

COMMEMORATIVE HANDKERCHIEFS in
the HAYWARD MUSEUM

In 1974, Mrs. Lilian Oldmixon presented a collection of several hundred handkerchiefs and scarfs to the Hayward Area Historical Museum, Hayward, CA. Though not all are on display, there are a number of interesting Commemorative Handkerchiefs in the display cases and arrangements for the study of the others may be made with Mrs. Beulah E. Linnell, Curator, 22701 Main St., Hayward, CA 94541. (415) 581-0223

Commemorative Handkerchiefs were popular in the 19th and 20th centuries and were printed on large squares to honor important persons or events. Many times they were used in quilts as the central medallion (see Fall 1977 QUILTERS' JOURNAL pg. 16.

Mrs. Oldmixon's collection includes scarfs commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, George VI Coronation, 1876 World's Fair, 1915 San Diego Fair, presidential candidate General James A. Garfield and his running mate.

Of importance to future generations is the extensive collection of handkerchiefs such as the Disney and comic strip characters for they replaced the Commemorative Handkerchief.

The museum is housed in an old post office and like so many small museums, is a delight. The staff is pleasant and helpful. Hours are 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. but don't forget to make arrangements if you really want to see the handkerchiefs.

Joyce Gross

(continued)

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Commemorative Handkerchief in the
Hayward Area Historical Museum. Photo
courtesy of Kokomo Print Works.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF QUILTS MOVES

The American Museum of Quilts and Related Arts, formerly located in Los Altos, California, has moved to 114 El Paseo de Saratoga in San Jose, California. The grand opening is June 10th.

The Museum was founded by the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association in May of 1977 and its new quarters are larger, making it possible to offer classes, workshops and an expanded retail shop. Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10 to 6; Thursday and Friday, 10 to 9; Saturday 10 to 5:30; and Sunday, 12 Noon to 5. There is no admission charge.

The Museum is easy for visitors to find, being located at the intersection of Saratoga Avenue and Lawrence Expressway near Interstate 280.

Director of the Museum is Sylvia Moore.

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TESTING FABRIC DYES

Although it may be printed on the end of a bolt that the fabric is color-fast and pre-shrunk, do not take the written word as fact.

Each piece of fabric that is brought into my home is tested for colorfastness. I run a pan of hot tap water and detergent and place the fabric in it. If there is no run within a few minutes, the fabric is rinsed,, dried in the dryer, and is ready for use.

Some fabrics will immediately cause the water to become colored--the fabric must have further treatment. I then wash it with a regular load of clothes with hot water and soap. If the dye is still running, I then boil the fabric in salt water (1 tablespoon of salt to a gallon of water) for 15 minutes. The fabric is again washed in soap and water to remove the salt. To date, the trouble has been over at that point.

Some are saying that they test the fabric by washing in a regular load of wash, and if none of the whites in the load are tinted, they feel it is safe. I do not feel that this is a safe test as the fabric is constantly moving and not really touching another. When it is anchored into a quilt and touching other fabrics on all sides, there may be disappointments.

Some people say they have never had any trouble, but when using dark fabrics, one really must test and be sure.

--Hazel Carter---
Vienna, Virginia

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