

Yarns



The Newsletter of The National Museum of the American Coverlet

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From the President's Desk

By Edward Maeder

It seems that our lives are becoming more and more complicated as we take on one more project, and then another, trying to make every day count. This seems to be the case, especially for those of us who are 'more or less' retired. Who knew? But the result is that one is too busy to ever be concerned with 'nothing to do'. When I hear someone say "Oh I'm just killing time"... it makes me sad, because 'time' is the one thing that is a finite number for all of us.

Now for those of us who are not 'killing time' life is a never-ending parade of exciting and challenging events, and opportunities to indulge in the things we love most. I didn't expect to spend 5+ years co-authoring a book about a collection I have known since 1972. But I did and it's just won the Millia Davenport Award (2017) for 'outstanding book on American Costume' from the Costume Society of America. And as I said at the end of my presentation in Portland in early June, "and the beat goes on." Our search for knowledge is what seems to drive many of us into our special areas of interest. I have to confess that my interests are so broad and varied it seems that I will never run out of projects to pursue, people to meet and new aspects of textiles and costumes to discover.

The National Museum of the American Coverlet has enabled me to bring my experience in a broad range of interests to a very 'specific' area of the textile world, American coverlets. Even though there have been many, many books written on this specialized subject, by scholars, collectors and museum professionals over the past decades, it seems that there is still much to be learned and discovered as has been seen here in Bedford.



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From the President's Desk continued from page 1

Our successful Coverlet College program, now in its seventh year, has proven that these, seemingly obscure, areas of interest are still important and still being explored by the group that has come together to create and maintain our unique institution.

I want to congratulate Ron Walter and his 'partner in this obsession' Kitty Bell, Melinda, Laszlo, Virginia and Harold and the entire board and dedicated volunteers, as well as our members and supporters who have made this 'seemingly impossible' endeavor...possible. My personal thanks for everything you have done.

Edward Maeder

President of the Board of Directors.

The Director's Corner

By Melinda Zongor

Mea Culpa... And a New Year's 2018 Resolution

The year 2017 was action-packed... so much so that we ran late with newsletter production and a few other things. It seems that our beloved Museum has grown so fast that we are running full tilt just to keep up with it. Believe it or not, as of 2018 we are starting our twelfth year!

After working non-stop, seven days a week since January of 2006, the scope and volume of my responsibilities have surely grown.

These days I have a constant guilty awareness that no matter what I'm doing, and no matter how important it is, there is something else that is not getting done. Please know, Dear Reader, that if I somehow overlook your inquiries or requests, or if your donation acknowledgement or membership renewal form – or anything else for that matter - doesn't get to you as quickly as you (or I) might like, the fault rests squarely with me, it is not on purpose and I apologize.

It is an honor to be a part of this museum. As co-founder it is truly my life's work, I believe in its mission with all my heart, and I can't imagine doing anything else. In one sense, my overwhelming workload is almost a good problem to have when considering that it's a reflection of our growth as an institution.

However, it is no doubt frustrating for some of you as it is for me. Be free to prod and pester me with a reminder whenever the need arises, and I promise to work even harder to keep the lines of communication open and respond to your needs in a timely manner. You are important to me, and I care!



In the meantime, I cannot possibly overstate the valuable contribution made by the folks who give their time and expertise to help keep this place going. They contribute mightily to greeting visitors; assisting with shop sales (especially during big events); hand sewing sleeves on coverlets for display; installing exhibitions; photographing, writing, formatting and

continued on next page

The Director's Corner continued from page 2

producing the newsletters and catalogs; serving as regular and guest presenters at Coverlet College; teaching classes and so very much more. Those people deserve special recognition. They include Jacquie Roach, Ron and Kitty Bell Walter, Mike Pasquerette, Jeff Payne, Edward Maeder, Virginia Gunn, Harold Mailand, Gay McGear, Ted and Bonnie Wachhaus, Pat and Vic Hilt, Ann Jones, Mara Riley, Suzanne Cawley and Jim and Betty Doig and so many more - plus my spouse and partner in all ways, Laszlo Zongor. I am truly blessed to know each and every one of these folks as friends and colleagues.

