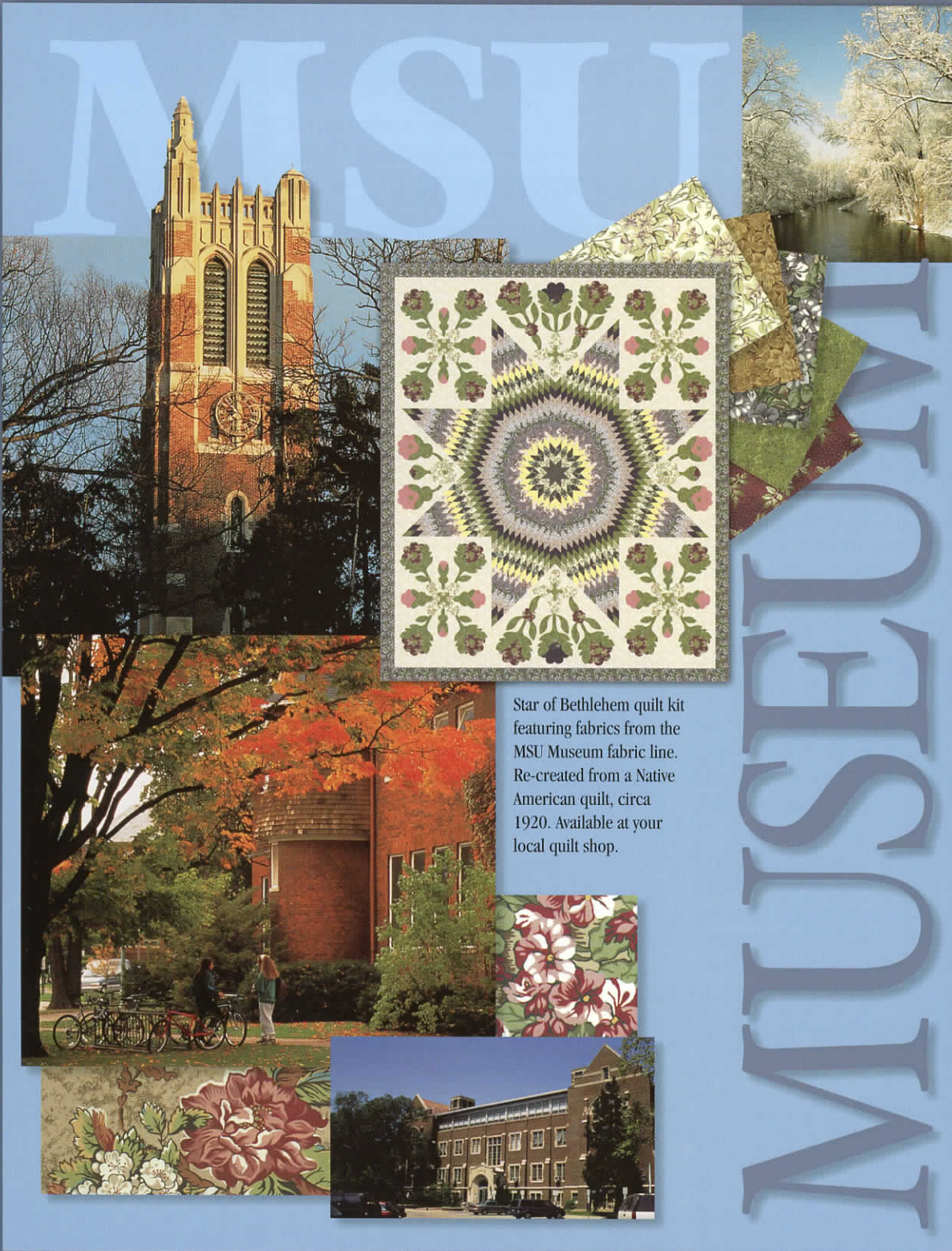


# Great Lakes, Great Quilts



Star of Bethlehem quilt kit featuring fabrics from the MSU Museum fabric line. Re-created from a Native American quilt, circa 1920. Available at your local quilt shop.



