

Uncoverings 2005

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Edited by Kathlyn Sullivan



Authors and Editor

Heather Cadogan has a background in Medical Technology and became interested in quilts and quilting approximately eight years ago. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Liberal Studies at the University of Delaware. As part of this program, she began researching Amish quilts in the context of twentieth century art and is interested in quilts as creative expressions of women and how they fit into the broader scope of art history.

Colleen Hall-Patton has a B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from UCLA, and a PhD in Sociology from University of Nevada Las Vegas. Both her master's thesis and dissertation are about quilts and quilters. A quilter since 1970 and quilt researcher since the mid 1980s, she has focused on contemporary quilters and quilting from the 1940s forward. She currently teaches women's studies and sociology at UNLV.

Anita B. Loscalzo is the Curator of the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in the History of Art from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Library Science from Drexel University. She is currently a graduate student in the University of Nebraska quilt studies program. As part of her internship at the New England Quilt Museum for the University of Nebraska program, Anita curated the exhibition *Free Motion Masterpieces* with Gerald Roy.

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Susan Price Miller has a degree in history and studies Iowans involved with quilts, two of whom have been the subjects of previous papers for *Uncoverings*. She was project director and writer for *Century of Quilts* published in 2002, which surveyed one hundred years of quilt features in Meredith Corporation magazines. She contributes historical features and designs projects for *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine. Although Susan now spends part of the year in Syracuse, New York, she continues to investigate and write about Iowa quilters and the history of Pella, Iowa.

Marian Ann J. Montgomery received a degree in Home Economics Education at Central College, Pella, Iowa, a Masters in Museum Studies/ American Decorative Arts at Cornell University and a PhD in Museum Administration and Fashion and Textile History at New York University in cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has worked in the museum business for over 20 years and is the principal of the firm, *Museum and Textile Consulting*. She was founding curator and Director of Exhibits of The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, project coordinating curator for *Quilt Mania*, and conducted a collection survey and developed a furnishings plan for the Lawrence Farmstead for Historic Mesquite, Inc. Currently Dr. Montgomery is the Archivist for both Highland Park Presbyterian Church and The State Fair of Texas and has served on the Board of the American Quilt Study Group.

Claire Somersille Nolan has a B.A. in biology from Harvard University and for the past sixteen years has been employed by The Dow Chemical Company in Pittsburg, CA. Her love of sewing began as a child, when she was taught to sew by her Grandmother, Iris C. Gill, a seamstress who made vestments for the priests at Immaculate Conception Church in Montclair, NJ. Claire learned quilting in 1994 from quilt teacher Jeanne Marshall, and has traveled to Tahiti and Hawaii to study indigenous quilting. Her quilt called *Patience* is on display at O'Connor Hospital Medical Office Building in San Jose, CA. She sews charity lap quilts for Most Holy Rosary Church in Antioch, CA who donates them to local convalescent hospitals.

A. Charlene Orr is historical preservation officer for the City of Mesquite, Texas, overseeing the restoration and management of the 13-acre National Register Opal Lawrence Historic Park, and is administrator for Historic Mesquite, Inc. She has a degree in public administration from University of Texas Dallas and has attended intensive museum management seminars. A current officer of the Kaufman County Historical Commission, she serves as treasurer of the



Texas Lakes Trail region, a Texas Historical Commission program; treasurer of Friends of the Dallas County Historical Commission; on the Texas Preservation Roundtable through Preservation Texas; and a tourism committee chairman for the Mesquite Convention & Visitors Bureau. Charlene is a former reporter and freelancer for local publications as well as for *Billboard*.

Maaja Stewart, PhD in British literature, has published *Domestic Realities and Imperial Fictions* and numerous articles, including the chapter “Fashion” in *The South: the Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures* (2004). Dr. Stewart is particularly interested in the use of cloth and color by different cultures in an area of complex inter-racial meetings such as New Orleans and French Louisiana. She is also a textile artist who has experimented with dyes, paints, and other surface manipulations of cloth in quilts and clothing. She and Dr. McKay are co-authoring a book on cloth production and fashions in the history, culture, and literature of the Deep South.

Kathlyn Sullivan, the editor of *Uncoverings*, is involved with many aspects of quilting. She is an AQS Certified Appraiser of Quilted Textiles and an NQA Certified Judge. In addition to making quilts, her experience as documentation coordinator and curator for the North Carolina Quilt Project and as partner in the retail business, *Vintage Textiles and Tools*, has kept her involved in quilt history. Co-author of *North Carolina Quilts*, she also wrote the text for *Gatherings: America's Quilt Heritage* and serves as consultant on various museum projects.



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In Memory of Carol P. Crabb (1928–2005)

A Researchers' Researcher

Carol P. Crabb, Columbia, Missouri was a quiltmaker, a quilting teacher, an author, a brilliant researcher and a quilt documentarian. As an ardent member of the Booneslick Trail Quilters Guild, she worked diligently with her friend, Bettina Havig, Project Leader, to document quilts in the Missouri State Quilt Project. It was, however, in the quilt history research field that Carol's light shone brightest. She was an early American Quilt Study Group member, yet by the time the organization was formed, Carol was already an experienced researcher. Despite freely participating in wide ranging quilt research efforts on many topics, she did have special areas she favored, such as medieval quilt history, religiously-named quilt patterns, history of all kinds of fairs, newspaper quilt features, regular columns, i.e., Nancy Page or Kansas City Stars, as well as articles, and literary quilt forms—both quilt fiction and quilt poems. Carol and her friend, Cuesta Benberry's joint quilt fiction collections resulted in a book, *A Patchwork of Pieces: An Anthology of Early Quilt Stories (1845-1940)*, published in 1993.

Before she suffered the debilitating illness that took her life, Carol was engaged in an independent project—alone. She was compiling a collection of quilt poems with the goal of publishing a book of them. She especially investigated 19th century American quilt

poetry and even more astoundingly, examples of European quilt poems. This was to be no run-of-the-mill poetry book, but would have even more ancient examples than the Benberry-Crabb fiction book. It promised to be a revelation.

As Carol primarily worked before present day technological advances were available, she spent countless hours in libraries at the University of Missouri, State Historical Society, and museum libraries in the USA and in the United Kingdom, where she traveled with her husband, Bill. Her dedication and the thoroughness of her research earned her the respect and affection of some of her contemporaries, considered leading scholars of the time, such as Elaine Hedges, Barbara Bannister, Louise Townsend, and Joyce Gross. Often teased as having an eye magnetized to the word “quilt” in print because she found references in the most unlikely sources, Carol was called a “Researchers’ Researcher.” We mourn her death and celebrate her life.

—Cuesta Benberry

Cuesta Benberry Joyce Gross Bettina Havig Helen Erickson
Booneslick Trail Quilters Guild Jennifer Reynolds
Bill Crabb Richard Crabb James Crabb Thomas Crabb
Bee Kuckelman Sara Miller Dorothy Bond



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The American Quilt Study Group is a nonprofit organization devoted to uncovering and disseminating the history of quilt-making as a significant part of American art and culture. AQSG encourages and supports research on quilts, quiltmaking, quilt-makers, and the textiles and materials of quilts.

The American Quilt Study Group is dedicated to preserving the story of quiltmaking—past, present, and future. We invite you to join our ranks!

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