

Quilt History Tidbits -- Old & Newly Discovered

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Quilts in 1731 London, England

The Internet is an amazing research tool. We search for one thing and something entirely different is discovered in the results.

This 1731 estate sale listing showed up in a search at NewspaperArchive.com. Near the bottom, it says:

fine white Callicoe Quilts and printed Quilts of all Sorts, fine new Whitney Blankets of all Sizes . . .

Daily Post, November 29, 1731, Middlesex, London, England

To be SOLD by Hand,
This present Monday the 29th, and To-morrow
the 30th of November, and Wednesday
the 1st of December, (the lowest Price
being fix'd on each Particular without any
Abatement)

A T SURMAN'S Great House in Soho-
Square, St. Anne's, all the entire Household Goods, as like-
wise all the fine Works of the noted Mr. JAMES FAUCON,
Cabinet-maker and Glas-grinder: The Goods consisting of
Standing Beds and Bedding, large Glas sconces in cab'd and
gilt Frames, fine Walnut-tree Desks and Book-Cases with Glas
Doors, Walnut-tree Double Chests of Drawers, Buroes, Buroe
Tables, Dressing Tables, fine Walnut-tree Quadrille Tables, se-
veral fine Mahogany Writing Tables on Casters, and new
fashion'd Mahogany Tables which serve for five Uses, as Dining,
Writing, Draughts, Backgammon, and Quadrille; Mahogany
Chests for Cloaths, fine Mahogany Tables and Breakfast Dining
Tables, Night Tables, Box Tables, Corner Tables, and Dumb
Waiters on Casters, several fine Tables carved and gilt with Gold,
several Dozens of the newest fashion'd Walnut-tree Chairs,
cover'd with Velvet, Damask, black Spanish Leather, or un-
cover'd, fine Mahogany Chairs, Virginia Walnut-tree Chairs
with matted Bottoms, Beech Chairs of several Sorts, fine Walnut-
tree Dressing Chairs, Close-stool Chairs, Satees and Chair Beds,
fine white Callicoe Quilts and printed Quilts of all Sorts, fine new
Whitney Blankets of all-Sizes, Eight Day Clocks, Pictures, and
China.

N. B. At the same Place is sold the best new white Hard-Metal
Pewter, call'd French Pewter, at 12 d. per Pound, or change
New for Old at 4 d. per Pound, Water Plates and Dishes,
Turceens and Covers, are sold as cheap in Proportion.

1870s Marseilles quilt factory at Rock Island, Illinois

The column, "Indiana and Her Neighbors," in the December 22, 1870, *Fort Wayne (IN) Daily Gazette*, includes this brief paragraph: "A person from Pittsfield, Mass., proposes to start a Marseilles quilt factory at Rock Island [Illinois], if a capital of \$100,000 is raised. He claims that the profit on the manufacture of these quilts is 50 per cent."

From the *Paxton (IL) Weekly Record*, April 25, 1872: "The Marseilles quilt factory, at Rock Island, is now fairly under way, and has just turned out its first counterpanes. It is intended to manufacture 240 quilts per day."

The *Marshall (MI) Statesman*, May 22, 1872, published essentially the same statement but said "250 quilts per day" and the *Estherville (IA) Northern Vindicator*, June 1, 1872, said "290 quilts per day." (NewspaperArchive.com)

A search for the two words, Marseilles and quilt, reveals how pervasive these white counterpanes were in the 1870s and 1880s in stores across the U.S. from small towns to large cities.

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