

## About the Silk Weave Designs

Most of the hand painted silk velour and satin patterns we hold were created by designers at the Lyon factory of André Donat between around 1840 and 1865, though some are as late as 1880. On the reverse of each sheet are details of the exact date on which the design was made and, in some instances, instructions on how it should be set up on the loom. Many of the sheets show signs of use on the factory floor, with pencil corrections, annotations and running repairs. A few even have the original pins still embedded in the paper.

Donat silks were shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851, and its voluminous catalogue features the following entry:

*1192: Donat, A. Manufacturer of Silks, Place Croix Paquet, Lyons (Rhône)*

*Waistcoats and dresses, fancy watered silk; grenadine, satin, poplin, &c.*

These designs were acquired from the archives of the long-closed silk mill by Trevor Newton, who spent many long hours untying bundles of patterns which last saw the light of day in the mid-1870's. This fact accounts for the intense, unfaded vibrancy of the colours.

These spectacular hand painted designs very much invite close inspection. If you would like to make an appointment to view them in Spitalfields, itself well known historically as an area where Huguenot weavers settled, and hear more about their history, please contact Trevor Newton:

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