



A Wild-Animal Bedquilt

By Ernest Thompson Seton

In January of 1905, THE LADIES HOME JOURNAL began a series of five quilts by famous authors and artist. The first one was designed by Ernest Thompson Seton and is presented here. If the series is of interest to our readers we will publish the other four. The rest of the series were designed by Maxfield Parrish, Gazo Foudji, Jessie Wilcox Smith, Peter Newell.

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AMERICAN women as a class are expert with the needle, and wonderful samples of hand needlework are to be seen in all the county fairs. Up on the Yellowstone in 1897 I made the acquaintance of a woman who was raising the ideas of a whole quilting sisterhood by introducing forms of flowers as decorations in her work. As we looked over her samples-they were selling well, by-the-way-a mountain guide said to her: " Say, I bet this man can make you a new pattern you'll like-something with animals in it."

As I had often been asked before by my quilting friends in the West and North to give them a new design I now promised one, and made a beginning, but before it was finished my Yellowstone friend had disappeared- I do not know where. The quilt design begun for the settler's wife in Montana is now finished and here presented.

The Antelopes, the Jack-Rabbits, the sage and the buttes were about me as I drew them. The medallions show four of my favorite animals. The color scheme is by Mrs. Seton. The general effect is soft and pale like the landscape of the Yellowstone. In cotton goods the effect will be much better than the design might lead one to believe; in silk it would be a delight to the workers who had patience to finish it. The work on such a quilt would be about the same as on an ordinary " log cabin," or rather more than on a crazy quilt; the expense of material would, of course, be more, but the work when finished would not only justify the extra pains, but have an additional market value as well.

This quilt is made by sewing pieces of plain silk of different colors onto a background of buff-colored mercerized linen. The fabric used for the background should be the size of the whole quilt, but may be made in sections for convenience of handling. These silk pieces are cut into the shapes and sizes necessary to make the animal and conventional forms that produce the finished design.

If it is impossible to obtain silk some other material may be used, such as the thin, plain fabrics used for dress patterns. The various pieces are outlined with black silk floss, the whole being done in appliqué, which is familiar to all needleworkers.

The size of the quilt is seven feet square. To one living in the vicinity of the needlework shops it will be practicable to have a perforated pattern made for stamping, and as the design largely consists of repeated forms only a small portion of the entire design need be made. If it is impossible to obtain a perforated pattern one can by a little ingenuity cut out paper patterns of the right size and shape, and, laying them on the linen, draw the design in with a soft lead pencil by following the outline of the paper pattern. The color scheme is as follows

1. A rich tan seen on the Antelopes, the head of the Fox "Vixen," the ears of the Wolf "Lobo," the ears of the Rabbit "Molly," and the little diamonds between each Jack-Rabbit of the border.

2. A paler shade of the same appearing as the background of the frame immediately surrounding the Antelope picture, and as a background to each medallion at the corners.

3. An umber brown appearing as a background to the rows of eggs around-the Antelope picture, and in the scrollwork adjoining these also in the scrolls surrounding each medallion as linework ; on the white trees in the frame about the Antelope picture; on the head of the little Bear "Johnny," and wherever outlines are necessary to pale tints, as in the background of the white Snakes on the outer border, and the ears of the Fox "Vixen."

4. A still darker brown on the horns, eyes, necks, noses and hoofs of the Antelopes, also on the corner scrolls where needed, and on the noses and eyes of the animals at the four corners.

5. An olive brown appearing on the head of the Rabbit "Molly," on the head of the Wolf "Lobo," and on each Jack-Rabbit standing up around the border.

6. A very pale olive green appearing in the bushes of the central landscape; as a background of the second border, as well as on the part the Rabbit is sitting on ; in the background that fits each medallion into the square corner; and also in the eyes of the Wolf, Fox and Bear.

7. A pale salmon-pink appearing on the hills beyond the Antelopes.

8. Clear white appearing in patches on each of the Antelopes; the clouds, the straight line separating the various borders; the rows of spots on the first border; the sage leaves and balls on the second border; parts of each JackRabbit of the outer border; the wave line behind each Jack-Rabbit; the Snakes; the two borders of the Snake part; on the Fox head and on the Wolf head; also the trees in the middle of the inner border, and the label at the top of each corner medallion.

The materials are:

Background: Buff mercerized linen	Sage-Brush in centre: Silk Sage-Brush border: Silk
Flat border lines: Linen in color designated	Egg patterns: Silk Antelopes: Silk
Corner medallions: Silk	Hills: Silk
Jack-Rabbits: Silk	Snakes: Silk
	Appliqué with black silk floss.

Editor's Note-It is impossible for us to supply any patterns for this quilt. When the design was originally made by Mr. Seton for THE JOURNAL it was our intention to offer to supply patterns. But practical obstacles presented themselves, making it impossible to do this. All that can be told, then, about the quilt is told here.

MILL VALLEY QUILT AUTHORITY



COMING EVENTS

*Thurs., Oct. 11, CHRIS EDMONDS
"Miniature Patchwork" workshop
Santa Rosa, CA*

*Fri., Oct. 12, CHRIS EDMONDS
Star Variations Workshop
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*Fri., Oct. 12, CHRIS EDMONDS
Star Light, Star Bright lecture
San Francisco, CA*

*Sat., Oct 13, CHRIS EDMONDS
Farm Picture Quilt Workshop
San Francisco, CA*

*Thurs., Oct. 18, AMISH QUILT TOUR
See ad page 9*

*Sat., Oct. 27, RIVER CITY QUILT SHOW BUS
TOUR, including stop over Nut Tree and
two quilt shop stops.*

*Nov. 9, WARREN WHALEY
Christmas Workshop
(sewing machine techniques)
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Advance registration necessary

**For registration or information phone (415) 388-7578,
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