



Design

Place of origin: London (designed)

Date: 1788 (designed)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Pen and ink on paper

Museum number: E.228-1973

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case T, shelf 10, box A

Public access description

This is a design for embroidery on muslin or gauze. It is for an apron which women wore over a gown as fashionable informal dress. The seaweed pattern and small circles that fill the areas between it are similar to a design for an apron for Miss Thrale that is dated 'Nov. 21 st 1788'. Miss Thrale was the daughter of a wealthy brewer who moved in the highest reaches of society in the eighteenth century. This pattern was for also for a fashionable client from the aristocracy, gentry or a wealthy family.

Descriptive line

Anonymous designs for embroidery, 18th century

Physical description

The design is in pen and ink on a square sheet of laid paper. The design shows outer and inner borders. In the area between the borders is a repeated pattern of four dots arranged in a diamond shape. There are pinholes in two opposite corners and a few towards the centre of the sheet of paper. There are no holes for pouncing. There is smudging of the ink, for example, in the bottom left corner.

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Object history note

The designs were bequeathed to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1973 by Raymond Johnes who had 'enormous and miscellaneous collections'.* Johnes' collection included Japanese art, on which he published,** Indian and European material. He did not specialise in collecting textiles although he owned some examples. He was in contact with the Museum 1920s-1970 offering to sell objects from his collection. Johnes did not provide the Museum with information about the history of ownership of the designs.

*Mr B.W. Robinson, former Keeper of the Far Eastern Department, V&A, in a letter to Mr Ayres, Assistant- Keeper in the same Department, V&A Registry, nominal file, (MA/1/J479).

**Johnes, Raymond. Japanese Art London: Spring Books, 1961.

URL

<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O118347/design-unknown/>

