

A Guide to the Elizabeth Cozens Pattern Book, ca. 1830

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A Collection in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library MS 96.24

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

2002

History

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A Guide to the Elizabeth Cozens Pattern Book, ca. 1830

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Descriptive Summary

Manuscript number

MS 96.24

Language

English

Creator

Elizabeth Cozens.

Extent

1 item.

Repository

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

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Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Cozens Pattern Book, Manuscript MS 96.24, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Scope and Content Information

Bound volume containing pen and ink wash drawings of decorative patterns to be used for needlework designs. The patterns include a wide range of symmetrical plant motifs and borders. The name Elizabeth Cozens is inscribed on the first page and she is thought to be the owner and creator of this book.

Pattern books were available commercially by the eighteenth century and provided needlewomen with a wide variety of designs for embroidery, lace edgings, and cutwork. The plant motifs, grotesques, and decorative borders could be used to design embroidery and lace for petticoats, aprons, and gowns. The designs were often stippled, placed over fabric, and used to directly transfer a pattern to a piece of cloth. Some needlewomen, such as Elizabeth Cozens, created their own pattern books. This pattern book is a rare example whose pages are intact and unstippled. It may have served as a way for Cozens to experiment with ideas for different patterns.

Index Terms

Persons:

Cozens, Elizabeth.

Subjects:

Needlework--Patterns.

Genre and Form Terms:

Pattern books.