

On The Bookshelf

AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUILT by Barbara Brackman, Spencer Museum of Art, Univ of Kansas, ©1987. 50 quilts (12 Rose Kretsinger) full & detail in color. Catalog of the Spencer Museum quilts that toured Japan. Text in Japanese and English. Softbound \$21.95 (postpaid) see: Classified.



The 10,000 estimated visitors who came to see the exhibition of quilts from the University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art, were treated to quilts dating from 1820 to the 1940's. The show entitled "Beauty of the Frontier; American Patchwork Quilt" was held in April 1987 at Tobu Dept Store in Tokyo and circulated by Kokusai Art. This catalog is the result of the show.

It is a joy to see full and detail pictures of the quilts in the fine reproductions that we have come to expect of books printed in Japan. One can enjoy and appreciate the stitches and details of each quilt. Barbara Brackman's descriptions are detailed, e.g. the size of the quilting stitches in RK's quilts do not vary within her quilts but do vary from quilt to quilt. On one made in 1927 they average eight stitches to the inch, while in 1932 they average eleven, and in 1945 "Paradise Garden" the average is eight again. The text includes a wealth of background material that is easy to read and informative.

In Ms Brackman's opening essay on the Spencer Quilt Collection she describes it as "one of the best public collections of antique American quilts... (it) includes examples in a wide range of styles from the late 18th century to mid-20th... strong in Kansas quilts, made here or brought to the state by pioneer families..." but representing a wide geographical range. She writes that the basis of the collection came from Sallie Casey Thayer who donated 46 quilts and was augmented by the Malcom-James family quilts and Mary Kretsinger who donated 14 of her mother's quilts. In addition Carrie Hall donated 844 patchwork blocks and one quilt plus her books, patterns and scrapbooks to the University of Kansas. More recently Elizabeth Szabronski donated a collection of published quilt material from the 1950's & 60's.

Unfortunately the "Paradise Garden" quilt, pictured on the cover, has had the white quilted border almost trimmed off and the quilt placed on point. This gives a distorted view of the beautiful quilt. One would not think of trimming a Rembrandt or a Degas, why oh why does anyone presume to think they can improve on a Rose Kretsinger design? Fortunately, you can always turn to No. 50 on the inside and see "Paradise Garden" as RK intended it to be seen.

After seeing the catalog one must agree with Mrs Brackman that the Spencer Museum of Art has a wonderful collection of quilts and is to be congratulated on this catalog!

Rose Kretsinger Selected Bibliography

Thanks to Cuesta Benberry and the Lyon County Historical Museum for their help in assembling this list. The Lyon County Historical Society has an extensive collection of clippings about Rose Kretsinger (see pg 24) which was used for background material but is not listed individually in this bibliography.

BRANDYWINE "Main Line Quilters Show..." by Jo Ann G Stolley, Oct '84

FARM JOURNAL "Blue Ribbon Quilts" by Reba Marshall ad for "Oriental Poppy" and "Old Spice Pink" Feb '49

GARDEN OF QUILTS, by Mary Eliz Johnson, Oxmoor House, Birmingham, AL @'85

THE GAZETTE, (Emporia, Ks)
"Emporian's Quilt Wins Prizes..." 9/20/46
"Rose G Kretsinger - Looking Back" 12/12/70
"Emporian Inducted into Quilters Hall of Fame" by Roberta Birk Jan 25/26 '86

Hall, Carrie A & Rose G Kretsinger, THE ROMANCE OF THE PATCHWORK QUILT...Caxton Printers, Ltd, ©1935

KANSAS QUILTS, (Exhibition Catalog) by Enola Gish, The Assoc of Community Arts Councils of Kansas. no date Plate Six

LADY'S CIRCLE PATCHWORK QUILTS, "Protecting the Past" Jun/Jul '87 pg 18, 19.

