

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Wyn Reddall, our trusty Research Assistant has asked to be relieved of her duties. For years, even before she accepted the title, she was extremely helpful in checking dates and other information for us. We are indeed grateful to her for her industry and know-how and give her every good wish for continued success in her new endeavors. Personally and professionally I shall miss her. Very much!

We were very sorry to read that our colleague, Mary Conroy who edited and published CANADA QUILTS will cease publication. Mrs. Conroy brought a sparkle and know-how to her publication and it was nice to keep track of our Canadian sisters. Thanks for the years of publishing, Mary.

Several of us quilt historians and researchers have decided to get together at an informal meeting to explore our interests and challenges before the Land of Lincoln Symposium in Chicago. If you would like to be included in our plans for June 26, please send me a SSAE for information

The Santa Rosa Quilt Guild is gearing up for another BIG NATIONAL QUILT CONTEST & EXHIBIT. They have asked me to coordinate it again and I am really looking forward to the excitement! In 1978 we had 500 quilts hanging and I still meet quiltmakers who tell me that event was the one that turned them on to quilting. For those of you planning to make a quilt send a SSAE to Gene Isaacs, 4095 Arlington, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 for further information and an entry blank.

The judges have been announced. In the traditional category the judges are Jean Federico, Lucille Hilty and Carter Houck.
cont next column

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In the contemporary category are Jean Ray Laury, Judy Mathieson and Joyce Schlotzhauer.

They are planning an unusually large number and variety of teachers and topics for the three day event - something for the "How come" crowd as well as the "How to" crowd. You should plan to come for all three days ... how else can you take classes and see 500 quilts and talk to your old friends? The dates? May 20,21 and 22, 1983 in Santa Rosa, Calif.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As soon as I can get to the library I will zerox something for you. My mind plans many things but my flesh doesn't cooperate!

I retired from nursing last Oct 18 but am busy as ever getting at "things" and trying to organize my quilt "stuff" as well as my genealogy information.

My big question is - how do I know when I must renew my JOURNAL subscription. On my label for Summer '81 is "Su 82" and on my label for Fall '81 is #20. Please let me know as I do not want to miss a copy.

Betty Blagen, Ames, 10

Ed note: We were going to switch the numbering system on the last JOURNAL and I goofed! This issue is Winter '82 or #18. #20 or Summer '82 will be your last issue.

I just had to write to say "thanks" for the very interesting article on Bertha Meckstroth (QJ Fall '81) I wish it had been available when I was gathering material for my "Religion & Quilts" presentation (at the Show-Me Symposium '80). She was a character!

When I first saw the bats on her Mono-gram quilt (pg 3) I immediately thought of "bees" and how appropriate a symbol for the woman who made so many religious quilts.

Mona Barker, Kansas City MO

Ed note: Mrs Barker enclosed copies of two pages from SIGNS & SYMBOLS IN CHRISTIAN ART with "Bee" circled. The book describes the bee as a symbol of activity, diligence and work as well as a symbol of sweetness and religious eloquence

On a trip to the Southwest recently I stopped to see Emma Andres. She had just finished lunch at the Senior Citizen's Center and was delighted to see us. We decided since the day was hot to get a root beer float and while she was sipping she talked hesitantly about quilting. She indicated it was not part of her life today.

After the refreshment she took us to her museum which she maintains in her father's old cigar store. The memorabilia concerning her father was prominently displayed and her own beautiful quilts formed a backdrop for the artifacts from her past life.

Before the afternoon was over she was enthusiastically relating her past activities that involved quilting to us and showing us her faithfully kept scrap books. She is quite modest about her work but I do hope she will allow her quilts to be displayed out here.

Thanks for introducing her to us.

Dorothy Lucas, Santa Rosa, CA

Thank you for your suggestion that I visit the Daughters of American Revolution Museum Quilt Collection while I was in Washington.

Jean Federico, the Curator, is obviously a very busy person but made me feel she was eager to show the quilts and her friendliness put me immediately at ease.

Mrs. Federico started my visit by handing me a binder with slides of quilts from their collection. They have a large, varied collection and this method allows the visitor to choose the quilts she would like to see. Unfortunately, or fortunately, there are so many fine quilts it is difficult to choose.

I also viewed a slide show and narration of their quilts which is available for rent. It is a marvelous tool for understanding the collection.

It is the Museum's policy to allow those viewing the quilts to read the files about the quilts. I had always thought it would be wonderful if quilts could talk so we could know about the life and times of the quiltmaker. I am a history buff and loved reading the files which provided some of that "talk" like the quiltmaker's name, age, residence, etc.

