

Floral Design PA - 14031 - TE 229

INDEX OF AMERICAN DESIGN Approx 85" sq

*The Floral Album quilt pictured on the back cover of the JOURNAL, Fall '81 first appeared in color in WOMAN'S DAY of Sept '41. Prior to that it was documented and reproduced by the Pennsylvania project of the index of American Design in 1939 under the direction of Frances Lichten (author of FOLK ART OF RURAL PENNSYLVANIA, N.Y. Charles Schribner's Sons, 1946) The provenance was Ohio ca 1820. The materials were listed as oil calico and muslin in green, red, yellow blue, and purple. The present owner was listed as Mrs. Joseph Baldrige, a Bellevue, Penn. resident. It was said to have taken a blue ribbon at the First Columbus State Fair. It is now in the collection of the DAR Museum in Washington D.C.*

The Index of American Design is a pictorial record of American decorative and applied arts from the beginning of America to the late 19th century. It was organized in 1935 as an activity of the Federal Arts project and lasted until shortly after the United States entered WW II. The project employed several hundred artists who reproduced 20,000 artifacts such as furniture, weathervanes, utensils, decorations, textiles, etc. in water color. Color and texture of the textiles were difficult to reproduce faithfully until the artists began finding special techniques.

35 states had projects with the most active in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. This was also the area with a great many artifacts to record and very good artists.

Artifacts from the area's museums, collectors and private individuals were searched out and researched. Using only the finest examples, the selection was narrowed and an artist assigned to reproduce it.

Homer Eaton Keyes, editor of ANTIQUES, was one of the Index's firmest supporters and some of the plates were reproduced in the magazine. An editorial in the Dec 1939 ANTIQUES entitled "Save the Index of American Design" supported the Index and lobbied for public support. The program had been drastically cut the previous June and was now in danger of further curtailment.

Holger Cahill, National Director of the Index of American Design wrote an account of the life of the program which was published as an introduction to THE INDEX OF AMERICAN DESIGN (Erwin O Christensen, publ 1950 by Publication Fund, National Gallery of Art) and in TREASURY OF AMERICAN DESIGN (Clarence P Hornung, Harry N Abrams, Inc.

THE CAUSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, AS EXPLAINED TO THE INDIANS OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BY GEORGE ROGERS CLARK IN 1778:

*We are grateful to Sally Garoutte, quilt researcher and historian for sending in this item. Ms. Garoutte is founder of the American Quilt Study Group and former Textile Editor of the JOURNAL. She has written numerous articles for the JOURNAL including "Providence Bedding" (Winter '79), "Hudson Bay Blankets", (Fall '79) and "The Scarcity of Textiles, (Spring '79).*

"I know there is a mist before your eyes. I will dispel the clouds, that you may clearly see the cause of the war between the big knives (Americans) and the English; that you may judge yourselves which party is in the right.

The big knives are very much like the red people; they don't know how to make blankets and powder and clothes.

They buy these things from the English, from whom they are sprung. They live by making corn, hunting and trade, as you and your neighbors the French do. But the big knives, daily getting more numerous, like the trees in the woods, the land became poor and hunting scarce; and, having but little to trade with, the women began to cry at seeing their children naked, and tried to learn how to make clothes for themselves.

They soon made blankets for their husbands and children, and the men learned to make guns and powder. In this way we did not want to buy so much from the English. They then got mad with us, and sent strong garrisons through our country, as you see they have done among you on the lakes, and among the French. They would not let our women spin, nor our men make powder, nor let us trade with anybody else.

The English said we should buy everything from them; and, since we had got saucy, we should give two bucks for a blanket, which we used to get for one; we should do as they pleased; and they killed some of our people to make the rest fear them.

This is the truth and the real cause of the war between the English and us, which did not take place for some time after this treatment.

--CLARK'S MEMOIRS, 1896