Women, Art, and Family, 17401840

Susan P. Schoelwer

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Susan P. Schoelwer : Connecticut Needlework: Women, Art, and Family, 17401840 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Connecticut Needlework: Women, Art, and Family, 17401840:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful BookBy Asenath M. KeplerI am a passionate needlewoman who has been embroidering and needlepointing for decades, with a particular love for eighteenth century American designs. So this high quality book is an invaluable historical resource for me -- made all the more special as I descend from some of the Stonington area families whose work is so beautifully showcased. (I may have finally found the genetic roots of my passion!). Many thanks to the Connecticut Historical Society for this lovely, inspiring publication.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Connecticut NeedleworkBy ScottThis is an extraordinarily handsome book, illustrated with dozens of full page, full color reproductions of specific embroidery examples drawn from the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society. Numerous examples of clothing, bedding, and samplers are included. (Fortunately the samplers, while often lovely, are not overly emphasized here. Although

I'm always happy to see early American and European samplers, hundreds of more-or-less similar examples are very well represented in many other publications. Therefore, I was relieved to see that space was saved here for all the other examples of early needlework in Connecticut.) The book includes detailed captions accompanying each example, as well as a substantial introductory essay that outlines the history of needlework in Connecticut during the mid-18th and early-19th centuries. Throughout, the writing is informed, clear, and lively. I find myself returning to this book almost daily, and am continually impressed and refreshed by its blend of scholarship and beauty.

Connecticut women have long been noted for their creation of colorful and distinctive needlework, including samplers and family registers, bed rugs and memorial pictures, crewel-embroidered bed hangings and garments, silk-embroidered pictures of classical or religious scenes, quilted petticoats and bedcovers, and whitework dresses and linens. This volume offers the first regional study, encompassing the full range of needle arts produced prior to 1840. Seventy entries showcase more than one hundred fascinating examples--many never before published--from the Connecticut Historical Society's extensive collection of this early American art form. Produced almost exclusively by women and girls, the needle arts provide an illuminating vantage point for exploring early American women's history and education, including family-based traditions predating the establishment of formal academies after the American Revolution. Extensive genealogical research reveals unseen family connections linking various types of needlework, similar to the multi-generational male workshops documented for other artisan trades, such as woodworking or metalsmithing. Photographs of stitches, reverse sides, sketches, design sources, and related works enhance our understanding and appreciation of this fragile art form and the talented women who created it. An exhibition of needlework in this book will be held at the Connecticut Historical Society in late fall, 2010. Funding for this project has been provided by the Coby Foundation, Ltd., and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The works are beautifully presented, each with its own large, full-color photo." --Maine Antique Digest
"This volume is an innovative and important contribution to American art historical studies."--K.L. Ames, CHOICE
"Connecticut Needlework is Susan Schoelwer's third remarkable book in scarcely a decade and a comprehensive catalog of inestimable value to collectors and curators. It is a seminal work of incredible depth that projects women's domestic art into the pantheon of invaluable cultural documents." (Sumpter Priddy, author of *American Fancy: Exuberance in the Arts 1790-1840*)
About the Author
SUSAN PRENDERGAST SCHOELWER is curator at George Washington's Mount Vernon. She previously served as director of museum collections at the Connecticut Historical Society. She is the editor of *Connecticut Valley Furniture: Eliphalet Chapin and His Contemporaries, 1750-1800* (2000) and *Lions Eagles Bulls: Early American Tavern Inn Signs from the Connecticut Historical Society* (2000).