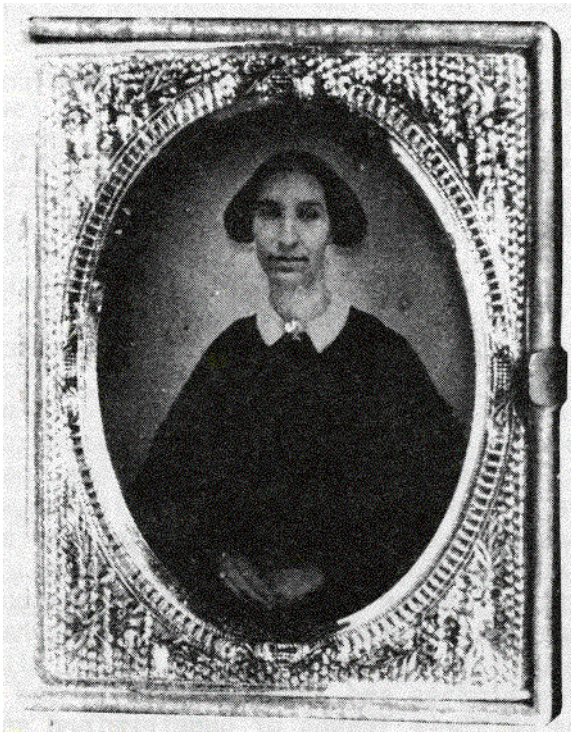


Bird of Paradise Quilt



Daguerreotype of woman believed to be the maker of the Bird of Paradise Bride's Quilt top. New York State, Albany area. 1979.7.3

Templates cut from newspapers found with the Bird of Paradise Bride's Quilt top. Notice the figure of the young man on the left of the young woman. It could indicate that she never married. 1979.7.2.A through K



BIRD OF PARADISE BRIDE'S QUILT TOP ca 1858-63. From the collection of the Museum of American Folk Art N.Y. N.Y.

1974

QUILTS IN AMERICA, Patsy & Myron Orlofsky, McGraw-Hill 1974 pl #88 in full color. (pg 273) "Bride's Quilt Top. Appliqued, silk, wool, velvet and cotton on cotton 87" x 71 1/2", 1858-1863. Near Poughkeepsie N Y appliqued templates cut out of newspaper establish the date. A boy with a jaunty hat was planned for the block to the left of the girl. Photograph courtesy of George E Schoellkopf, Inc NY City"

QUILTER'S ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 1974. E.P. Dutton & Co N Y . "This recently discovered masterpiece of folk art is dated by the design patterns cut from contemporary newspapers that survived with the quilt. Photograph courtesy George E Schoellkopf Gallery (Privately owned)"

FLOWERING OF AMERICAN FOLK ART catalog, Jean Lipman & Alice Wincester, Viking Press NY in cooperation with the Whitney Museum of American Art. #402 "Bird of Paradise Bride's coverlet. Applique cotton, silk, wool and velvet on cotton 87" x 71 1/2" 1858-63 near Poughkeepsie, N Y . Unquilted, unbacked apparently never finished; dated from patterns for applique cut from newspaper. Collection of John E Bihler and Henry Coger"

1976

NEW YORK TIMES, May 7, Rita Reif wrote in her "Antiques Column", "A Pennsylvania collector paid Henry Coger of Bihler & Coger \$9,000 for a floral-splashed specimen, which was used as catalog for the Whitney Museum's FLOWERING OF AMERICAN FOLK ART show... Most dealers and collectors were not stunned by the ... price."

1979

NEW YORK TIMES Feb 4, Rita Reif again writes about quilts "There are ... more quilts - and far more important selections too - on view at the 25th annual Winter Antiques Show than have been seen in several years at this prestigious event." Six dealers participated in the show. The most important specimen according to Ms Reif was

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BIRD OF PARADISE POSTER in full color. The story of the quilt top is included. \$7.50 (s/h \$2.50) Museum of American Folk Art, 49 W 53rd St N Y 10019





A piece of printed fabric purchased 1976. Gross collection.

also one of the most familiar because it was the star in the Whitney Museum's "The Flowering of American Folk Art" show of 1974, and was used as the cover illustration on that exhibition's catalogue. Ms. Reif explained, "Mr. Kornblau, ... does not specialize in quilts. When he stocks one, it's a sure sign that the dealer views the coverlet as a major example, an art work rather than a craft specimen. The Museum of American Folk Art purchased the quilt at the show's preview."

1981

May 17 NEW YORK TIMES - Rita Reif "Antiques" column. "Not all of the great designs are boldly patterned. A case in point is an Albany-area masterpiece, Bird of Paradise that incorporates dozens of

cotton, wool, silk and velvet traditional motifs applied on muslin... (this is) a storytelling quilt ... Reportedly the Bird of Paradise quilt at the Museum of American Folk Art was sold to that institution by Gerald Kornblau, the Madison Avenue dealer for \$20,000, the highest price known to have been paid for such stitchery."

May 23 TRI-STATE TRADER "Quilts, Coverlets featured in Dual New York Exhibit" photo.

Spring/Summer THE CLARION "Anonymous Beauty: Quilts, Coverlets & Bedcovers - Textile Treasures from Two Centuries" catalog "...the Bird of Paradise appliqued top (is) an elaborate, original design that must have taken hundreds of hours to design and stitch. The presence of a paper template or pattern of a young man, similar in size and style to the young woman pictured on the quilt top, found with the other patterns suggests his figure was planned for the top, had the young woman married. On the top as it is today, the square opposite the girl contains not the young man, but a simple pattern of leaves and flowers, an especially striking omission because many of the animals and birds on the top are shown in pairs opposite each other: hummingbirds, ostriches, a rooster and hen, cockatoos, doves and red-winged blackbirds

HALI Vol 4 No 2. Review of "Anonymous Beauty" exhibit with photo of Bird of Paradise quilt top.

Quilt Hunt

by Faye Hall

Mrs Hall is a Minnesota Quilter, wife, mother of 5 children, RN, fancier of quilts and every aspect of the art. This article first appeared in the MINNESOTA QUILTERS' NEWS, Dec 1980 Vol III Issue #6.

In Sept 1980 my husband and I went on a Quilt Hunt in the back wandering roads of Kentucky. If you want such an adventure be sure to allow plenty of time for quilters like to show and talk about their quilts.

After you decide where you want to go there are a number of places to get leads about quilters. Ask at the post office for the rural mail carrier (he will know every quilter on his route) at the gas station, grocery store, historical society, senior citizen center or antique store. Sometimes you will meet someone who has a quilter friend.

We started with a friend who grew up in Kentucky and also collected quilts. He sent a map of the state divided into thirds with good prospects starred and circled.

I was looking for hand done 100% cotton quilts. Mostly I saw tied quilts, machine sewn - often of double knits. On my fourth stop however I was successful! I met Glida Woosley in Caneyville, KY who had 12 finished quilts and 8 quilt tops.

I chose a Dresden Plate of a lovely turquoise print and yellow centers alternating with plain blocks, done with button-hole stitch (common practice in Kentucky)

I also chose an Indian Double Wedding Ring top with coral triangles on the inside of the circles and 3520 pieces. It had the feeling of an Indian head-dress.

The craft center is the only outlet for this woman and many like her so it was a happy day for both of us!