# GREAT LAKES, GREAT QUILTS

## Quilt Fabric Reproductions from the Michigan State University Museum

RJR Fashion Fabrics was awarded a license from the Michigan State University Museum to create a line of fabric reproductions based on the Museum's quilt treasury. The forty-two-piece collection, entitled *Great Lakes, Great Quilts: Quilt Fabric Reproductions from the Michigan State University Museum*, contains eleven printed patterns drawn from twelve quilts in the Museum that date from 1840 to 1920. To complement the line, RJR has created two twelve-piece collections—*MSU Prairie Prints*, and *MSU Mill Engravings*. *MSU Prairie Prints*, which is comprised of six calico prints, is based on calicoes that appeared in the Museum's Native American *Star of Bethlehem* quilt made in 1920 by Margaret David. *MSU Mill Engravings* features one pattern that was recreated from an antique mill engraved fabric discovered in a brick wall quilt circa 1876. *Royalties earned from the sale of the fabric help to support the MSU Museum and its dedication to textile research and quilt exhibition.* Says Richard Cohan, President & CEO of RJR, "What makes the Michigan State University Museum quilt collection so unique is the rich cultural diversity of the Great Lakes region. In designing the *Great Lakes, Great Quilts* reproduction line, we sought to create a line of fabrics that would be representative of this diversity. The fabrics reproduced in the line span two centuries, and are drawn from a dozen quilts housed in the Museum."

## GREAT LAKES, GREAT QUILTS COLLECTION



2 colors

*Summer Flowering* (3901), the lead print of the line, shows beautiful perennial blooms tossed and turned against a textured background. The print, available in two colors, was recreated from a floral chintz fabric used in the border of a pieced mosaic quilt made in 1850. 7624.1



2 colors

*Textured Leaf* (3904) shows clusters of leaves set on a stippled dark ground to achieve greater dimension and sophistication. The print is based on a motif displayed in a brick wall quilt design made by Erminda Nowlin of Mayville, Michigan, circa 1890-1920. 5127.15



2 colors

*Persian Shawl* (3905) is an ornate, large-scale paisley design taken from the backing fabric used on a pieced bar style sampler dating from 1850-1900. 3694.1



2 colors

*Trillium* (3902) features the beautiful perennial trillium. The design was taken from the backing fabric found on a *Star of Bethlehem* quilt made in 1912 by a Native American woman known as Mrs. Ogahmahgedo who lived in a settlement located between Omena and Northport, Michigan. The original owner of the quilt, Florence Lackie Hanes, acquired the quilt in a barter trade for farm goods. 6814.1

1998:53.30



Dutchman's Puzzle c. 1976

2 colors



3 colors

*Paisley* (3906) illustrates a beautiful tonal paisley design that draws its colors from the accents in the lead floral print. The design was adapted from a 1900s fabric found in a *Dutchman's Puzzle* quilt made by Mary Schafer in 1976.

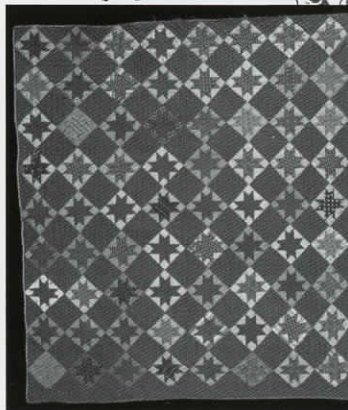


Mary Schafer



2 colors

*Impatiens* (3903) depicts closely packed impatiens and leaves set against a textured ground. It was reproduced from a floral border print design from a bar quilt, circa 1850. 6521.2



Ohio Star c. 1890

1991:12.3



Martha Durkee Blakeslee

*Spring Jasmine* (3907) depicts a tiny multicolor jasmine vine set on a solid cream background. The fabric was recreated from a print in an *Ohio Star* quilt designed by Martha Durkee Blakeslee and Mary E. Beardslee Durkee of Oakland county, circa 1890.

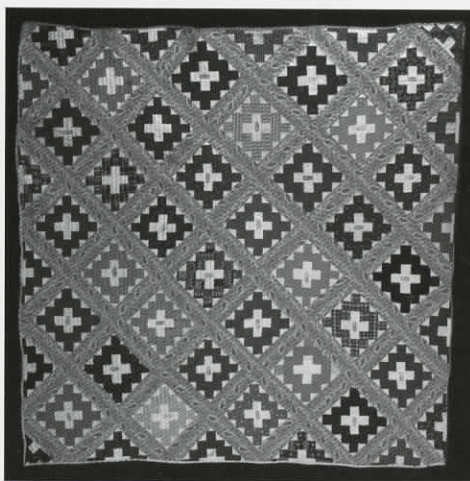


2 colors



*Clematis* (3908) shows a beautiful detail of clematis in full bloom. The print was recreated from a fabric featured in an extended nine-patch quilt made up of 64 blocks, circa 1840.

