

INTRODUCING "BANDIT," AN AYER FIRST

"Bandit," the newest addition to the J.C. Ayer and Company gallery, is the first of Jim Ayer's own photographs to become a standard puzzle.

The photograph is an intriguing double exposure of flowers, a house, and



Bandit, the kitten, all bathed in Caribbean sunlight. Jim took the photo while visiting his brother in St. Croix.

Order "Bandit" and assemble the puzzle vertically or horizontally, depending on your mood!

NEW FROM J.C. AYER: LARGER-SIZED PUZZLES

J.C. Ayer and company is now offering two new sizes for standard and custom-made wooden jigsaw puzzles. The 20" x 24" puzzle is available for \$900 and the 24" x 30" puzzle for \$1400. These oversized puzzles are destined to be the high-

light of any collection. Request an oversized puzzle from any image from the Ayer catalog or on-line gallery (www.ayerpuzzles.com), or submit your own image as a negative or a digital file. Please note that the 20" x 24" puzzle

requires two boxes, while the 24" x 30" requires three. Remember that J.C. Ayer and Company's plain, yellow boxes do not depict the image inside, and the name of the puzzle often gives only a hint of what's to be revealed!



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Fresh Ayer News SPRING 2001

MUSEUM EXHIBITION FEATURES ORIGINAL SALEM SAMPLER EMBROIDERY



Mary Richardson Is My Name and With My Needle I did The Same and If My Skil Had Been Better I Would Have Mended Every Letter This Needle Work Of Mine Can Tell When a Child Is Learned Well By My Parants I Was Tought Not To Spend My Time For Nought This I Did In The 12 Year Of My AGE 1783

(Continued on inside cover)

SO READS THE SAMPLER embroidered by 11-year-old Mary Richardson (1772-1846) of Salem, Massachusetts, which she completed in 1783. Mary created the work while attending one of the town's embroidery schools, a common practice for the eighteenth-century middle class. Samplers such as this gave women and girls the opportunity to combine the utilitarian skill of needlework with artistic expression.

J.C. Ayer and Company has offered the Salem Sampler as a standard puzzle for over twelve years. Now, for the first time since 1994, Mary Richardson's "Sampler" will be on exhibit in *Painted with Thread: The Art of American Embroidery* at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. This special exhibition of textile art runs from April 13th through September 30th.

Simply titled "Sampler," Mary Richardson's work was donated to the Peabody Essex Museum in 1938 by Lucy Caller of Bolton, Massachusetts. The museum considers "Sampler" to be one of the finest remaining examples of eighteenth-century needlework from Salem.

Paula Richter, curator of textiles for the museum, remarked on the work's excellent condition. "Mary Richardson's sampler is particularly appealing because it has not undergone light damage. The work is remarkably unfaded, so viewers can still get a sense of its strong, visual appeal and interesting imagery. We're very excited to have 'Sampler' on display again."

The museum ascertains that Mary Richardson used some interesting images for



the era. She depicted a detailed scene of eighteenth-century courtship—unusual for samplers—beneath the alphabet, numbers, and rhyme that were standard for these works. In addition, Mary embroidered an angel at the top of the sampler, similar to those that were carved onto headstones of the same period.

Mary Richardson used the satin stitch to embroider her sampler in crinkled silk floss on linen. The sampler measures 24¼" by 23½".

J. C. Ayer and Company invites you to order our puzzle "Salem Sampler." During the exhibition (April 13th–September 30th) we're offering 10% off the puzzle's retail price in recognition of the Peabody Essex Museum's event.



If your idea of a puzzle piece is an amorphous shape, visit our recently updated web site for an entirely different perspective! Scattered throughout the site (www.ayerpuzzles.com) are new photos of some of the intricate figure pieces included in J.C. Ayer and Company wooden jigsaw puzzles: a couple toasting wine glasses, a horse, a little boy running, and many more.



Although figure pieces originated in jigsaw puzzles cut with scroll saws, they lack the smooth edges and minute features of Ayer figure pieces such as the butterfly. Unlike a scroll saw, Jim Ayer's innovative water-jet cutting machine enables him to shape his features without the restrictions of a blade.



Ayer figures may include one piece such as the cat or many pieces such as the crab. Click around the web site to see all the figure pieces mentioned in this article, as well as a few other surprises!

