

A rare, mid-18th century, English, needlework carpet

Sold



Description

The brown field embroidered in cross stitch in shades of blue, yellow, red, pink brown and cream wools. The central lozenge-shaped panel containing a large poppy bouquet with additional bouquets in each corner, and surrounded by an inner, chain-motif, border with each edge incorporating a central flowerhead. The rest of the field decorated with more bouquets of roses, sunflowers, peonies, dahlias, chrysanthemums and tulips amongst swags. The outer border decorated with leafy motifs, repeating the central flowerheads, and shells in each corner. Restored. English, third quarter of the 18th century.

Reference : English Needlework Carpets (Mayorcas) plates 28, 38 and 41.

Length : 249.00 cm/8 ft., 2 in.

Width : 223.50 cm./7 ft., 4 in.

This is an important example of the superior quality of needlepoint and design prevailing in England at the time. This carpet was originally designed to play a leading role within an interior scheme, and it would have been laid in a prominent position.

Needlepoint carpets were being made on the Continent during the 17th century, and this fashion was adopted by the English in the early-18th century. The production of beautiful, decorative, well-balanced carpets reached an artistic peak in England during the first-half of the 18th century. During the 18th century the fields of the carpets are either on a brown, blue or coral ground. The yellow used in the decoration has a distinctive hue, akin to Chinese-yellow, which tones to a buff when faded. At the beginning of the century a deep violet was used, which became less dark as time progressed, and both shades faded into a bluish-white on the face side while retaining the original colour on the reverse side.

William & Mary were responsible for introducing new ideas into England and at the beginning of the century designs were influenced by the 17th century Dutch flower painters and the Far-Eastern colonies. During the reign of Queen Anne the taste for chinoiserie-Baroque developed, and designs incorporated exotic blooms which were often combined with the remaining vestige of the Jacobean leaf pattern.