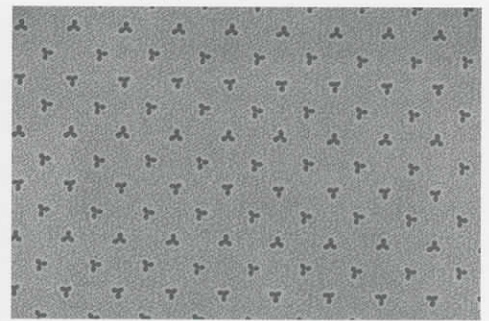
7610.2



*Signature Album* c. 1860

1999:12.2

4 colors



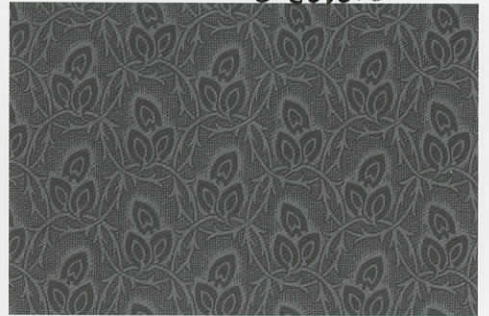
*Single Bloom* (3912) is a tonal floral ditsy set on a textured ground. The print was adapted from a fabric discovered in a *Signature Album* style quilt made in 1860 by Mary E. Beardslee Durkee. 1999:12.2

4 colors



*Bristol Fairy* (3910) features delicate sprigs of bristol fairy set on a pinstripe textured background. The print, designed to act as a light accent and background, was taken from a *Ducks in the Pond* quilt made from scraps of early 19<sup>th</sup> century calicoes by Mary E. Beardslee Durkee in 1870. 1999:12.6

5 colors

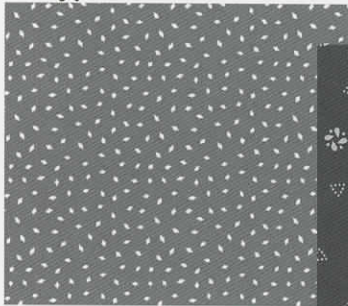


*Thistle & Thorn* (3911) is a richly textured tonal print made up of clusters of thistle and wreaths of thorn. The print was drawn from a fabric discovered in a charm style quilt pieced in 1880 by Matilda Godfrey Vary of Calhoun County, Michigan., and finished by Mary Schafer in 1980. 1998:53.104

## MSU PRAIRIE PRINTS COLLECTION

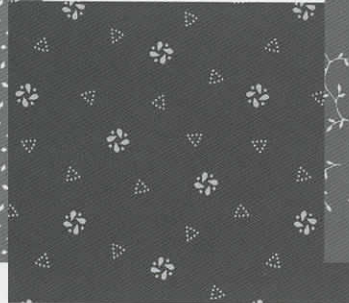
The six calico prints featured in the *MSU Prairie Prints Collection* are drawn from calicoes featured in the appliqué designs of a *Star of Bethlehem* quilt made in 1920 by Margaret David, a Native American woman from Northern Michigan. 6615.1

2 colors



*Flecks* (3913-11,12)

2 colors



*Triangles & Bloom* (3913-7,8)

2 colors



*Tiny Vine* (3913-9,10)

2 colors



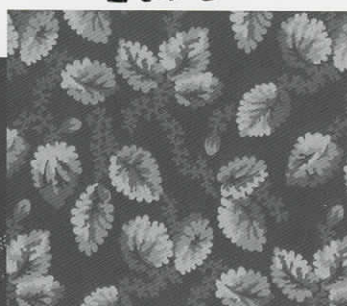
*Trailing Rose* (3913-1,2)

2 colors



*Moon & Stars* (3913-5,6)

2 colors



*Tapered Leaf* (3913-3,4)

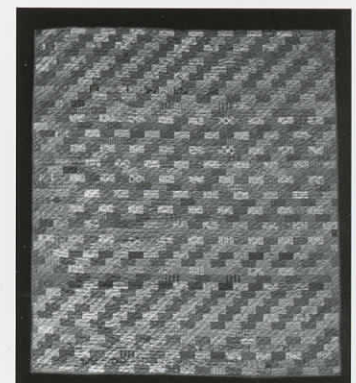
## MSU MILL ENGRAVINGS COLLECTION

*Mill Engraving* (3914) is a stunning reproduction of an antique mill engraved floral design made up of closely packed camellia and hyacinth blooms. The print was recreated from a *Brick Wall* quilt made in 1876 by Maria Louise Lyon of Hillsdale, Michigan. 6638.3



