

“Autumn Outwork” Applique Quilt



~ circa 1900

“Autumn Cutwork” Applique Quilt

The Pennsylvania Moravian cutwork quilt is designed in a four block format. The majority of four block quilts during the 19th century displayed a bold and brilliant floral pattern using red and green fabric. Four block quilts were very popular with the Pennsylvania Germans and allowed creativity. The “cheddar” and “oxblood brown” that was used in the antique “Autumn Cutwork” quilt is quite unique and visually balanced. During the 19th century the distinct and popular color “cheddar” was referred to as “chrome orange” or “antimony.” Antimony was a store bought powder used to dye fabric in the home. It was unknown at the time that the dye was a dangerous substance due to the lead content. The name “cheddar” was used starting in the 20th century. Hearts, birds and tulips are found in the design of the quilt. The border visually displays a jack-o-lantern design using the reverse applique technique. The center star adds a bit of curiosity with a “touch” of green. “Autumn Cutwork” was displayed during an exhibition at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania...May 5 – July 29, 2012.