LAWRENCE DAILY JOURNAL-WORLD (Lawrence Ks) 1/25/73

NEEDLECRAFT FOR TODAY, "A Travelers' Guide to Needlecraft Collections" by Rachel Maines 1-2/80

NIMBLE NEEDLE TREASURES,
"My Mother's Quilts" by Ruth Snyder Fall '72
"Rose G Kretsinger, Artist & Quiltmaker" by Helen M Ericson. Winter '73

NOSTALGIA MAGAZINE, "One Kansas Quilter" by Valerie Mindel Oct-Nov '86

150 YEARS OF AMERICAN QUILTS, (Exhibition Catalog) The Univ of Kansas, '73 Text #96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 127, 128. Illus #125, 126, 130, 131

Orlofsky, Patsy & Myron, QUILTS IN AMERICA, MCGRAW HILL CO, NEW YORK, 1974

PATCH IN TIME, (exhibition catalogs) by J Gross,
©1973 "Calendula", "Paradise Garden" pg 16, 17
©1976, #16
©1979, #19, #20, #21, #22

QUILTER'S CHOICE, Helen Forseman Spencer Museum of Art, The Univ of Kansas, Lawrence, Ks, 1978. pg 48-62

QUILTER'S HALL OF FAME, sponsored by The Continental Quilting Congress, Inc '85

QUILTER'S JOURNAL, Vol 1 #1, "Evolution of a Quilt Design"

QUILT REFLECTIONS, Lyon Co Historical Society, 1983 pg 20

QUILTS OF THE WEST, (exhibition catalog) #12, #19, @1976

QNM: 21/22:18; 24:15; 41: cover, 10; 69:6 (see also 70:6); 85:15; 97:24-25, 29; 106:29; 121:23; 128:16-17; 134:5; 15:8, 11, 12, 18, 28; 168: 52; 177: 48-49.

THE WICHITA EAGLE and BEACON MAGAZINE,
12/27/70 "Rose Kretsinger Quilts..." by John P Simoni
12/23/73 "Quilting termed Great Art" by Dorothy Wood

WORLD OF QUILTS AT MEADOW BROOK HALL, Oakland Univ, Rochester, Michigan 1983 Exhibition Catalog

Classified

Advertising rates: 25 cents a word pre-paid.

POSTCARDS FROM SPENCER MUSEUM; Set of 3; Kretsinger's "Paradise Garden", Malcolm's "Sunflower" and a crazy quilt; Set of 3 - \$1.50 (postpaid). Prairie Flower Publishing, 500 Louisiana, Lawrence, KS 66044.

AMERICAN PATCHWORK QUILT: Spencer Museum of Art. New catalog of collection that features Kretsinger quilts and 38 others. Full color plus text by Barbara Brackman. Published by Kokusai Art, Tokyo. \$21.95 (postpaid) Spencer Museum Bookstore, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

BED AND BREAKFAST FOR QUILTERS available Washington D.C. area (Maryland, Virginia, ect.) reduced rates. Send SASE for info to MarySue Hannan, 5801 Nebraska, Washington D.C., 20015.

QUILTS OF TENNESSEE: Images of Domestic Life prior to 1930 by Bets Ramsey & Merikay Waldvogel. Hardcover, \$19.95 + \$1.75 shipping. Tenn residents add sales tax. To order: Rutledge Hill Press, PO Box 140483, Nashville, TN 37214.

FOR SALE: KANSAS STAR QUILT PATTERN INDEX & HISTORY. KCS quilt patterns publ 1928-1961. (No sketches or patterns) \$11.00 incl. postage. Wilene Smith, 815 W 61st, North Wichita, KS 67204.

MISSOURI HERITAGE QUILTS by Bettina Havig. A catalog of the 1985 Exhibition quilts of the Missouri Heritage Project. \$14.95 + \$1.25 post and handling to The Quilt Cottage, 1108 Sunset Lane, Columbia, MO 65203.

