

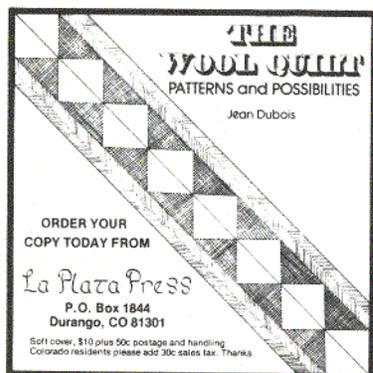
QUILT FAIR '77

The Quilt Guild of Greater Houston billed their event as "the largest quilt event ever held anywhere in the nation." I had reviewed Stearns & Foster, NQA, Lincoln Symposium, and many other outstanding shows this year, so I felt I shouldn't miss this one

The committee gets an A plus for protecting the quilts from the floor and having a rope barrier to keep "flying fingers" away from them, but of the 1,000 quilts which we were promised, there were only 71 in the exhibit hall and only 29 of them were hung full. The others were folded and draped over antiques very artistically but not sensibly by quilt standards. Unfortunately for people with mediocre eyesight it was impossible to read the signs which were pinned (yes, pinned) onto the quilts with the quilt-maker's name and the entry category. There was no catalog provided and I find it difficult to enjoy the quilts and understand the awards without knowing the categories. Entries were from their own members which undoubtedly limited selection.

The lecture series included Phyllis Haders, Marcia and Ron Spark, and Norma Buford. I have reviewed the first two speakers so will confine my remarks to Norma.

Her lecture, delivered in dialect, was mostly quotes from the women she interviewed for her book THE QUILTERS, and one felt that the woman herself was talking. Her story about the woman whose mother had made a quilt as a surprise for her father and the circumstances of his subsequent death brought the audience to tears. The slides of the women and their quilts were a big addition.



It was fun to meet celebrities Mary Elizabeth Johnson, and Jean DuBois and have them autograph their books.

The nine dealers were what made the event GLOW - their tasteful and exciting displays of books, quilts (old and new) were of a uniformly high quality.

The fashion show was a delight. It was very professional but had some charming moments. Who can resist a cute little eight year old girl who discovered the photographer would take her picture if she paused and smiled at him each time she went down the runway?

Appraisals of quilts were available for \$5.00 each by a team of appraisers. I would caution other groups using this as a fund raiser to be sure the appraisers are qualified.

While sitting in one of the three chairs provided for the weary show enthusiasts, I met one of the committee members. She proudly told me that the event had been put together in four months.. Unfortunately I believe her.

---Joyce Gross---

SCRAP-BAG ART (1830-1930)

About every two years, the Pioneer Museum and Haggin Galleries in Stockton, Ca. schedule a quilt show. In Oct. 1977, they presented a group of quilts from the collection of Robert and Susan Slott, nearly all of which were collected between 1963-73 concentrating particularly upon Pennsylvania and Amish.

No catalog was available but there were descriptions by each quilt and the MUSEUM NOTES of Sept-Oct had black and white photos and notes of the collection.

A Railroad Ties from the Amish Colony near Cleveland, Ohio, circa 1910 had a notation, "This pattern was popular among Amish people as part of their source of income was from the sale of Railroad ties made from ties made from trees on the conony timberlands."

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During these early years, much fabric also was imported from Europe --usually the finer silks and linens. But the next century would see England and Spain so worried about their failing colonial markets that they sold cloth for less in the colonies than at home. Even so, in the 1770's American women would take it as a matter of pride to wear home-spun domestic cloth rather than cloth from Europe.

In this essay I have tried to emphasize not only the extraordinary involvement of colonial Americans with textile manufacture, but also that this involvement is part of a human activity that began in the stone ages and continues right up to the present. The Encyclopedia Britannica, gathering information about industrial occupations, listed 55 major nations of the world where the number of people working in textiles and apparel exceeded the number in any other industry. (7) These statistics do not include the uncounted millions who work at spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing and stitching outside an industrial context. Textiles are still the biggest game in town.

--Sally Garoutte--
Mill Valley, Ca.

AMERICAN TEXTILES -- References

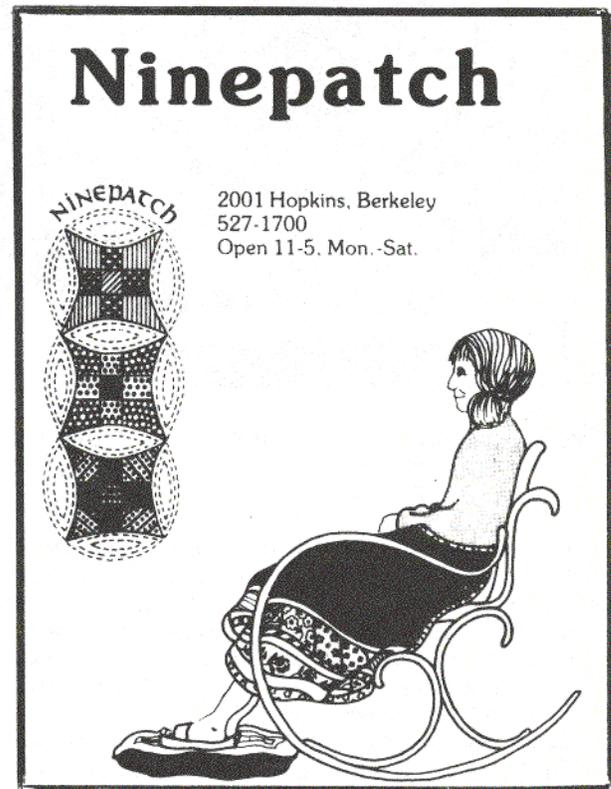
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The Quilt Show of Lenice Bacon's collection has been cancelled due to her ill health. If you are interested in information concerning the collection, please contact Joyce Gross, Box 270, Mill Valley, Ca. 94941

In the upstairs gallery the Amish quilts with their unique color combinations were hung by a sleeve at a slight angle from the wall illuminated only by spot lights which gave the exhibit an eerie but not unpleasant effect.

We spent two pleasant hours amongst the quilts, but I did wish the Museum had hung the Hardman Medallion quilt from their own collection for those of us who admire and love it.

--Joyce Gross--



If you're going to the Continental Quilters Congress this summer, you might like to arrange for a guided tour of the DAN Museum, located at 1776 D. St., N.W. Washington D.C. Contact Curator, Jean Taylor Fedrico in advance 202-628-1776, or write. They have an excellent collection of quilts as well as other needlework. Most of the pieces are well documented as to maker, date and region. (For additional information see: *Needle Arts Winter '78*, published by the Embroiderers Guild of America, Inc.)