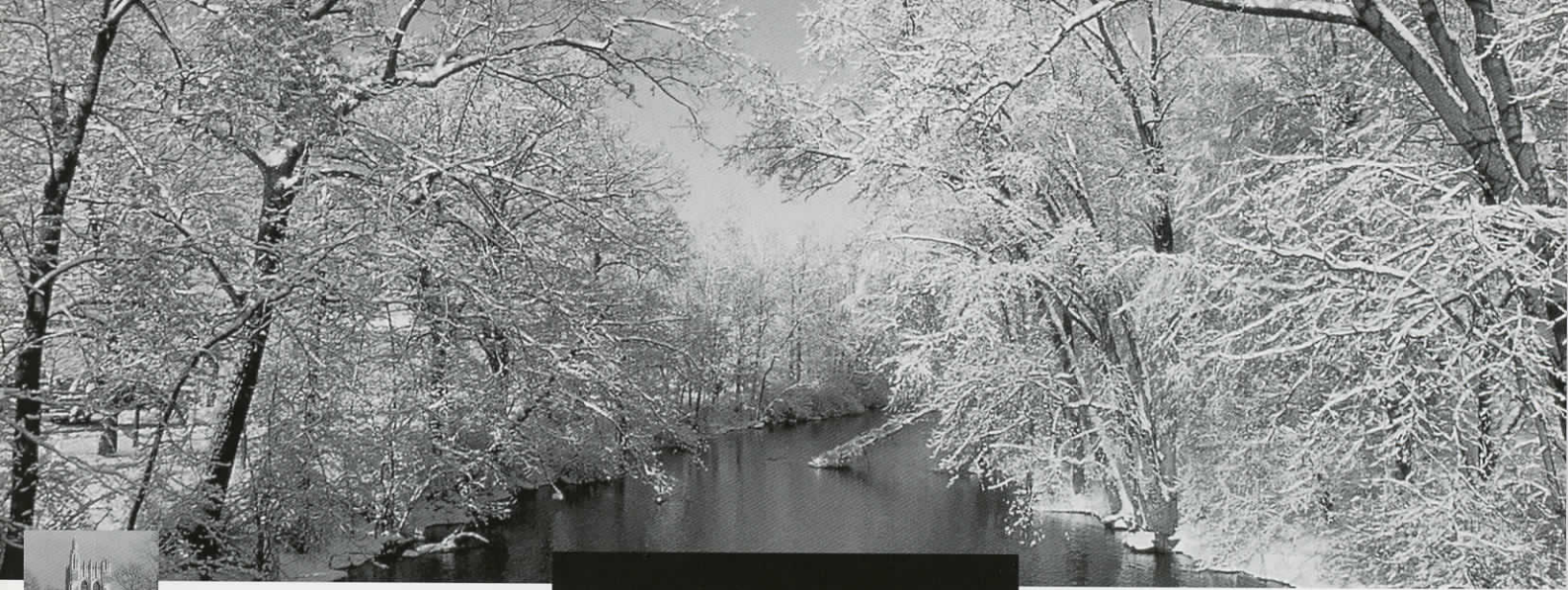
*Mill Engraving* (3914)

12 colors



*Brick Wall* c. 1876





Wherever quilt making occurs in the world, its history and traditions are inevitably tied to a sense of place. To understand quilting in a region, it is

helpful to first understand the unique features that help create that sense of place. In the Great Lakes region, a sense of place is dominated, first and foremost, by a physical feature—the Great Lakes themselves. Linked together, these vast, fresh-water bodies form a great inland passageway that has facilitated and impacted transportation, commerce, and settlement in the region.

The waters and mineral and ore-rich, forested lands first drew native peoples, then mostly Northern and Eastern European immigrants. Logging and mining operations were followed by farming, which also attracted Euro-American homesteaders from upstate New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, as well as Mexican migrant agricultural workers. The development of the auto industry fostered the diaspora of African-Americans from the Deep South and the largest settlement of Arab-Americans outside the Middle East. With the influx of Southeast Asian, Russian, and African refugees in late 20th century, the region boasts a rich diversity of cultures.

