

29-7: Chasuble



Chasuble in red silk velvet embroidered with large stylised sprays of lilies and other flower in silk floss and metal threads with metal spangles. The front is made from three sections of velvet and the back cut from one. The flowers are worked separately with laid silk threads, metal threads couched in silk and split stitch details and appliquéd to the ground. The stamens and stems are worked in couched twisted threads and split stitch.

Applied band of embroidered with orphreys at centre front and back in blue silk velvet with applied and embroidered figures of angles and saints worked in silk floss and metal threads using long and short stitches, padded satin stitch, straight stitch, raised-work and couched silk and metal threads. On the front in a gothic arch St Paul with book and sword, an angel with halo and outspread wings holding an inscribed scroll [illegible], a female saint with martyrs palm and unidentifiable attribute, and an angel with halo and outspread wings holding an inscribed scroll [illegible]. On the back an angel with halo and outspread wings holding an inscribed scroll [illegible], St Peter with a key, an angel with halo and outspread wings holding an inscribed scroll [illegible], St Anne with book and green mantle and an angel with halo and outspread wings holding an inscribed scroll [illegible]. The blue silk velvet panel is outlined with couched metal threads over a cord. There are later stitches in red silk twisted thread rather than floss worked in satin stitch.

The chasuble has been re-shaped and cut in a spoon shape in the eighteenth century. The edges are bound with a ten-strand metal thread plait.

Made in England, late 15th century, altered 18th century.

Provenance

1935, acquired by Sir William Burrell from Mr John Hunt, 16 October for £405^[1].

Exhibitions

1948: Edinburgh, Signet Library, Rare Embroidery and Old Lace, Signet Library, Edinburgh, no.22.

1949: Glasgow, no.993.

1951: Glasgow, no.554.

1951: London, St James's Palace, Royal School of Needlework, *Exhibition of Historic Needlework*

1954: Airdrie, Airdrie Public Library, *Art Treasure of the Burrell Collection*

^[1] Purchase Book 1935, 72, 'This chasuble is typical of the English embroideries of the Third Phase. The flower powdered ground was introduced about 1450-60 and is one of the most attractive types of needlework ever executed. It is peculiar to England during this period, no other country producing such fine work of this type. Embroidered velvet grounds are found in Spanish ecclesiastic needlework but at a later date. The velvet orphreys are an unusual feature and the colour of the velvet ground of the chasuble is very rare. In the South Kensington Museum there is no example of this coloured velvet on view in their collection of English needlework & they do not appear to have an embroidered orphrey of this type'.