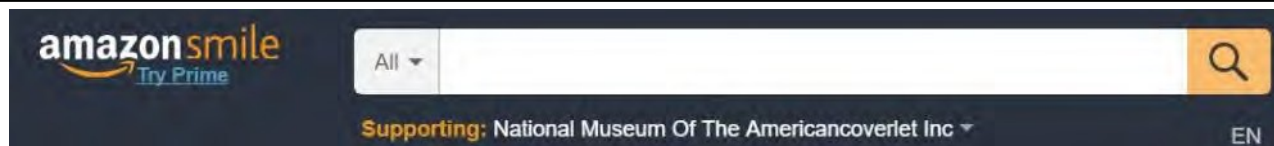
Of course, last but definitely not least, are all of YOU, the faithful donors, members, attendees and fans who

so generously support the museum, add to its collections, dive in when help is needed, say kind things about us and recommend your friends, and - oh, my Gosh - there are so many of you! Words are inadequate to express our gratitude and affection for each of you.

Here's to an exciting New Year. May you be happy, healthy and successful in all your endeavors, and come to see us often!

Melinda Zongor

NMAC Director / Curator



SHOP THROUGH AMAZON SMILE AND SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

Everyone shops through Amazon sooner or later. Next time you do, go through AmazonSmile, select National Museum of the American Coverlet as your favorite charity, and a portion of the price of your purchase will be donated to the Museum. Support NMAC at no cost to you! What could be better? Remember, though: You must go through AmazonSmile!

The National Museum of the American Coverlet

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We Need Your Email Address

If you are a member (past or present), donor, and/or event participant and are not receiving our eNotes, we do not have your current email address. Please make sure to update your contact information with us, as

email is the best way for us to get you important time sensitive announcements. **FACEBOOK:** While you're at it, check out our Facebook page if you're "into" social media. We post messages there too! Yup - we're all over the place. Find us under **National Museum of the American Coverlet.**



Another Award: TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2017



For the second year in a row, NMAC achieved a Certificate of Excellence from the online website TripAdvisor. This award is given to attractions “that consistently earn great reviews from travelers.” Positive visitor experience is very important to us, and we work hard to make sure that everyone enjoys his or her time at the Museum. In turn, we thank all the kind reviewers who take the time to post their compliments and comments. We appreciate you!

National Museum of the American Coverlet

76 Reviews #2 of 17 things to do in Bedford Specialty Museums, Museums

Open House: Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center June 2017

Saturday, June 17 was hazy and humid, but the predicted rain held off and the Weather Gods were kind. The crowd was great and a fun time was had by all who attended the second annual open house at Red Stone Glen in York Haven, PA. Renowned and much-loved fiber instructor Tom Knisely and his talented daughter Sara Bixler have carried on the long tradition of The Mannings. When the owners of that venerable institution retired and closed the business, Tom and Sara – who had long been the lynchpins of that operation – struck out on their own and opened Red Stone Glen, offering a full range of textile classes. The open house was a reflection of that. Numerous friends offered demonstrations and learning opportunities.

NMAC was invited to participate, and we were pleased and honored to do so. We showed coverlets, answered questions, and talked about the Museum. The reception was warm and friendly and we met great new people.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the two institutions to help promote each other – always a good thing. NMAC offers classes in Bedford, but we firmly believe that more is better in the world of fiber arts.

Tom Knisely was a presenter at the September 2017 Coverlet College and is a member of our honorary board.

All in all, it was a unique experience and a hectic and fun day.



MAFA Conference Millersville University



In Millersville, PA from July 20 through 23, the NMAC was represented at the biennial Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) conference. The MAFA conference offers a full schedule of workshops, presentations and vendor opportunities. We had a spot in the vendor area, showing items from our shop and talking about the Coverlet Museum, and we enjoyed being around textile people. The next conference will be held in 2019 and we plan to be there.

Museum Receives Estate Gift: Roof Work

by Melinda Zongor



needed repair work was done on deteriorated and damaged soffits and trim, as well as tuck pointing some of the adjacent masonry and replacing several downspouts that had been damaged in a recent windstorm.

