

Atheists Love Christmas Too

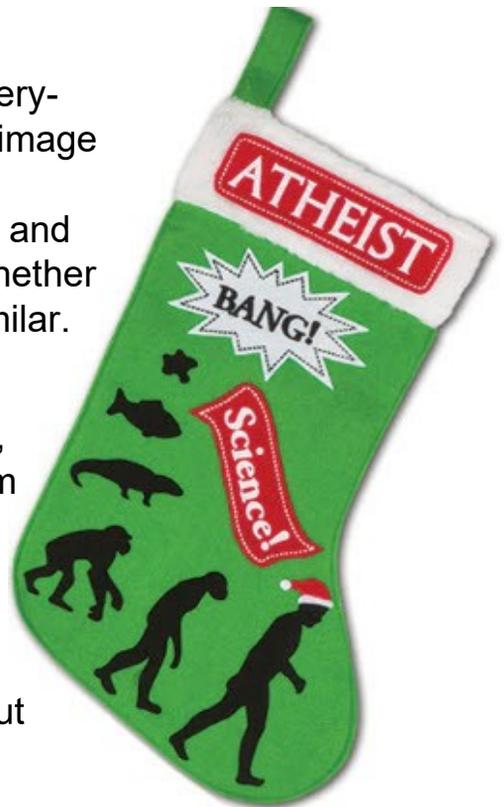
<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

Posted 2020 October 9

These irreverent stockings were sold out everywhere when my sister stumbled across this image on Pinterest.

She keenly wanted to get one for her friend, and after a fruitless search on line, she asked whether I could possibly come up with something similar. So of course I said I'd give it a try.

The original is about 16" long from tip to toe, and appears to be made of felt. Judging from the photo, there's no embroidery on the sock; the images look to be die-cut from felt and glued in place.



They're clear enough for the joke to work, but they aren't especially detailed.

I worried a little at first about how stitch-heavy this project would be if I embroidered all those figures, so I toyed briefly with the idea of applique. In the end I rejected that notion because I wanted more detail than applique could provide in this size, and more detail than was shown in the felt originals.



I love a digitizing challenge, and I must say I'm really thrilled with how my figures stitched out.

Even though the figures are in silhouette, it's still possible to achieve a good amount of pleasing detail -- as in the ape's hands.



Look at the definition of these two figures – the legs and faces are beautifully realized. It takes about 70 minutes to stitch all the figures and the lettering; this is awfully long for a stocking, but there's no arguing with how good it looks.



For the "Bang" motif, I decided to go with an applique, and chose a playful font for the word itself. I love the effect.



To position the designs I used paper templates printed from software, and marked the position of each element on the stocking front before hooping each one individually for stitching.

Here is my finished stocking. It's actually been several months since I looked at the photo of the on-line version, and I didn't consult it while I was working on mine, so you'll notice several differences in the arrangement.

This version captures the spirit of the original, but I like to think it's more likely to become an heirloom. The woven fabric will last longer than the felt original, and the embroidery is much nicer and more detailed than the felt die-cuts. Plus, this stocking is lined, so it will keep its shape for many Christmases to come.

And at approximately 21" top to toe, it's also a generous size for Santa to fill with lots of goodies.

