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Laurel Horton Information 1989

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LAUREL HORTON
QUILT RESEARCH
302 East South Third Street
Seneca SC 29678
January 6, 1989

Dr. Margot Duley
Women's Studies
Denison University
Granville OH 430233

Dear Dr. Duley:

American quilts represent an important resource for the study of American women. Relatively few women have left written records, but many more have left their quilts. For those who know what to look for quilts reveal important clues to the lives of women of past generations. The particularly American phenomenon of quilting has included women of all socio-economic levels in virtually every part of the country.

As a folklorist I have studied American quilting traditions since 1975. My work centers upon quilts as documents of women's lives within a geographic and historical context. I am an active participant in the American Quilt Study Group which, since 1980, has served as the primary network for scholarly research on quilts and quilters.

In June 1988, I attended the First Southern Conference on Women's History where I met and talked with women's studies scholars from all over the country. Without exception they were fascinated with my work and virtually unaware of the scope of the research that is going on, most of it outside of Women's Studies. I realized that the field has expanded from its earlier emphasis on "women worthies" to include examination of nontraditional resources to understand better the lives of unacclaimed women.

In the effort to create more of a dialogue between women's studies scholars and quilt researchers I am seeking opportunities to provide formal lectures and informal discussion for programs like yours. I am enclosing an abbreviated resume and a copy of my brochure which lists lecture topics as well as workshops that are designed specifically for quilt guilds.

If travel expenses are a problem your program may decide to sponsor a lecture tour with a neighboring or adjunct program. Consider contacting a local quilt guild. There are hundreds of these groups all over the country, and many are well organized and have program funds.

I travel a good bit with my work. If you are not now in a position to arrange a lecture but wish to be notified if I will be in your area please let me know. Upon request I can provide a more complete resume, references, and more information about the American Quilt Study Group.

I am looking forward to more involvement with academic women's studies programs and hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Laurel Horton
Laurel Horton

Enclosures

LAUREL MCKAY HORTON

Home:
302 East South Third Street
Seneca, South Carolina 29678
(803) 882-9933

Office (leave message):
McKissick Museum
University of South Carolina
(803) 777-7251

EDUCATION

- M. A. (Folklore) 1979, University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill.
Thesis: "Economic Influences on German and Scotch-Irish Quilts
in Antebellum Rowan County, North Carolina."
M. S. L. S. (Library Science) 1971, University of Kentucky.
B. A. (English) 1970, University of Kentucky.

EMPLOYMENT

- Self-employed writer, researcher, consultant, teacher and lecturer
(1980--present).
McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina (1983--present) GUEST
CURATOR. Direct a series of projects researching and interpreting
quiltmaking traditions in South Carolina, including a two-year survey
of quilts, exhibitions, and planning for computer/videodisc access.
Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University (1979-80)
OUTREACH PROJECT COORDINATOR. Produced a series of slide/sound
programs for local audiences on area folklore and history.
Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC (1976--1979) SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
LIBRARIAN. Developed and administered collection of Appalachian
regional resources, including books, manuscripts and nonprint items.
Folk Music Archives, University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill
(1974--1976) STUDENT ASSISTANT/CURATOR. Maintained and accessed
collection of folk music sound recordings.
North Carolina Central University (1972--1974) HUMANITIES/LIBRARY
INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN. Developed programs to increase student use of
library materials in Humanities division.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

- Social Fabric: South Carolina's Traditional Quilts. (Columbia SC:
McKissick Museum, 1985.) Co-editor and principal author.
The Oral Interview in Quilt Research. Technical Guide #2. (San
Francisco: American Quilt Study Group, 1988.)
"Quilt Patterns in the Frank C. Brown Collection," North Carolina
Folklore Journal, 35:1 (Winter-Spring 1988) pp. 3-13.
"Nineteenth Century Quiltmaking Traditions in South Carolina," forthcoming
in Southern Folklore.
"Economic Influences on German and Scotch-Irish Quilts in Rowan County,
North Carolina," in forthcoming monograph by Duke University Press.
"South Carolina Quilts and the Civil War," in Uncoverings 1985 (Mill
Valley CA: American Quilt Study Group, 1986).
"South Carolina's Traditional Quilts," in Uncoverings 1984 ((Mill Valley
CA: American Quilt Study Group, 1985).
"Nineteenth Century Middle Class Quilts in Macon County, North Carolina,"
in The Many Faces of Appalachia: Exploring a Region's Diversity,
Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Appalachian Studies Conference.
(Boone NC: Appalachian Consortium Press, 1985) pp. 11-22.

More complete resume available upon request.



Laurel
discusses a
Carolina Lily
pattern quilt.