Our contractors are very popular, and we had to wait for several months for them to finish up another big job. They were finally available just as the 2016-2017 winter approached. Our project was a massive job (at least for us), and the crew of George Beckett & Sons are to be commended for working around the weather and doing a thorough, high quality job. We never get used to seeing them

NMAC was the beneficiary of a donation from the estate of H. Robert Leese, a York, PA native. Bob was well known in the antiques world as a fine and educated collector. He was also a generous philanthropist who supported a large number of causes and institutions, and he was an all-around good guy. We were proud that he was a friend and member of the Coverlet Museum.

The Leese legacy was directed toward work on the roof of the Museum building. If you've been following our roof project, you know that the roof has been in dire need of complete replacement. Because of the sheer size of the job, we've been doing it in sections.

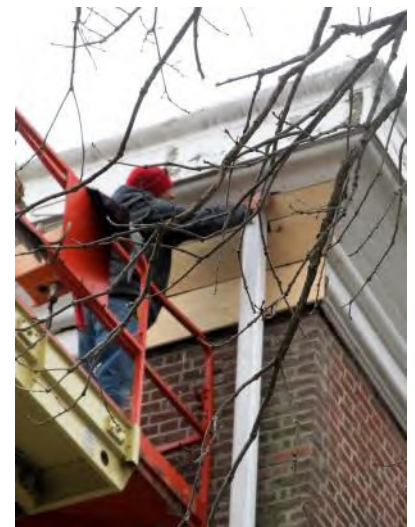
Over the past several years, the rear of the main building has been completed, along with rebuilding and replacing the two front porch roofs.

Bob Leese's gift, with the generous support of our roofing contractor, was enough to complete another large section, this time covering almost three quarters of the front of the building. In addition, some much-

walking around 60 feet up with no fear – while I almost get dizzy just taking the pictures!

They offered to take me up on the lift. I said not in this lifetime!

Thanks to Bob Leese and the other folks like Martha and John Jack, who have contributed to the effort, the roof is now about 70 percent complete.





Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD May 6 and 7, 2017

As always, the 2017 Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival was a fun event, with lots of great people, high quality vendors and (of course) animals. We made new connections, reinforced old ones, and talked about the Museum. Read more about this annual event in our section on upcoming events for 2018.



Textile Classes at the Museum

May - November 2017



Mara Riley teaching a Tape Loom Weaving Class.



Ann Jones teaching a Weaving Class.

The 2017 class season was great fun. Offerings included introductions to natural dyeing, spinning, weaving and tape loom weaving. [Click here for links to full class descriptions.](#) These classes will be offered again in 2018, and the schedule will be posted on the NMAC website in the next month or so. We hope to expand our selection and we're open to suggestions and instructor inquiries.

All this is made possible not only by the generous assistance of our teachers, Ann Jones and Mara Riley, but also by the folks who have donated looms and equipment. Those donors include (so far) Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Carolyn Iddings, Raymond C. Foster and Gloria Chawla, Toni Lhommedieu, the estate of Janet Gray Crosson and others. A heartfelt thank you goes to each and every one of these wonderful donors.

Tusing Sister's Draft Collection Donation

June 2017



Lynn Tusing (1905-2000) and Leora Tusing (1896-1974)

A wonderful collection of pattern drafts was given to the Museum by Ted and Bonnie Wachhaus and Ron and Kitty Bell Walter.

The donation consisted of 19th-century weaving drafts associated with sisters Leora (1896-1974) and Lynn (1905-2000) Tusing of Branch Mountain, Hardy County, West Virginia. The drafts, about 90 in all, could be used for weaving geometric coverlets, counterpanes and other household related textiles. Thirty one are signed and ten are dated between 1840 and 1878. Many of the signed drafts seem to have originated in the area of Rockingham County, Virginia.

In addition to the drafts themselves, this exciting gift included considerable time, work and expertise in their conservation, study and documentation.

Ted Wachhaus spent hours restoring and preserving the drafts. Most of them were wrapped into rolls tied with string. Ted flattened the drafts and stored them in special clear Mylar holders, sized specifically for each draft that ranged in length from 3 to 35 1/4 inches and ranged in width from 1 5/8 to 7 1/2 inches.