Tens of thousands of individuals in the Great Lakes region have been connected to quilting in one way or another—as artists, teachers, collectors, quilters, quilt teachers, quilt owners, or quilt scholars. Hundreds of exhibitions of quilts have occurred at schools, religious centers, community

## GREAT LAKES: QUILTING AND A SENSE OF PLACE

by Marsha MacDowell

Guard Armory in Detroit, those organized by Merry Silber and Sandra Mitchell at the Somerset Mall in Troy, The Sears National Quilt Contest at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, and the Quilt Nationals held at the Dairy Barn Southeastern Ohio Cultural Arts Center have been instrumental in raising the awareness of thousands of individuals in quilting.

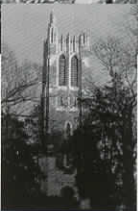
The history and practice of quilting in the Great

Lakes region clearly reflect the region's diversity of peoples, resources, and activities. In their patterns, designs, and in related traditions and stories, quilts reflect not only the landscape but also the lives of their makers, their families, and their communities. There is perhaps no other region in the country that supports such a great diversity of peoples,

resources, and activities. Because of the number of different ethnic, occupational, religious, and social groups represented by the immigrants who migrated to the Great Lakes, with few exceptions, most of the quilting traditions found in other areas of the nation and world can also be found in this region. Hmong, Amish, Mennonite, Sicilians, and Southern African-Americans are but a few of the immigrant groups who have brought with them to the Great Lakes distinctive quilt patterns, designs, and related traditions and stories. Here the unique urban and rural land and marinescapes have also inspired quilts that reflect a knowledge of seasonal changes, vast forests and bodies of water, and both heavy industrial activity, and a solid agricultural heritage.



buildings, state and county fairs, quilt shops, art galleries, museums, and at landmark events such as the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago. Some exhibitions, like those once hosted by The *Detroit News* at the National





# THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM: HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES

by Marsha MacDowell, *MSU Museum Curator of Folk Arts and professor, Department of Art and Art History*



The Michigan State University Museum, founded in 1857, is one of the oldest museums in the Midwest and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. As Michigan's land-grant university museum, it is committed to understanding, interpreting, and respecting natural and cultural diversity. This commitment to society is met through education, exhibitions, research, and the building and stewardship of collections that focus on Michigan and its relationship to the Great Lakes, and the world

beyond. The museum is a public steward for 2.5 million objects or specimens of cultural and natural history from around the world. The Museum's holdings of cultural collections and research, exhibition, and educational programs related to the Great Lakes are strong in the areas of archaeology, agricultural heritage, and folklife.

The Great Lakes Quilt Center has evolved from the sustained and significant quilt-related activities and resources at Michigan State University Museum and the Museum's long-standing interest in and commitment to preserving and presenting traditional arts history. The Michigan Quilt Project, begun at the Museum in 1984, not only spearheaded the documentation of the state's quilting history, but also stimulated interest in strengthening the Museum's quilt collection, upgrading its care, and expanding its use.

In 2001 the Museum and the Great Lakes Quilt

Center became formally affiliated with The Alliance for American Quilts as a Regional Center for The Quilt. The primary goals of the Center are to record oral and written history documenting quilting and the personal histories of quiltmakers; expand and maintain a research collection of information on Great Lakes quilting; initiate educational and exhibition programs to bring quilting history to a wider audience; increase awareness of textile conservation issues and support preservation efforts of endangered textiles; identify and recognize quilters and quilting traditions from diverse regional, social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds; honor outstanding individual quilters and quilt groups; and publish information on Great Lakes quilts, quilters, and quilting.

In addition, the Museum is working closely with MSU H-Net and The Alliance for American Quilts in the development of a national effort to make all state quilt project files accessible on the Internet and to help create a virtual quilt center.

## MSU MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



The MSU Museum quilt collection numbers over 500 historic and contemporary quilts that span all styles of quilting and eras from 1800 to 1999. In 1952, the first quilts were accessioned into the MSU Museum's collections when the Museum acquired the entire contents of another museum, which was dismantled. The Museum's collection was built primarily through donations

from collectors and quilters and augmented by a small acquisition fund. Unique collections include The Mary Schafer Quilt and Ephemera Collection, The Kitty Clark Cole Collection, The Merry and Albert J. Silber Collection, The Clarke Family Quilt Collection, The Durkee-Blakeslee-Quarton-Hoard Family Quilt Collection, The

Michigan African-American Quilt Collection, The Deborah Harding Redwork Collection, and The North American Indian and Native Hawaiian Quilt Collection.