Since 1975 Laurel Horton's research has focused on the influence of geography, history, and culture on quilt making traditions, especially during the nineteenth century. Her lectures present quilts within context rather than as isolated creations. Her numerous articles have appeared both in scholarly and popular publications.

Laurel is a dynamic speaker and popular workshop teacher. In addition to researching quilts, she has made many, primarily personal interpretations of traditional designs. As a teacher she encourages her students to explore their own design and color preferences.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Laurel received a BA in English and an MS in Library Science from the University of Kentucky. She earned an MA in Folklore from the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill. Since 1983 she has engaged in a series of research projects for the McKisick Museum at the University of South Carolina, including a two-year survey of South Carolina quilts. An active member of the American Quilt Study Group, she presently serves on that group's Board of Directors.

Comments

From a reader...

"Your book (*Social Fabric: South Carolina's Traditional Quilts*) sets a standard for the presentation of high quality scholarship on American quilting."

From a lecture audience...

"You are such a dynamic speaker that I lived each quilt with you. I am impressed by the thoroughness of your work."

From a quilt researcher...

"I want to thank you for your help and encouragement. I didn't believe I could do this research, but your generous support gave me the confidence I needed."

From a workshop student...

"Your class was the best thing I encountered at the Symposium. I'd been looking forward to it, and surely was not disappointed. If you do another workshop next year, believe me, I'll be watching for it."

Laurel Horton • Quilt Research

302 East South Third Street
Seneca, South Carolina 29678
(803) 882-9933

Laurel Horton

Quilt Research

- Researcher of quilting traditions since 1975.
- Director of the South Carolina Quilt Project.
- Author of *Social Fabric: South Carolina's Traditional Quilts*.
- Lecturer to hundreds of groups across the country.
- Teacher of workshops for quilters and researchers.
- Judge of national, regional, and local quilt shows.
Certified by NQA.

Lectures

"Social Fabric: South Carolina's Traditional Quilts."

A 30 to 50 minute slide lecture exploring traditional quilt styles in South Carolina from 1800 to the present. Includes a discussion on both the aesthetics of each quilt and the life of the maker. Discusses the influences of geography, history, trade and commerce, and ethnic communities on the way quilts look.

"Patterns in History."

A 30 to 50 minute slide lecture on changing nineteenth century quilt styles in the important port city of Charleston, South Carolina. Covers chintz applique, white work, English template style, and crazy quilts, as well as piecework and applique. Based on an exhibition of quilts owned by the Charleston Museum.

"South Carolina Quilts and the Civil War."

A lecture on the effects of the war on homelife and on quilting, which included the needs of soldiers, domestic and factory production, the blockade, and homemade substitutions for scarce commodities. Illustrated with the stories of quilts that survived or commemorated the war.

"Quilt Research in Your Own Backyard."

A survey of research undertaken in the past, what's happening now, and what's possible for the future.

"Good Quilts/Bad Quilts."

A thought-provoking and entertaining exploration of how we evaluate quilts, including discussion of traditional aesthetics, community values, and personal expression.

"Quilts Like My Mama Did."

A 16-minute slide/sound presentation featuring three Black quiltmakers talking about their lives and their quilts. Produced in 1986 for the McKissick Museum, this program has delighted general audiences in South Carolina and across the country.

Workshops

Quilt Research.

A three-part workshop including (1) an overview of the work of quilt historians from the early 20th century to the present, with an emphasis on recent state-wide surveys, (2) suggestions for beginning or continuing quilt research with a discussion of available reference materials, and (3) a discussion and demonstration of oral interview techniques.

Your Quilt's Place in History.

Laurel will examine and interpret quilts brought by participants. She will provide information on the fabrics, patterns, styles, and techniques, and will ascribe approximate dates of construction.

Quilt Care Clinic.

Laurel will evaluate the condition of quilts brought by participants and make suggestions for conservation, storage, and display.

Making Beautiful Quilts from Ugly Fabrics.

Does your fabric collection contain unusable pieces that just don't seem to go with anything else? Laurel presents 10 principles for using ugly fabrics and shows examples of them in her own work. Participants bring their own "uglies" to trade or to get ideas for using them.

String Quilts.

Instruction in a wonderful traditional technique that is simple to do, does not require careful needlework or color placement, and yet produces spectacular results. This technique is an excellent way to use up scraps too small for other projects.

Designing a Super-Block.

Design a full-size quilt or large wallhanging based upon a single pieced block. Customize the pattern using one or more favorite techniques or by creating blocks within blocks.

Workshops are available as either 6-hour (full/day) or 3-hour (half/day) classes, or as extended sessions of 2 to 5 days. Classes are designed for quiltmakers of all levels.

Additional lectures and workshops can be designed to fit the needs of your group.