

Classified

Marguerite Ickis
(con'd. from back cover)

During these career years, mostly in New York, Miss Ickis wrote fifteen books. Most of them were leadership training books on recreation and arts and crafts. She says, with a chuckle, "The quilt book was the only one I really knew anything about" adding, "It's a very personal book -- it has some of my quilts and friends' quilts in it."

After her quilt book was published, she was asked to assist with the manuscript of Dorothy Brightbill's QUILTING AS A HOBBY. For that book Miss Ickis had the great pleasure of studying old textiles at the (then) Cooper Union Museum, developing a love for historic fabrics which has never left her. She has made a number of quilts from old fabrics she "rescued" from thrift shops.

"I've had nine lives -- every one of them different," says Marguerite Ickis with relish. "I'm on my ninth now." She is referring to her newest career, painting. The walls in her Cape cottage are covered with dozens of her paintings -- scenes from her childhood and youth in Ohio; her friends, her relatives, her self; incidents and activities from her farm heritage; the clothing of the early part of the century. All are lovely.

She still makes quilts. A "sort of a broken lily" she designed and made two years ago, and last year an applique dogwood from material from the "Ditty Box." When author, quiltmaker, teacher, editor, restaurant manager, farm daughter, botanist, researcher and, now, painter Marguerite Ickis says she's on her ninth life, she doesn't mean she has left eight behind her. She is bringing them all right along, in her teaching, her paintings and her quilts.

-- Sally Garoutte

HERITAGE QUILT BLOCK CONTEST. New deadline Washington's Birthday, Feb. 18, 1980. Your Sunbonnet Girl could be sewn into a HERITAGE QUILT for display nationally at Quilt Shows and Museums to help preserve our Sunbonnet Girl heritage. All entries are eligible for BONUS PRIZE sampler Sunbonnet Girl Quilt drawing. Send 12" x 12" cotton or cotton blend, unquilted block with Sunbonnet Girl design using applique, pieced, embroidered, or trapunto techniques. Indicate whether original design or other. Explain. No limit to the number of entries. Send entry to: HERITAGE QUILT CONTEST, Pat Mensinger, Box 190, Colfax, Washington 99111.

SEMINOLE PATCHWORK BOOK has patterns. 415 authentic designs and great ideas. Reviewed 1978 QUILTERS' JOURNAL. \$4.50 incl. 1st class postage. Cheryl Bradkin, 3534 Altamont Dr, Carmichael, CA 95608.

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On the Book Shell

TRAPUNTO and other Forms of Raised Quilting

*by Mary Morgan and Dee Mosteller, publ.
Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1977. 228
pgs., hard cover, \$15.95.*

TRAPUNTO really gets one excited about the many forms of raised quilting. It is well written with many, many lovely illustrations which make one want to try all the techniques and projects.

Chapter headings include Trapunto Yesterday/Today, Fabrics & Tools, Designs, Raising the Design, and Special Hints for teaching children and "Rank Amateurs".

It is the kind of a book that you can open to any page and get caught up in the illustrations. You end up spending an hour dreaming about projects when you had planned to spend, maybe, 10 minutes.

A book to leave on your coffee table for everyone to enjoy!

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Unique Sunbonnet Sue mailing notes. 18 per package. \$3.00 includes postage, handling, Loveland Pattern Co., Box 891, Dept Qd-2, Loveland, Cob. 80537.

QUILTS: THE GREAT AMERICAN ART, by Patricia Mainardi. Just published, 80-page illustrated softbound book. "Transforms our notions about... women's role in the artistic heritage of this country. "Linda Nochland (art historian museum curator) should be required reading for students of American history and art," Richard Martin, (editor, Arts Magazine) \$3.25 postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed! Miles & Weir, Box 1906, San Pedro, CA 90733.

QUILTS LTD now accepting quality quilts and quilted crafts on consignment. Send photo or call 415/433-2088 Quilts Ltd., Pier 39, PFB San Francisco, CA 94133.

"COOKIN' N QUILTIN'" Original patterns & recipes. \$5.75 pp. Ruth Briggs, Box 403, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.

NEW! Contemporary Crazy Quilts Projects -full size patterns by the author of "The Contemporary Crazy Quilt Project Book". Send SSAE for brochure. The Quilt Patch -QJ, 3536 Overholser, Bethany, OK 73008.

Happy Sun, Butterfly, and Calico Flowers appliqued pattern for shirts, pillows. Full-sized, pictured instructions. Pattern includes all three designs. \$2.00 ppd. Catalog 25. Loveland Pattern Company, Box 891, Dept QJ, Loveland, Colorado, 80537.

"Keep Your Sunnyside Up", appliqued wall-hanging pattern. Cheerful smiling sunface. Easy pictured instructions; \$2.00 ppd. Catalog 25. Loveland Pattern Company, Box 891, Dept. QJ, Loveland, Cob. 80537.

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Marguerite Ickis

Marguerite Ickis, author of the bestseller *THE STANDARD BOOK OF QUILTMaking AND COLLECTING*, retired from the hurlyburly of New York City four years ago in her eightieth year. Now she lives on Cape Cod in a typical grey Cape Cod house with a steep Cape Cod stairway. Although she warns visitors about the stairway, Miss Ickis pays no attention to it herself as she leads the way upstairs to share some of her treasures: quilts she has made, quilts and old textiles she has collected. All her big New England beds are covered with quilts.

Tall, with beautiful white hair and twinkle in her eyes, Miss Ickis lives with the company of her canary, Tweetie Alexander. During the years in which she lived and taught in New York, she spent her summers on the Cape operating a restaurant, and she now has many friends there and a full social life. On Tuesdays, a sewing group meets at her house, and she occasionally organizes a quilting project for the group. She stays in touch with the quiltmakers on the Cape and with the owner of the quilt shop up the road. She regularly visits the antique shops in the area and the "Ditty Box" shop at the church for attic treasures which she is quick to recognize.

Although it is on nearly every quiltmaker's shelf, and in every quilt bibliography, *THE STANDARD BOOK OF QUILTMaking AND COLLECTING* seems an unlikely book to be a best-seller. But, according to Rita Weiss, Crafts Editor for Dover Publishing Company, the book has been among their top best selling books not just for a few months, but for nineteen years! Dover first published the Ickis book in 1959, purchasing the rights from its original publisher who had gone out of business. Since then it has never been out of print, and is now a Dover best-seller in Europe as well as the United States.

Marguerite Ickis was born and raised in Ohio on a farm. Her grandmother and mother both made quilts, and so did Miss Ickis. She says she preferred designing them, and would often get her mother to help her with the more complicated piecing of sawtooth sets. Probably her favorite creation was a Jack and the Beanstalk applique design which included vines and flowers. She made two of them, but both were stolen.

Miss Ickis received her Bachelor's degree from Ohio University, and in 1929 went to New York where she earned a Master's degree in botany at Columbia University. For five years she was Curator of Botany at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and then joined the staff of the National Girl Scouts in New York City where she was a Leader of Training in Nature and Arts and Crafts. Later she became Assistant Editor of *RECREATION* magazine and Dean of the Recreation Training School for the WPA, and then returned to Columbia to take the position of Instructor in Recreation.

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