Lesson VI: Virginia Rose / Betty Hatfield

Appliqué Directions

- 1) Patterns: Fold a 13" square of paper in half, and again into quarters. Draw a full size pattern using the partial Virginia Rose sheet. Make templates of all parts except stems; leaves (all the same) buds, calyxes and scalloped centers.
- 2) Cut background fabric at least 13" square to allow "ravel room." Press in half, again in quarters and mark center.
- Over a light source mark points of elements on right side of background fabric with pencil dots, aligning center. Don't draw complete shapes of these parts but do draw stem lines (1/4" wide)
- 4) Using templates, draw and cut out all pieces of the appliqué on nonwaxed side of freezer paper. Accuracy here is important.
- 5) Iron freezer paper shapes on to wrong side of chosen fabrics, placing them on bias grain. Cut out with 3/16" seam allowance, and press these edges over the back smoothly. Inside curves must be clipped.
- 6) Cut ³/₄' bias strips from stem fabric, about 18". (4 are 3" and 4 are 1¹/₂") On ironing surface place index card or stiff paper (not freezer) on bias about ¹/₄" from edge and press fabric over toward you. This folded edge can be appliquéd along one side of stem line, then trimmed underneath, needle turned and stitched down the other side.
- 7) Appliqué in order: Pairs of leaves (16), stems, other 4 leaves, buds, calyxes and flower centers. Remove paper as you stitch each piece, before finishing, or slit back and pull it out. Position each piece on background, pin to center to anchor it and the paper in place. Using a small needle (and matching thread!) work around the shape with small invisible stitches, a few pins and holding the edge turned under with your left thumb and index finger.
- 8) Position scalloped center pieces by aligning with background center. Cut away background fabric, and also first scalloped center after appliquéing the second, to eliminate bulk.

Press block, trim to 12 1/2" square and ADMIRE your work!