



EMBROIDERY HERITAGE TOUR 30TH APRIL – 10TH MAY 2012

Sunday 29th April

Depart the USA for your independent flights to Edinburgh.

Monday 30th April

Arrive into Edinburgh Airport, where you will be met by your **driver/guide, Eunan Smyth** for the transfer into central **Edinburgh** for a visit to the **National Museum of Scotland** for a special visit to the textile collection which includes costume, tapestry, flags and banners, as well as smaller objects like samplers, embroidery and accessories. You will then check-in at your centrally located hotel, which will be your base for the **next 2 nights**. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax after your overnight flight. At **6:30pm a Welcome dinner** will be served at your hotel.

Tuesday 1st May

After breakfast, enjoy a **panoramic sightseeing tour of the City** before a visit to **Edinburgh Castle**, perched on an extinct volcano and offering stunning views, this instantly recognisable fortress is a powerful national symbol, and part of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site. The oldest part, St Margaret's Chapel, dates from the 12th century and the Great Hall was erected by James IV around 1510. This will be followed by time for an independent lunch before an afternoon visit to the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, the official residence in Scotland of Her Majesty The Queen, standing the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat. This fine baroque palace is closely associated with Scotland's rich history. The palace is perhaps best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots, and as the setting for many of the dramatic episodes in her turbulent reign. Mary was married at Holyroodhouse and witnessed the brutal killing of her secretary Rizzio by her jealous second husband, Lord Darnley, in her private apartments. There will be an opportunity to visit Queen Mary's Bed Chamber, which has been described as the most famous room in Scotland, to view the rich tapestries and also the tapestries in Lord Darnley's Room. Dinner is at leisure to sample some of the fine restaurants that Edinburgh has to offer.

Wednesday 2nd May

Depart for Edinburgh's historic seaport and step aboard the former **Royal Yacht Britannia**, the British royal family's floating home, during their foreign travels from 1953 to 1997. You will tour the five decks and see how the royal family's crew of 240 lived and worked on board and hear intriguing details about the Queen's private life, for example about the 45 members of the royal household who accompanied her, along with five tons of luggage and her favourite Rolls-Royce! On then to **St Andrews**, the home of golf, location of Scotland's first University, and the epicentre of key events in Scotland's religious reformation, for a **brief panoramic tour** before taking time for an independent lunch. Continue your journey for a late afternoon **guided tour of the House of Dun**, with emphasis on the Needlework Collection. This is a beautiful Georgian house, overlooking the Montrose Basin Nature Reserve and was designed by William Adam and completed in 1730 for David Erskine the 13th Laird of Dun. The most famous lady of the house, Lady Augusta Fitzclarence, the daughter of William IV and actress Mrs Dorothy Jordan lived here and there are many examples of Lady Augusta's exquisite embroideries on display. Continue to your hotel in the area for **dinner** and overnight.

Thursday 3rd May

Depart for a morning visit to **Crathes Castle**, one of the most beautiful and best preserved castles in Scotland, occupied by the Burnett's of Leys for over 350 years and an opportunity to view the fine examples of needlework, tapestries and the imported crewelwork panel.

This will be followed by a visit to **Castle Fraser** with its grand Worked Room, featuring 18th century embroideries. You will then take the journey to **Inverness**, to check-in at your hotel and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**. **Dinner** will be served at your hotel.

Friday 4th May

Depart for a morning visit to the **Battlefield of Culloden**, where the Jacobite artillery opened fire on government soldiers. The government responded with their own cannon, and the Battle of Culloden began. There will be an opportunity to visit the exhibition and view the commemorative sampler, possibly stitched by a girl whose relative fought at the battle. Return to Inverness for a **Cruise along the beautiful Loch Ness** for some Nussy spotting, and one of the best ways to enjoy some of the highlands' stunning scenery. A visit will also be included to **Urquhart Castle**, an impressive stronghold, despite its ruinous state. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart's remains include a tower house that commands splendid views of the famous loch and Great Glen. The Remainder of the day is at leisure in Inverness and **dinner** will be served at your hotel.

