

# Uncoverings 1989

Volume 10 of  
the Research Papers of  
the American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Laurel Horton

# Uncoverings

## 1989

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Volume 10 of the Research Papers of the  
American Quilt Study Group

*edited by Laurel Horton*

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Cover photo: Baltimore album quilt, inscribed  
"The Album presented to Mary Updegraf by  
H. H., 1850." Photograph courtesy of Christie's.

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## Preface

With this volume the American Quilt Study Group marks ten years of sponsorship of the presentation and publication of research on American quilts and quiltmakers. Someone unfamiliar with quilt research might think that all interesting aspects of the subject should be adequately covered by now, yet active researchers and their audiences become increasingly aware of additional topics which need to be investigated and reported.

As in previous years this volume encompasses a variety of subjects, perspectives, and methodologies. One theme that emerges from the essays as a group is the relationship between private and public aspects of quilting. Although quilts are generally made privately by individuals or in small groups, the creation of those quilts is profoundly influenced by the changing world of fashion, international events, and industrial and corporate developments.

The essays span the time period from the early nineteenth century through the present, and they cover a geographic scope from the urban centers of the east coast to the rural Great Plains. Some authors address their research from an academic perspective, while others speak from the role of participant/observer.

Research—the systematic inquiry or investigation of a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, or applications—is most often associated with past events. Indeed, the passage of time usually allows us to review the past with detachment. However, some scholars focus on an examination of contemporary events, and their findings may seem controversial to today's audiences.

The American Quilt Study Group is proud to present the tenth volume of *Uncoverings*. We look forward to continued and expanded sponsorship of research into any and all aspects of quilts and quilting in the future. AQSG gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution from the East Bay Heritage Quilters, of Albany, California, which helped fund the publication of *Uncoverings* 1989.