

Pennsylvania Pillowcases - Part 11

by Patricia Long

In my initial study of 50 Pennsylvania patchwork pillowcases, I was impressed by the many different designs and good techniques that were used. Having surveyed another 50 examples, I am also impressed with the way the design of pillowcases parallels the overall themes in quilt design. All of the major design influences in 19th century quilt design have their counterpart in pillowcase design. Whole cloth quilt designs are seen in the plain printed cases, made of copperplate, rollerprint or glazed chintz fabrics as well as the all white quilted shams and bolsters from the mid-19th century.

Appliqued cases were made in a variety of floral designs, with rose and tulip being the most prevalent.

* * *

Jessie Wilcox Smith

SMITH, JESSIE WILLCOX (Sept. 8, 1863-May 3, 1935) painter/illustrator. Born Philadelphia, Pa. the youngest of four children, two boys and two girls. Attended Philadelphia School of Design for Women, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and studied under Howard Pyle.

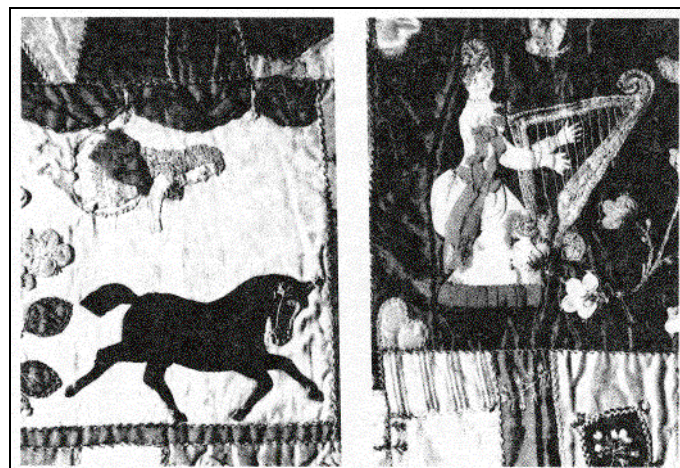
Miss Wilcox provided works for many of the leading magazines such as SCRIBNER'S, LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, ST. NICHOLAS, and GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. LIFE magazine, Jan. 19, 1942 attributes 195 GOOD HOUSEKEEPING covers to her. It is alleged she received \$1800 for a cover.

She preferred her illustrations for children's books. Among the best known were Robert Louis Stevenson's A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES and Louisa May Alcott's LITTLE WOMEN.

Pieced cases vary from the simple squares and Nine Patch designs to the very elaborate Mariner's Compass and many variations of star designs. There are even examples of Crazy Patch and Log Cabin cases.

The rather rare sets of quilts and matching pillowcases also follow the various themes of quilt design.

Patricia Long teaches the History and Techniques of Quilting to undergraduates and graduates at the Maryland Institute College of Art. Her Pennsylvania German background and an early exposure to an antique dealer who loved antique textiles prompted her to make this study. Her first article appeared in the JOURNAL, Summer, 1979.



HARDMAN QUILT: Portrait of an Age

16 mm/color/sound/10 minutes. Rental \$25.00 for 3 days. Perfect for stitchery and quilt groups, antique societies, classroom study, social groups. For reservations - Joyce Gross, Box 270, Mill Valley, CA 94941. 415/388-7578.