After reading the files, one of the staff took me to see the quilts. We wove in and around staircases and halls, through lovely rooms and finally arrived at the thermostatically controlled room with the quilts.

Then the aide informed me I could see any or all of the quilts! I spent three hours looking at the lovely quilts.

The DAR has a grand quilt collection and a curator to match!

Judy Higgins, Pres Moonlight Quilters
Sonoma County, CA

Ed note: For info about slides or Museum visit, write Jean Federico, Curator, DAR Museum, 1776 D St N.W. Washington D.C. 20006

My husband wanted an Apple text editor and convinced me I needed one for my "business". So far it doesn't do anything a good index system of file cards won't do, but I do love it. I find myself writing long, long letters. Maybe I will even become fond of writing.

It does have a cute little color demonstration program called "kalideoscope" that looks just like a quilt ... a continuously changing Trip Around the World

Judy Mathieson, Woodland Hills, CA

HELP WANTED

This column is open to all subscribers who wish information for research projects.

I am working as a consultant for the Kentucky Quilt Project 1800-1900 which is engaged in locating fine examples of 19th century quilts made in this state. The top fifty quilts will form an exhibition to be mounted at the Museum of History and Science Louisville, KY in Feb 1983. Some fifteen or twenty will be selected for a traveling exhibition to be shown throughout the country.

We are contacting museums whose collections we know contain remarkable quilts from Kentucky hands; for example the Smithsonian which owns The Fair Grounds near Russelville; and the Specer Museum at the Univ of Kansas which has Chips and Whetstones dating from 1850.

If any of your readers have information about Kentucky quilts in private hands we would be most grateful if they would send us the necessary name and address, indicating whether we may or may not use your name in writing the owner.

Many thanks for your help with this most important project.

Katy Christopherson
The Kentucky Quilt Project
127 W Ormsby
Louisville, KY 40203

The Firelands Assoc for the Visual Arts (FAVA) in Oberlin OH is seeking quilts made or owned by residents of the Firelands (Erie and Huron Counties, OH) and Oberlin for possible inclusion in an exhibition entitled QUILTS AND CAROUSELS: Folk Art in the Firelands to be held in spring 1983. The exhibit will feature carousel animals and quilts documenting people and events significant in the history of the area.

Of particular interest to the exhibition's curators are quilts made by settlers from Connecticut or their descendants or by Afro-American settlers from the south or their descendants. The curators are also seeking quilts relating to causes such as suffrage, abolition, temperance or politics, to the Lake Erie shipping industry, to Moravian settlements in the Firelands, or to the Civil War and the War of 1812.

Ricky Clark, Quilt Show Curator
FAVA
80 S Main St
Oberlin, OH 44074
(216/774-1966)

Do you have any idea where I could look or how I could find out information about the Cathedral Window. I am particularly interested in when it was invented. I am new at quilting and quilts and I know the quilt is not really quilting as there is no batt. However, I enjoy it because it is all handwork and when you're done, you are done!

Mary D Herbert, 415 St Claire, Grosse Point, MI 48230

Ed note: See JOURNAL Winter '79 for correspondence from Florence Peto and Maxine Teele concerning this pattern.

I would like information on Depression Quilts.

Beth Mulholland, 317 Eastwood Ave
Ithica, NY 14850

Ed note: Beth wrote the article "Organizing a Quilt Study Group" in JOURNAL Summer '81

I am very interested in the origin of the Folded Star technique which is rather origami-like process.

Betty Whitewell, Box 112, Guilford CT 06437.

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MUSEUM CATALOGS AVAILABLE

BLACK BELT TO HILL COUNTRY: Alabama quilts from the Helen & Robert Cargo Collection. 125 pg, fully illustrated, 10 color plates and 45 B & W illus as well as 3 essays. \$6.00 plus \$1.25 postage from the Birmingham Museum of Art, 2000 Eighth Ave No, Birmingham, AL 35203

QUILTS IN UTAH: A Reflection of the Western Experience. 24 color plates and text. \$10. plus postage. Fine photographs including two Hawaiian quilts. Salt Lake Art Center, 20 South West Temple, Salt Lake City UT 84101

OHIO QUILTS: A Living Tradition. Catalog from exhibition showing the finest pieces. An excellent catalog showing contemporary quilts as well as antique. Excellent photography. 60 pages many in color. Definitely a must for your collection. Canton Art Institute, 1001 Market Ave No. Canton OH 44702. \$10.95 plus \$1.00 post & handling.

QUILTS FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY. \$4.50 Montgomery County Historical Society, Fort Johnson, N.Y. 12070