

Quilters' Hall of

The Continental Quilting Congress of 1980 was held Oct 15-19. At the end of the opening night session the Hall of Fame was held. Those honored this year were Anne Orr, Florence Peto, Grace Snyder, Bertha Stenge and Averil Colby. In 1979 honors went to William Rush Dunton, Jr., Ruth Ebright Finley, Lenice Ingram Bacon, Marguerite Ickes, Jonathon Holstein and Gail van der Hoof.

ANNE ORR - Anne Orr was a woman of tremendous energy and resources. A widow who raised three daughters from the time they were small and an active volunteer in her community, she had a long and successful career as editor, needlework designer, and entrepreneur. Although she herself was not a crafts-woman, she dedicated her career to bringing needle-workers good, appropriate design and in the process, gave many craftswomen creative employment.

Anne Orr began her career before World War I as Art Editor of the magazine THE SOUTHERN WOMAN. While in that position, she started designing cross-stitch and filet crochet. Soon she was publishing these designs in several national publications and in her own books. Her design interests expanded to include needlepoint, embroidery, applique, and eventually patchwork. In 1919 she became Art Needle-work Editor of GOOD HOUSEKEEPING and contributed a monthly page until her retirement in 1946.

In order to supply needleworkers with her designs and to encourage the public's involvement with needlework, she opened the Anne Orr Studio in Nashville, Tenn. The studio offered pattern books, iron transfers and kits which included all the material necessary to make a quilt top. Here she employed a group of needleworkers, called her 'kitchen cabinets' to try out each design before it was published. Over the years, more than 160 people worked for her. In addition, she employed about 60 Kentucky mountain women to finish quilts in her designs for those people who were not interested in actually doing the hand-work.

Although Anne Orr designed lovely appliqué quilts, her original contribution to quilt design lay in transferring the basic square concept of cross-stitch to patchwork. Her designs tried to capture, in subtle and intricately-shaded squares, the shapes or colors of flowers. Her technique reached its high point in the Oval Wreath quilt design which first appeared

in Jan. 1935 GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. The NASHVILLE BANNER summed up her life: 'she captured beauty from everything around her and wove it into the tapestry of her life.'

This biography is from the booklet QUILTER'S HALL OF FAME written by Ellen Dykes and published by the Continental Quilting Congress, Inc. It is available for purchase at Box 561, Vienna, VA 22180 for \$2.50

THE THIRD CONTINENTAL QUILTING CONGRESS will be held in Tampa, Florida, Nov 12-15, 1981. For info: Mail \$2.00 to the Continental Quilting Congress, P0 Box 561, Vienna, VA 22180.

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