Gay McGeary analyzed many of the drafts, creating drawdowns, tie-ups and treadling diagrams. She then used weaving software to create graphical representations of what the resulting textile would look like.

Ron Walter researched the signers of the drafts and was able to find some specific genealogical data on most of them. He also spent many hours photographing the drafts for wider sharing. He first took high resolution photos of them and posted them to a Dropbox location where Gay could begin to work with them. He re-photographed them after they were straightened, and spent more hours cleaning up those photos and reposted them to Dropbox to make them useful to Museum staff as warranted. Gay and Ted continue to investigate the drafts.



Shoebox of 90 Weaving Drafts as sold at Auction

All of this activity took place in secret, and the collection was presented to Melinda as a surprise! The collection will be placed on display for all to see and appreciate.



Ladies Fancy Weaving Draft pasted to a Piece of Blue and White Homespun Cloth

Landscaping Help 2017

A big thank you goes to our neighbor, Anna Campbell. As our September Coverlet College event was fast approaching, Anna had her landscapers mow the NMAC front lawn, trim along the very extensive iron fence, and prune the large overgrown bushes under the front windows. This kind act was a big relief and a job well done. Best of all, the pruned bushes enabled the painters to gain access to the windows behind them.



New Grants for Exterior Painting

by Melinda Zongor

In the summer of 2017, NMAC was awarded two grants toward improvements to the façade of the Museum building. The grants combine for a total of \$6,000 for paint work.

As with other projects in and around our large building, the exterior painting must be achieved in sections. This first stage covered by the two grants includes scraping, glazing, priming and painting the original first floor wooden windows and side doors around the building, plus the front porch arches and pillars. Rather than stark white, a light cream color was chosen to compliment the soft pink brickwork.

continued on next page



Painters preparing Surfaces of Windows and Window Frames in East Wall for Painting



Painting of the First Floor Windows and Porch Trim in East Wall Completed

New Grants for Exterior Painting continued from page 8

The first grant is from the Bedford County Endowments and its affiliate, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies through the Earl and Jeanne Berkey Fund. This was an outright gift of \$3,000 toward the project. We are very proud and humbled that this is the fifth grant received through these folks over the last several years.

The other current grant is through Downtown Bedford Inc. Under the provisions of this grant, the project must be completed and paid for in entirety, at which time DBI will reimburse \$3,000.

The two grants combined will eventually cover \$6,000 of the final \$6,675 project cost.



Painters preparing Surfaces of First Floor Doors and Transoms in South Wall for Painting



Painting of the First Floor Windows and Doors in South Wall Completed

After a series of delays for weather and other considerations, the project was begun in October of 2017 and continued through early December. Eighteen windows and two doors on the front and south end of the building, plus the arches and pillars at the front entrances were done before work was called off for the winter. In the Spring, the painters will work on fifteen more windows and two more doors on the rear and north end of the building, with a finish deadline of June 2018.

This work is critical to the maintenance and upkeep of this historic building, not to mention “curb appeal” to visitors and passersby. In addition to the obvious aesthetic improvement, much needed glazing (new caulking around the glass) should reduce heat loss as well.

Morales Painting Services with Mike Morales and his crew are doing nice work at a great price and we thank them. We have received several compliments on the new look. It is our hope to continue with additional paint work with help from another round of grants.

Recent Donations

New Computer

When the Museum was first established twelve years ago, I brought my then two-year-old computer in from the house, and it lasted for several years until the hard drive was so full and outdated that it no longer functioned. At that point, our webmaster Jill Probst solved the problem by donating a replacement. It was an older Dell tower that she had used as a server, but it had a much bigger hard drive. It was a godsend. We upgraded it to Windows 7 and we were ecstatic.

Unfortunately last January that computer suddenly died.

Virginia Gunn came to the rescue with a generous donation, and the Museum was able to purchase a new Dell laptop with a big hard drive and up-to-date software. It's a dream!

Recent Donations (continued)

Looms

Donated looms and accessories have made our textile classes possible. A partial list of donors appears in the report on our 2017 classes. One of the latest additions is a contemporary Schacht 36" standard floor loom, 4-shaft (with add-a-shaft feature) in brand new condition with all the accessories. We now have two large spaces with almost 30 looms, both table and floor models.

