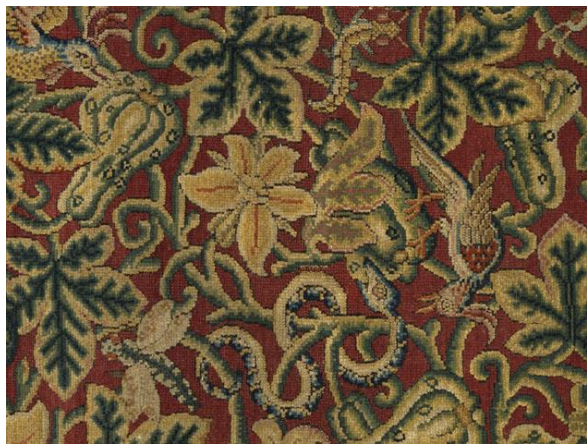
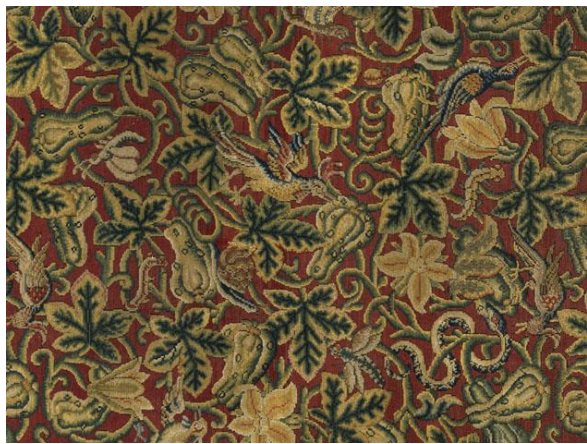


Chaloner Carpet 9.138





Carpet or table carpet, the Chaloner Carpet, in turkey-work with hand-knotted symmetrical Turkish knot piles in blue, brown, green, purple and yellow wool on a hemp warp and weft base. Field with pear-shaped green gourds or Cucurbitaceae with bumpy skins on a creeping vine with five-six petalled yellow flowers with no visible stamen, palmatifid or palmatipartite (radially lobed with incisions) leaves, corkscrew-style curling tendrils, with birds, butterflies, caterpillars, dragonflies, snails and snakes outlined in black (original black knots missing and replaced with couched threads sewn through backing) against a dark red ground with six repeats. Narrow inner border and wide outer border with a classical arcade entwined grape vines, with mirror image repeat to the arches and vine.

During the 1500s and 1600s the number of rich people increased. Often these families spent their excess wealth on the building and furnishing of new houses. The most expensive items were gold and silver plate, followed by the soft furnishings such as tapestries and carpets. Due to their high cost carpets were generally designed and made to drape over tables rather than on the floor as shown Juan Pantoja de la Cruz (1553–1608), The Somerset House Conference, 19 August 1604 (National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, Caird Collection). When the table was used for dining the table carpet was removed and the table covered with a cloth of fine linen.

Table carpets were made in various techniques, including pile carpets, tapestry and embroidery. This example is in Turkey-work, a type of material made with a knotted pile, woven on a loom by knotting colourful wool yarns between wefts by hand. Originally based on carpets from the Ottoman Empire imported during the 1500s and 1600s for British domestic interiors, the technique was copied by manufacturers based in England. Some table carpets, such as this one, could be bought ready-made, but several were specially commissioned with one-off designs that incorporated family coats of arms or motifs.

Unusually this table carpet does not include any arms, dates or initials to commemorate the person who commissioned it. It is said to have been owned by Sir Thomas Chaloner the younger (1561–1615), the stepson of Sir Thomas Chaloner the elder (1521–65), a diplomat, who was educated in the household of William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley (1520–1598) and became the Governor of the Courtly College to Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales (1594–1612). Chaloner travelled to Europe during the 1580s–90s, spending periods of time in Italy, which may account for the sophistication of the design found on this table carpet compared to other similar surviving examples, such as one the initials of Oliver St John made about 1605 (Victoria and Albert Museum, London T.152-1930) and another with the Sackville coat of arms made about 1615 at Knole, Kent (National Trust NT 130078).

Provenance: Probably Sir Thomas Chaloner (1561–1615) of Steeple Claydon, Buckinghamshire and Gisborough, Yorkshire

circa 1600, made of wool, hemp

## Luttrell Table Carpet 47.3



Tapestry or The Luttrell Table Carpet woven with wool, silk and metal threads and wool warps. Three large armorials with Sir Andrew Luttrell of Dunster, Devon, impaled with his wife Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Wyndham of Felbrigg, Norfolk, with a swan crest in the centre, Sir Andrew's parents Sir Hugh Luttrell and Margaret Hill on the left, and his grandparents Sir James Luttrell and Elizabeth Courtenay on the right, each surrounded by different floral wreaths, against a knotwork design with quartrefoils centred upon either a Tudor rose or honeysuckle intersected by marguerite daisies on a black ground. Border of flowers with smaller armorial shields of family connections on a red ground rotated to hang vertical over the sides of table.

Elizabeth Cleland states that: 'the central coat of arms is that of Sir Andrew Luttrell of Dunster, conjoined with those of his wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Wyndham of Felbrigg in Norfolk. Sir Andrew's initials are represented beneath the armorial. The swan which seems to carry the arms is a heraldic allusion to the royal Bohun family roots of his grandmother, Elizabeth. The armorial to the right, against the black ground, is that of Sir Andrew's paternal grandparents, Sir James Luttrell and Elizabeth Courtenay of Powderham, Devon, with Sir James's initials above it. The armorial to the left, against the half orange, half-black ground, is that of Sir Andrew's parents, Sir Hugh Luttrell and Margaret Hill, with the couple's initials, 'H' and 'M', beneath. Four coats of arms around the edges record further family connections, joined by repeats of the three armorials in the central field. Undoubtedly, the principal symbolic function of the Luttrell Table Carpet, richly woven in wool, silk and precious metal-wrapped threads, was to honour Andrew and Margaret Luttrell and celebrate their illustrious lineage.' (Cleland, E. and Karafel, L., (2017). Glasgow Museums: Tapestries from The Burrell Collection, 254).

Provenance: Sir Andrew Luttrell of Dunster and Quantoxhead, and his wife, Margaret Wyndham

circa 1514-1580    Made from wool (warps), wool (wefts), silk (wefts), metal (wefts), 6-7 warp threads per cm, 2 ply Z