

Uncoverings

1988

Volume 9 of
the Research Papers of
the American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Laurel Horton

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Preface

Every year the selection committee of the American Quilt Study Group reviews abstracts and selects papers for presentation at the group's Annual Seminar. The abstracts are submitted by individual researchers and are evaluated on their own merit. However, each year there are papers which, presented together, resonate and enhance each other in unanticipated ways. This year recurring themes include quilting by church groups, the Southern textile industry, and the use of recycled sacking in quilts. Several papers focus primarily upon quilting as an activity rather than on the resulting quilts.

The present volume also reflects an impressive geographic scope, encompassing New England diarists, Ohio county fairs, a statistical summary of Nebraska quilts and their makers, and the relative scarcity of quilting in Australia. The papers also demonstrate a variety of methodological approaches, including painstaking archival searches, computer analysis, oral interviews, and personal recollections. In many different ways the authors have sought out and presented information that contributes to our growing understanding of women and their quilting activities. Gradually we are recreating an accurate composite picture of an important aspect of human history.

I wish to thank the authors for their fine work and cooperation, and Pat Edmunds for her advice and assistance.