



CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Bid Number:
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

Date: October 24, 2025

Contact:

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Object:

Beaded Reticule

Object ID:

2024.09.09.03

Description:

A beaded reticule featuring a floral design in the central field. The bag features the popular motif of roses, morning glories, and forget-me-nots. The bottom of the bag depicts a stone monument with the initial "S", perhaps a signifier of the owner's surname, and is set between trees. This reticule is incomplete; the interior lining fabric is missing, and it likely had a drawstring top similar to the [example](#) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In this example, the beads are knit together, suggesting it was made on a framework knitting machine (post 1830). The bottom edge of the bag would have had loops of turquoise-colored beads, as evidenced by the single remaining loop and numerous broken threads.

Beaded reticules were prevalent in North America from the latter half of the 18th century through the first half of the 20th century, with several resurgences in popularity, particularly during the 1920s. Exchange of patterns was common, and printed magazines, such as Godey's Lady's Book, helped distribute motifs widely. Additionally, the industrial revolution and the invention of the knitting machine made it easier to produce and purchase beaded reticules. Their popularity, coupled with the longevity of motifs and increased production, makes dating these items difficult.

Measurements:

Height- 5 ½"

Width- 5 ½"

Category:

Textile

Personal Gear/Personal Carrying & Storage Gear/
Carrying Bag/Reticule**Location:**

Box 12

Display Case 102

Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection

George Hail Free Library

Condition Analysis:

Overall poor condition. Numerous holes and losses of original materials due to embrittlement of securing threads and yarns. Increased risk of damage due to removal of liner.

Recommended Treatments:

Deaccession. This is a common item that many museums have. Without proper identification or provenance, it does not further the mission of GHL. Conservation costs would be high for little return on investment.