

Uncoverings 2005

Volume 26 of
the Research Papers of
the American Quilt Study Group

Edited by Kathlyn Sullivan



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*Presented at Lakewood, Colorado
October 7–9, 2005*

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of Jean Ray Laury and The Quilters Hall of Fame.



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Preface

This publication marks the 26th issue of the American Quilt Study Group's *Uncoverings*. Once again quilt scholars have created unique and diverse presentations incorporating quilts and techniques, quilt history, and those who have touched the quilt world and left their marks.

Colleen Hall-Patton has taken a big picture look at the early work of Jean Ray Laury and analyzed the influence it had on women, their perspectives of themselves, and their work.

The state of Iowa was not only the birthplace of Jean Ray Laury, but also was home to three friends who practiced or promoted quality quilting before the quilt revival of the 1970s. Lillian Walker was an accomplished quilter whose contributions were brought to light by Maxine Teele and Lucile Taylor. Susan Price Miller used Taylor's collection of ephemera to recreate the relationships between these talented women.

Quilting and the sewing machine is the topic explored by Anita Loscalzo. The earliest machine work to current machine techniques are discussed including results of a quilt judges' survey of the acceptance of contemporary machine techniques.

An exceptional antebellum silk quilt made by enslaved sisters in Kentucky is now in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Claire Nolan traces the quilt's origin and follows the makers and their families into the 20th century.

Two presentations deal with specific ethnic groups who made quilts. Heather Cadogan brings an art viewpoint to Amish quilting by com-



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paring the products of their hands to the creations of modern artists. In an entirely different vein, Melanie McKay and Maaja A. Stewart explore the influences of traditional indigo production and the work clothes quilts of the quiltmakers of Gees Bend, Alabama.

Marian Ann Montgomery and Charlene Orr present a unique setting for a group of family quilts. The Lawrence family farmstead of Mesquite, Texas, now part of a historic park, came with household goods, letters, and photographs and 27 of the family's quilts. The quilts are studied within their social and economic contexts.

The papers presented at the October 7–9, 2005 seminar of the American Quilt Study Group in Lakewood, Colorado add exciting additions to the growing body of quilt knowledge. For more than a quarter century AQSG's vision of the relationships between technology, economics, social custom, design, craft, art, and women's history continues. This could not happen without the close cooperation of scholars, mentors, the book designer, the selection committee, the sponsors, office staff, and many others who graciously share their knowledge, archives, and love of quilts. Our thanks go to all of them.