

Australian Quaker Tapestry

Newsletter - October 2007

Crewel Embroidery

Crewel Embroidery or **Crewelwork** is a decorative form of surface embroidery using wool and a variety of different embroidery stitches to follow a design outline applied to the fabric. The technique is at least a thousand years old. It was used in the Bayeux Tapestry, in Jacobean embroidery and in the Quaker tapestry.

The origin of the word **crewel** is unknown but is thought to come from an ancient word describing the curl in the staple, the single hair of the wool. Crewel wool has a long staple; it is fine and can be strongly twisted. Modern crewel wool is a fine, 2-ply yarn available in many different colours.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crewel_embroidery



Above the crewel embroidery combines with the backing cloth to give the detail of John Dalton from panel D10- one of the many Quaker scientists depicted in the UK Quaker Tapestry Scheme. Photo courtesy of the Quaker Tapestry Centre Kendal.

Children and the Quaker Tapestry

The creative input of children in the Quaker tapestry is very much valued from the design of cartoon elements through to the stitching of the bottom section of the panels. Children are intrigued at the stories in each panel as seen below at the Exhibition. (The photo below is courtesy of the Quaker Tapestry Centre at Kendal.)



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Check out
The Australian Quaker Tapestry Website
www.freewebs.com/australianquakertapestry