Pulpit hanging

Place of origin: England (made)

Date: 1633 (made)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Dark purple silk velvet embroidered with silver gilt thread in raised and couched work

Credit Line: Given by Peter Barker Mill

Museum number: T.108-1963

Gallery location: In Storage

Descriptive line
Embroidered pulpit hanging, English, 1633

Physical description
Dark purple silk velvet embroidered with silver and silver-gilt thread and cord, spangles and red silk cord in raised and couched work, with small pieces of velvet applique on the coat of arms. Edged with a silver-gilt fringe, narrow at the top and sides and with a deep trellis at the bottom. In the centre are the arms of Sandys of the Vyne, with crest and elaborate mantling. The rest of the field is filled with cherubs’ heads and wings arranged in rows within an elaborate symmetrical arabesque ornament of scrolls, formal leaves and shells. The ground is powdered with spangles and small rosettes.

Dimensions
Width: 208 cm embroidery, Length: 140 cm embroidery, Height: 1530 mm, Width: 2280 mm, Depth: 13 mm

Museum number
T.108-1963

Object history note
Registered File number 1963/854

Historical context note
The hanging was made for the Chapel of the Holy Ghost at Basingstoke which was believed to have been set up by Sir William Sandys at the site of an earlier chapel built during the reign of Henry VIII. The chapel, which is now in ruins, was the burial place of the Sandys family. At the time when the hanging was made, the head of the family was Henry Sandys 5th Baron, who was killed in a Civil War skirmish in 1644. When the Revd Joseph of Basingstoke described the hanging in 1819, it was in Mottisfont House in Hampshire, where it belonged to Sir Charles Mill Bartholomew, a descendent of the Sandys Family.

The remainder of the chapel fittings are also enumerated, from a description given by the steward to the Mottisfont Estate, Thomas King. They consisted of an altar frontal embroidered with the Last Supper, some pieces of purple velvet with the initials IHS, a desk hanging of purple velvet embroidered in gold and silver with the arms of Sandys, two book covers and a folding cushion with the letters ‘THS’ on the outside and the arms of Sandys on the inside. The four corners of the cushion are flanked by cherubs.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O144671/pulpit-hanging-unknown/