The quilt collections are housed in state-of-the-art rolled storage system in the Museum's Cultural Collections Resource Center. Full and part-time curatorial and collection management

staff supervise the daily care and special uses of the quilts. The collection is used for research, teaching and exhibition, and continues to expand through quilt acquisitions made possible by national endowments and grants, and through private donations.

In addition to the quilt collections, the Museum houses a room-use only library of over 1000 quilt and textile titles, including the Eve Boicourt collection. The quilts and supporting materials provide the basis for ongoing research projects that result in the development of publications, exhibitions, public programs, and media projects.





# Great Lakes, Great Quilts CHALLENGE

Enter the *Great Lakes, Great Quilts Challenge* for your chance to win cash prizes totaling over \$5,000 and valuable product giveaways. Sponsored by *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*, C&T Publishing, Fairfield Processing, Viking, the Michigan State University Museum, and RJR Fashion Fabrics, The *Great Lakes, Great Quilt Challenge* invites participants to create a quilt based on their adaptation of the twelve quilt projects featured in the *Great Lakes, Great Quilts* book from C&T Publishing. The twelve featured projects include: Star of Bethlehem, Bar Sampler, Underground Railroad, Fleur-de-lis, 4-Patch Variation, Fanny's Fan, Ducks in the Pond, String Plate, String Quilt, Stove Eye Quilt, Rose in the Window, and Sawtooth. The quilt must showcase at least one of the design elements featured in the above quilts. Participants are also welcome to combine design elements from several of the quilts. At least 75% of the fabrics used in the quilt top must be from the *Great Lakes, Great Quilts* fabric line by RJR. The quilts will be judged on design, creativity, workmanship, and interpretation of the contest theme.

## Prizes to be awarded

### 1st Place

\$1,000 or Viking Designer II sewing machine

### 2nd Place

\$750

### 3rd Place

\$500

### Best Workmanship Overall

\$1,000 cash award

presented by *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*

### First, Second, and Third place winners will also receive:

Fabric award from RJR Fashion Fabrics

Library of books from C&T Publishing

Membership to the MSU Museum

One-year complimentary subscription to *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*

Batting award from Fairfield Processing

### All finalists will receive:

Certificate of merit from QNM

A copy of the C&T book, *Great Lakes, Great Quilts*

A commemorative MSU Museum lapel pin

### Plus Recognize 'Your Favorite Quilt Shop' The shop with the most votes will receive:

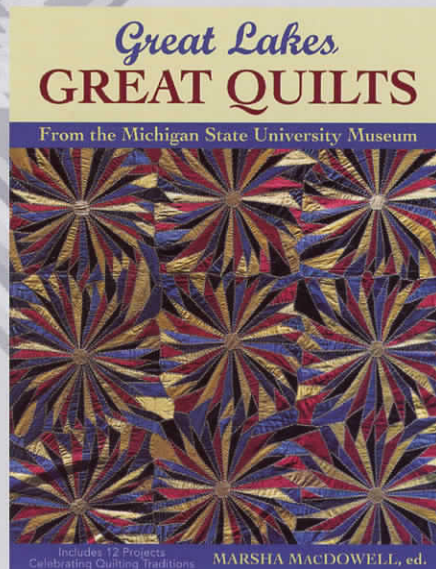
\$250 book credit from C&T Publishing

\$250 fabric credit from RJR Fashion fabrics

\$250 magazine credit from Primedia

For more information and entry forms visit

[www.quiltersnewsletter.com](http://www.quiltersnewsletter.com).



\$23.95, sc, 96 pp, full color

Discover the beautiful quilts of the Great Lakes, reflecting the variety of peoples, resources, and activities of the region. The Michigan State University Museum is home to a spectacular quilt collection of unusually rich ethnic and artistic diversity.

- 12 quilt projects based on the "best of the best" from the Museum's collection of over 500 quilts
- Includes a full-color photo gallery of selected quilts from the Museum
- Learn about Native-American, African-American and European immigrant quilting traditions found in the region
- The "Great Lakes, Great Quilts" quilt challenge will be announced in the December 2001 issue of *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine* and at [www.ctpub.com](http://www.ctpub.com)

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