

Uncoverings 1990

Volume 11 of
the Research Papers of
the American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Laurel Horton



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Cover photo: Detail of French Wreath quilt,
from a design by Anne Orr.
Courtesy of Merikay Waldvogel.

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Preface

In 1975, when I wrote my first graduate school research paper on quilts, I decided that I would study quilts until I had learned everything I needed to know about them and then move on to some other subject. It did not take me long to realize, however, that the study of quilting in all its diversity is far broader than any one, or ten, or one hundred researchers could exhaust in a lifetime.

The American Quilt Study Group is proud to present in this, the eleventh annual volume of research papers, some very important information which will influence the directions of future research. Professor Elizabeth Richards and two of her students suggest the adaptation of a material culture study model specifically for use on quilts and demonstrate how the absence of such a model has limited earlier research.

Dr. Kristin Langellier presents some of the findings of her study of quilt guild members in Maine in what may be the most thorough study yet of contemporary quilters. The subject of today's quilters is one of the most important areas for study yet, at the same time, one of the most difficult.

For those researchers whose work focuses upon published pattern sources, Wilene Smith presents startling new information on late nineteenth century periodicals which disseminated quilt patterns. Her findings call for major revisions in interpretations of the influence of early published patterns.

Merikay Waldvogel and Jan Stehlik address aspects of twentieth century pattern sources. Waldvogel looks at designer Anne Orr and compares her influence to other pattern sources. Stehlik provides an analysis of one newspaper's quilt activities in a historical context. The Colonial Revival movement is a recurrent theme in both of these papers and also in Nancy Tuckhorn's look at quilt donations to the DAR Museum.

Janet Carruth and Laurene Sinema provide a poignant and per-

sonal glimpse at the correspondence between quiltmaker Emma Andres and six male needleworkers. Barbara Phillippi analyzes attitudes and controversies surrounding quilt tops, presenting some surprising results from her questionnaires. Most exotic of this year's submissions is Joyce Peaden's study of the colorful pieced sails made and used in the Philippines. These three papers demonstrate some of the variety of subjects and approaches that quilt research can address.

It is particularly gratifying to note that the majority of this year's authors have made reference to one or more papers in earlier volumes of *Uncoverings*. This shows us that AQSG is fulfilling one of its major purposes in developing a body of reputable research upon which additional work can build.

The American Quilt Study Group is a small, but active, grassroots organization which sponsors an annual seminar, publishes *Uncoverings* as well as a series of technical guides and a newsletter, and serves as an important information network among its members. These and other activities are supported by individual and guild memberships and by the generosity of individual donors. The publication of several of this year's papers received financial support from guilds and individuals, and these are acknowledged in those papers.

The American Quilt Study Group has entered its second decade with a respectable history of accomplishment and with the support of its members for the continuation of its work. With no sign that we will soon learn "all there is to know about quilts," we commit ourselves to further exploration and publication.

Laurel Horton
Editor