Saturday 5th May

Early departure, taking the journey through the Cairngorms National Park to **Blairs Castle**, for a **special guided tour of the extensive collection of exceptional needlework**, worked and collected by Lady Evelyn Murray, daughter of the 7th Duke of Atholl. Her beautiful lacework armorial panel is widely regarded as one of the finest examples of 20th century British embroidery and is just one of many exquisite pieces which form part of the castle's collection. Continue to Stirling for a visit to **Stirling Castle**, which has played a key role in Scottish history and was the home of Mary Queen of Scots, as a child. There will be a **special talk by the weavers on the Stirling Tapestries**. The magnificent Unicorn tapestries hanging in the Queen's Inner Hall of the Palace were commissioned especially for Stirling Castle and they have been woven by hand, using techniques dating back to the 1400's. The tapestries are closely based on a set of seven held by the Metropolitan Museum of New York at its Cloisters Museum. Work began on the new tapestries in 2001 and is due to be completed in 2013. You will then take a **4:15pm guided tour of Argyle's Lodge**, the most complete 17th-century town house surviving in Scotland, and an important example of Renaissance architecture. It was purposefully situated on the approach to Stirling Castle, giving its aristocratic owner ready access to the royal court. It also provided a suitable environment within which he could receive, and impress, his sovereign. The drawing room walls are hung with fine tapestries. Take the final journey to **Glasgow** to check-in at your centrally located hotel and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**. **Dinner** will be served at your hotel this evening.

Sunday 6th May

Today will be spent at the fabulous **Burrell Collection** and you will be joined by the textile curator and 17th century embroidery expert, **Chris Berry**, to look at pieces in the private storage collection. You will also have an opportunity to view the collection in the main galleries and this will include the tapestry collection and Sir William Burrell's embroidered textiles and lace collection. Return to your hotel in Glasgow for **dinner** and overnight.

Monday 7th May

Morning visit to the village of Paisley, just a stone's throw from Glasgow, and this is where Paisley fabric got its name. It is where local weavers, using Jacquard Looms, adapted designs from silk and wool Kashmir shawls brought home by soldiers returning from India. The instantly recognizable teardrop shape is Persian in origin, but it was the town of Paisley, known for its production of printed cotton and wool, which gave the pattern worldwide exposure. A visit will be included to the **Paisley Museum**, to view their collection of original shawls and enjoy a demonstration of the weaving techniques used here. Continue in time for the **ferry to Belfast** and then onto your hotel for **dinner and overnight**.

Tuesday 8th May

Today enjoy a special visit to the **Ulster Folk and Transport Museum**, which contains over 600 embroidered, lace trimmed, and printed handkerchiefs from the early twentieth century, featuring the designs of the Belfast artist Herbert R. Lilley. It also has comprehensive collection of patchwork and quilted bedcovers, dating from 1790 to the mid-1990s. This definitive collection of Irish quilts includes examples of all the main patchwork techniques and styles, from the elaborate chintz appliques of the early nineteenth century to a significant representation of utility quilts 1900- 1950 made from shirt and dress remnants.

There is a collection of 80 embroidered samplers, dating from 1760 to 1953, school needlework sample books, and a range of needlework tools provide an insight into embroidery as worked for hobby or pleasure, rather than for profit. Also within the collection are 450 examples of Irish lace ranging in date from the early eighteenth century to late twentieth, and in scale from button-sized crochet motifs to elaborate wedding veils and jackets in finest Carrickmacross, and Limerick lace. You will then be transferred to Dublin for a tour of the **John Jameson Distillery**, to learn about the history of Irish whiskey, ending with a tasting. Check-in at your centrally located hotel, and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**. Dinner is independent.

Wednesday 9th May

Enjoy a special visit to the **National Museum of Ireland** with its costume collection, consisting of 2,000 items, comprising mainly Irish and English costumes (mostly female) from the 18th century to the present. There are also examples of religious vestments, court dress, legal and academic robes, and ephemera relevant to the design, production, marketing and consumption of Irish designed/manufactured clothing. The textiles and soft furnishings collection comprises of carpets (mainly Irish-made), tapestries, curtains, embroideries, sampler quilts, fabric fragments and lengths, equipment, pattern designs, and sample books relating to mainly Irish textile production. The Irish silk and poplin industries of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries are represented, as well as Irish sprigging or whitework, and Mountmellick embroidery. There is also the lace collection, consisting of Irish and European lace accessories ranging from the 17th century to the early 20th century. The collection of Irish lace and lace designs is strong from the mid 19th to the mid 20th century, when specimens were purchased by the museum directly from lace schools, co-operatives and Industrial Exhibitions across the country. There will also be an opportunity to visit the **Way We Wore Exhibition at the Collins Barracks**, which displays clothing and jewellery worn in Ireland principally from the 1760's to the 1960's. Although many still think of 'Irish Dress' in the context of woollens worn in the West of Ireland, this exhibition shows that in the past the majority of Irish people, even those who wore locally woven fabrics (silk, linen, wool and cotton), dressed in styles that competed with the fashion conscious of Europe. The remainder of the day is at leisure in Dublin for independent sightseeing before attending a **Farewell Evening at the Irish House Party**, which takes place in the private parlour room of a beautiful, family owned Georgian building and you will be entertained by **Irish musicians and dancers** in an intimate and homely setting, including **dinner**.

Thursday 10th May

You will be **transferred to Dublin Airport** in time for your independent flights home.