



82" x 90"  
NEWARK MUSEUM  
COLLECTION

Accession #48.1

### THE FRIENDSHIP MEDLEY QUILT

The Friendship Medley quilt is pictured and described in both the 1947\* and the 1973\*\* museum catalogs. In the 1947 catalog it is described 'The blocks of this Friendship Medley were set together with strips of henna-colored print having a small black and white figure. S.H.R.'s block contains a house of the same material as the set, its window panes neatly outlined with sewing silk. Two blocks contain polychrome prints showing scenes from 'Pinafore'. Almost every block has either a name or initials, some embroidered, others written in ink. Since the names Randall and Demarest predominate, may it be supposed that these were the two families about to be united?'

\* *QUILTS AND COUNTERPANES IN THE NEWARK MUSEUM*, Margaret E. White, Newark Museum 1948.

The 1973 catalog describes the quilt "This outstanding example of a 'Friendship' or 'Album' quilt is composed of ninety blocks. Each block contains a pieced or appliquéd motif. Many of the squares contain usual designs such as the clover leaf, ninepatch, stars, baskets, snowflakes and typical floral or geometric forms, but a few of the more creative guests have assembled unusual designs exhibiting a sense of humor and a free imagination. Some of the more unusual squares feature scissors cutting a shirt, a horseshoe, an appliquéd house, a three-dimensional puckered flower, a small locomotive, stuffed strawberries, embroidered tools, an anchor and chain and appliquéd birds cut from printed cotton. Two blocks

\*\* *THE MUSEUM*, VOL 25 # 3 & 4 (combined) Summer/Fall, 1973. Publ by the Newark Museum

cont. from pg 9

contain polychrom-print cotton scenes from 'Pinafore'. The blocks are framed with strips of henna-colored cotton printed with a small black and white figure. The squares are connected by pieced overlapping bands which give the visual image of overlapping octagons. It is believed that S.H. Randall, whose block contains a house of the same material as the set, its window panes neatly outlined with silk, was the hostess (at the party honoring the recipient). The simple quilting pattern combines clam shell and leaf designs. The quilt is backed with white cotton and filled with a thin batting."

But how did the Newark Museum acquire the quilt in 1948?

Florence Peto wrote to Emma Andres on March 27, 1942 "I bought the cutest quilt. It is an autographed quilt made in Bergen Co., N.J. in the Demarest family - who must have owned most of the county at one time. Every other citizen bears the name. But the applique blocks in the quilt are so cute: one is a



Block from Friendship Medley which appears on notepaper available from Newark Museum.

locomotive and a train of cars, another is a man and woman embracing while a little black dog jumps up on them. There are tulips and flowers and geometric designs and the whole is set together in the pattern known as Garden Maze - know it? One design is real naughty - it is a red calico hand and the thumb is against the nose of a profile face! It bears the date 1876\*.

In 1947 Mrs. Peto loaned the quilt to Miss Andres for an exhibit and wrote to her,

*\*Only one block contains the date 1876 so it is difficult to assume anything more than that was the date the block was made and the quilt was made ca. 1876.*

"One quilt ( I am sending) is an Autographed Quilt - undoubtedly each block made by a friend of a prospective bride; it is a Bergen County, New Jersey made piece. All of the names and initials stand for families of the early Dutch settlers in these parts. It was made in the Demarest family and after it comes home from Arizona it is to be purchased for the permanent collection of the Demarest Memorial Museum in Hackensack. Do notice all the amusing little figures. Down on the last row notice two blocks made of cotton print with scenes from 'Pirates of Penzance' and 'Pinafore'. Notice the amusing little locomotive and don't overlook PaPa loves MaMa! Notice the block with scissors and shirt and things a dressmaker must have made!

One Oct. 21, 1947 Mrs. Peto wrote to her friend Emma Andres, "The Demarest quilt which you had will go to the N.Y. (Historical Society) show for the local historical society did not buy it. I believe now that the Newark Museum is interested in it,

On May 13, 1948 Mrs. Peto wrote again, The Demarest Friendship Quilt (you had it in your show) belongs now to the Newark Museum - They sent a check yesterday. I hate to part with a quilt.

*Wyn Reddall, research assistant and genealogy buff, reports that Demarest was a very common name in Bergen County. Up until 1900, there are more than 200 wills of the surname Demarest in the Bergen County Section of the Index of New Jersey Wills.*



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