

Uncoverings 1997

Volume 18 of
the Research Papers of
the American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Virginia Gunn



Uncoverings
1997

Volume 18 of the Research Papers of the
American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Virginia Gunn

Copyright ©1997 by the
American Quilt Study Group
All Rights Reserved

Copyright note: This is a collective work.
AQSG holds the copyright to this volume and
any reproduction of it in whole. Right to individual
articles are held by the authors. Requests for
permission to quote or reproduce material from
any article should be addressed to the author.

Published by the American Quilt Study Group
660 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco CA 94105-4007
Manufactured in the United States.

Uncoverings is indexed in:
America: History and Life
ARTbibliographies
BHA (Bibliography of the History of Art)
Clothing and Textile Arts Index
Feminist Periodicals
Historical Abstracts
MLA International Bibliography
Sociological Abstracts

ISBN 1-877859-13-3

ISSN 0277-0628

Library of Congress catalog number: 81-649486

Cover: Fan Quilt, circa 1950, 63.5" x 82" made by
Blanche Vandiver, Fannin County, Georgia, hand-pieced
feed-sack prints, home-dyed feed-sack back. Blanche made
seven quilts for each of her three children. This quilt was a 1962
wedding gift to Arnold and Lynn Vandiver. Documented by
Georgia Quilt Project in 1991, #5077.

Cover photography by William C. L. Weinraub.
Color separations donated by Arizona Lithographers.



Contents

Preface	5
RESEARCH PAPERS	
<i>The Quilting Records of Rachel Adella Jewett and Lucyle Jewett</i> Sara Reimer Farley and Nancy Hornback	7
<i>Art Quilt Makers and Their Critique Groups</i> Barbara Carow	41
<i>The Sunday Friends: The Group and Their Quilts</i> Lorre M. Weidlich	67
<i>Quilt Ownership and Sentimental Attachments: The Structure of Memory</i> Catherine A. Cerny	95
<i>Feed Sacks in Georgia: Their Manufacture, Marketing, and Consumer Use</i> Ruth Rhoades	121
<i>Hawaiian Outline-Embroidered Quilts</i> Loretta B. Hammonds Woodard	153
<i>Waccamaw-Siouan Quilts: A Model for Studying Native American Quilting</i> Jill Hemming	189

SEMINAR KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Women's Quilts and Diaries: Creative Expression
and Personal Resource*

Gayle R. Davis	213
Authors and Editor	231
Index	234
Cumulative Author Index	241



Preface

The American Quilt Study Group will gather in Lawrence, Kansas, from October 10-12, 1997 to hear and discuss the research papers presented in this volume, the eighteenth in an ongoing series of works illuminating quilt history. Gayle Davis will give the invited keynote address, also included in this book.

The grassroots State Quilt Documentation Projects Movement has been flourishing for a decade and a half. Each state has noted that its project has revealed a wealth of information still to be tapped. Researchers are now carrying the work of the state projects forward, adding to the depth and diversity of knowledge about quilts, quilting, and quilters from each state.

In this volume, Sara Reimer Farley and Nancy Hornback, both active in the Kansas Quilt Project, share their study of two remarkable and prolific quiltmakers from Halstead, a small town in Kansas. Sara's and Nancy's analysis of the verbal and material records created by these two quilters provides new insight on midwestern quilting activity and networks.

Catherine A. Cerny extended her research for the Rhode Island Quilt Documentation project with a follow-up survey sent to owners of quilts brought to documentation days. Her analysis of quilt owners' responses reveals the strong connections to family and country that are established by their recognition of a quilt's physical qualities.

Ruth Rhoades, encouraged by the Georgia Quilt Project, began a thorough study of feed-sack fabric. She eventually interviewed over two hundred men and women to help reveal the important role of feed sacks in quilting and in the lives of women in Georgia during the twentieth century.

Jill Hemming adds to the findings of the North Carolina Quilt

Documentation Project with her documentation of Waccamaw-Siouan quilts. Jill's careful and thoughtful fieldwork research brings new information on the wide range of quilts made by this Native American community.

Loretta G. Woodward, board member of the Hawaiian Quilt Research Project, studied the little-known Hawaiian Outline-Embroidered Quilts rediscovered at quilt documentation days.

She points out the distinctive Hawaiian interpretations of outline quilts and shows how they also reflect mainland trends and the American Decorative Arts Movement.

Two other papers in this volume explore another important vein of current research. This trend centers on the study of the quilt groups so prevalent and characteristic of the quilt revival of the last quarter of the twentieth century.

Barbara Carow, a quilt artist and writer who focuses on studio quiltmaking, investigated the critique groups formed by contemporary fiber artists. Using responses provided by member artists, she interprets the delicate balance between support and criticism that seems central to critique groups and the creative process.

Lorre Weidlich, a scholar and contemporary quilt maker, used anthropological models to analyze the shared aesthetic system developed by a small quilting group which worked together from 1978 to 1984. Her work suggests that quilt guilds and groups have unique as well as universal characteristics.