FOR SALE: Notecards with quilts from the DAR Museum collection on heavy ivory folders. Brief individual biographies of quiltmakers on back. Send SASE envelope for info to DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, Washington DC, 20006.

FOR SALE: An Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns. 8 volumes and a large loose-leaf binder for \$50.00 incl postage. Prairie Flower Publishing, 500 Louisiana St. QJ, Lawrence, KS 66044.

FOR SALE: Exhibition catalog of "New Quilts of the Mid-South". 8 quilts in color, 11 in B & W. To order: \$7.00 + .75 post and handling. The Hunter Museum of Art Gift Shop, 10 Bluff View, Chattanooga, Tn 37403.

FOR SALE: Limited supply Historic Preservation Jan/Mar '72 "American Quilts as Visual Objects, A Personal View" by Jonathon Holstein. Pg 28 thru 33 (7 quilts full in color + article.) \$2.00 incl post & handling, Box 5427, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

FOR SALE: "Vernice's Rose Quilt Pattern Book". (1983 Santa Rosa Guild opportunity quilt) 11 full size original rose patterns plus a large center medallion to make a 78" x 95" quilt. Yardage requirements & border designs incl. Blocks would be appropriate for pillows etc. \$2.50 incl post S.R.Q.G., PO Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405.

FOR SALE: "The Applique Book" by Charlotte Patera, Creative Home Library @ 1947. Out of print and still one of the best books on applique. \$25.00 includes postage. Journal, Box 5427, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

QUILT LIBRARY with Cuesta Benberry, Joyce Gross, Bettina Havig and Barbara Brackman at QUILTERS' GETAWAY, Point Bonita, (North of the Golden Gate Bridge) Jan 24-29, '88. Gross Collection of quilts, quilt blocks, swatches, slides, photographs, early periodicals, memorabilia from famous quilt people, diaries, correspondence, out-of-print quilt catalogs and much, much more. Day students accommodated. For info: MVQA, Box 5427, Mill Valley, CA 94942 or (415) 388-7578.

QUILT REFLECTIONS catalog from '83 Lyon Co Historical Museum quilt exhibition, Emporia KS. Drawings of blocks, descriptions, & history of quilts as well as copies of clippings from the Lyon County Historical Museum archives and the Gilson scrapbooks 1929-1962. \$2.00 (postpaid) Lyon County Historical Museum, 118 East 6th Avenue, Emporia, KS 66801

PINE EISFELLER'S GARDEN Pattern \$2.50 incl post & handling. F. Smith, 175 Manor Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941

MOURNING AND MEMORIAL QUILTS *continued from pg 10*

lady tells of watching her mother and other neighbor ladies work all day quilting the casket lining and a tiny quilt for a neighbor's baby who had died.

An Amish quilt of unusual dimensions (38" x 92") was made around 1900. Ron & Marilyn Kowaleski, the owners suggest that it may have been intended for a coffin cover*.

Joyce Gross has in her collection an elaborate pall made for the Loyal Order of Odd Fellows. This beautiful and unusual cover is extensively appliqued with signs and symbols, among them the three linked chains, associated with this organization.

Memorial quilts play an important role in modern day North American Indian funeral ceremonies. According to custom, a memorial dinner and "give-away" takes place on the first anniversary of the person's death. At this time,

family and friends receive gifts in honor of the deceased and as a sign of gratitude and appreciation for their help during the family's time of sorrow. Frequently these gifts take the form of quilts, usually done in some version of the "Lone Star" pattern. Stars have long played an important role in the cultural and religious rites of the North American Indians and the design has come to be identified with their cultural activities.

With the passing of the Victorian era and the coming of more "modern" times, outward signs of mourning gradually began to disappear. Today, few remain. Like the hair wreath and waxed funeral flowers, the mourning quilt has become a thing of the past.

*A GALLERY OF AMISH QUILTS by Bishop & Safanda, E P Dutton, NY @1976. pg 62.