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Frances Kennett, Belinda Scarlett : British Country House Needlepoint before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British Country House Needlepoint:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Truly exceptional projects based on classic English needlework. By Jane in Milwaukee I happened to open this book up to the piece entitled 'The Brontë Sisters' Sampler and Purse' which are housed at the Haworth Parsonage. There is a small black and white photo of the three women as painted by their brother Branwell. (No offense...it's not very attractive.) Opposite that is a page taken up entirely with a sampler which has stitched on the bottom: "Emily Jane Brontë: Finished this Sampler April the 22nd 1828." This is unusual for having several borders at the top and the numbers counting from 1 through 25. At first I thought "1819" was a date, but it's only 18 and 19 on the edge. Emily, the future author of *Wuthering Heights* was only 9 when she stitched this. Then there is a close-up of a purse that Jane Eyre author Charlotte Brontë stitched while she was in Brussels. I'm being so detailed about this because there is a complete discussion of needlework pieces of famous great houses and castles ranging from pin cushions to tapestries covering entire walls. The time frame of the original pieces ranges from Tudor times to William Morris and, in fact, several pieces are classic examples of Elizabethan embroidery as well as William Morris's flowery cushions. The projects to stitch are pretty faithful to the originals and each is well-charted. Yarns are given in both Paterna and DMC. There is an adequate discussion of equipment needed, stitch diagrams, and finishing techniques. By far, though, the most interesting bits are the detailed discussion of the background of each piece with close-up photos nearby. I really like this book. You may also be interested in: *British Samplers (Needlework paperbacks)* *British Samplers: A Concise History* *Art of Embroidery: Great Needlework Collections of Britain and the United States* *British*

Textile From 1850-1900 (The Victoria Albert Museum's textile collection)British embroidery: Curious works from the seventeenth century (Williamsburg decorative arts series)

Large 9" x 11.25" format. Dozens of intricately detailed patterns made directly from Elizabethan through Victorian tapestry work found in 15 different castles, manors and great houses of England and Scotland. 128 pages of full color photos, patterns, history and background information.