

Film & Book Reviews

THE QUILTING WOMEN, a film produced by Appalshop Films, 118 Main St, P.O. Box 743, Whitesburg, KY 41858.

by Jean Street

This is a delightful film if a bit too long. The music was very pleasant and the color close-up shots were excellent.

Sometimes the audio was a little bit difficult to hear and understand because of the participant's drawl, however they are so charming that it didn't matter very much.

Following the progress of the quilt from from shopping for the fabric, piecing the top, assembling the three layers, to the group quilting and finishing was exceptionally complete and easily followed.

I particularly liked the close-up shots of the quilting process (rocking the needle in and out) and rolling the quilt in the frame. It was obvious that the women involved were enjoying it all very much.

I feel it was a very worthwhile film.

Your roving reporter interviewed some of the audience as they came out of the movie.

Lucille Hilty, Berkeley, Calif. : *"Delightful! It was fun to see 'Quilting Bees'. Out here quilting is much more an 'alone' activity than was shown. Certainly all of the creating has to be done alone and I wonder if they really do as much with other people as is shown."*

Sandy Shikuma, Watsonville, Calif.; *"We don't have quilting bees so it was fun to see how they do it. I wish the camera had stayed longer on each person."*

Marilyn Reed, Santa Clara, Calif., *"It seems such an important part of their lives. I can remember a quilting frame hanging from the ceiling while I was growing up and the film brought back all those happy memories. In those days I was under the frame instead of quilting at it as I do now."*

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DOMESTIC AMERICAN TEXTILES: A Bibliographic Sourcebook.

by Beverly Gordon. Published by Center for the History of American Needlework, Old Economy Village, Ambridge, PA 15003. Paperbound, \$14.95 postpaid.

The book is an invaluable aide to historians and every quilt group should have one in its library! It contains a very complete annotated

bibliography, some interesting charts and some conclusions that the author has drawn from examining 1,000 books and articles about domestic textiles.

Ms. Gordon refers to "domestic American textiles as those fiber constructions that were (and are) made in the North American home for personal and decorative use."

I found the chapter on "Trends and Attitudes about Textile Art as reflected in the Literature in America 1876-1976" fascinating reading. Ms. Gordon writes clearly and concisely and it is interesting to see how she fits the pieces together to give us an overview.

There is a section about quilts in which Ms. Gordon discusses Ruth Finley, Marie Webster, Florence Peto and our other wellknown friends describing their contributions and place in history.

I have the feeling that I will enjoy and refer to this book more as time goes by.

ED NOTE: One of the charts from this book is reprinted on page 5 by permission.

Queen with a Quilt



There was a quaint dainty queen
Who once made a quilt for a dean,
With some quadruple tweeds,
Quite a number of beads,
And a queer little quill in between.

FOUND AT A FLEA MARKET. DOES ANYONE
KNOW THE ORIGIN?