Of course, there is always a need for more accessories like shuttles Refer to our **Wish List** on p. 13 if you have any extras to offer!

Coverlets

A number of exciting coverlets and other textiles have come into the collection over the past year – too numerous to mention here, but we'll show you a few here.



Section of Ingrain Carpet Panel with Symbols of the International Order of Oddfellows. - Gift of Jim and Betty Doig, Illinois



Abram William VanDoren Coverlet dated 1844 woven in Avon Township, Oakland County, Michigan for Betsey Lawrence.
Gift of Doug & Bets Bulcher, Florida



Early Blanket
Gift of Rob & Henrietta Lachman, Connecticut



Henry Brehm Coverlet dated 1835 woven in Womelsdorf, Berks County, Pennsylvania for M.H. Yong.
Gift of Natalie Lehrman, New Mexico

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

Our event schedule for 2018 is a work in progress, but here are the firm dates we have so far:

Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD May 5 and 6, 2018

This will be our ninth year at the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. If you haven't been there, you are missing out on a lot of fun. This is a family friendly event (\$5 admission – worth it), open to the public. Always held on the first full weekend in May, it is a wonderful opportunity to see and touch all breeds of sheep. There are sheepdog trials, demonstrations and vendors offering everything from yarn to woven textiles and all things related to sheep and wool. Weekend hours are 9 to 6 on Saturday and 9 to 5 on Sunday. We'll have our usual space, A-2 at the left front of the main exhibition building. Get directions and learn all about it at the [Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival website](#). Hope to see you there!



Spring/Summer/Fall 2018 Textile Classes

Dates to be announced

The 2018 class schedule includes Beginning Weaving (one-day and three-day classes), as well as Beginning Spinning, Natural Dyeing, Indigo Dyeing, Tape Loom Weaving, all of which are one-day classes. Dates will be announced via eNotes and posted on this website and our Facebook page.

Next Exhibition

To be announced soon

The theme and title of our next exhibition will be announced soon. We'll post information on the website and Facebook. In the meantime, it is "Last Call" for your chance to see the current display, FLORA BOREALIS: Idyllic Woven Gardens – Coverlets from the Kitty Bell and Ron Walter Collection. Ninety five beautiful examples from their extensive collection are on display until approximately the middle of May. Catalogs for this and three past exhibitions are still available, see [Shop News](#) article on page 14.

Open House Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center

York Haven, PA - June 16, 2018

For more information on Red Stone Glen, click here for our notes on the 2017 event.

Once again, NMAC has been invited to participate in the annual open house at Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center, hosted by Tom Knisely and Sara Bixler (both formerly of The Mannings). Saturday, June 16, 2018 is the date.

We will be there to talk about the Museum, answer questions and show coverlets and items from our shop. It will be another fun day of meeting and greeting old friends and new. Be there or be square!



Are You Getting Our eNotes?

by Melinda Zongor

Our email newsletter eNotes are designed to handle brief news announcements and event schedules that, in some cases, will be more time-sensitive than the articles in our full newsletter YARNS. eNotes tend to be more current, while YARNS has different, more detailed articles. eNotes are sent directly to you, and you can opt in or out at any time.

If you are a member, donor and/or student at this Museum, you are on the sending list for our free eNotes. You may have even opted in via the link on our homepage.

Admittedly, we only sent out a couple of them during 2017, but if it looks like you are definitely not getting any, check your Inbox settings. There are several things that could be getting in the way, such as Firewalls and Spam filters.*

First of all, make sure we have your current email address. You'd be surprised how many folks fail to notify their contacts about a change. We have a line in our membership renewal form where you should fill in your info – and that's why we do it. Even if you have filled it out many times before, it helps us to confirm that it's current. Thanks for doing so!

*Check your settings: If you are not receiving our emails, your server or client list may be blocking them, causing our emails to be routed to your "Junk" or "Spam" folder, or not be delivered at all. To avoid this, add our email (info@coverletmuseum.org) to your "trusted senders" list or your contact list.

If you REALLY want to be sure, you might add the following three domain addresses as well. Having these domains as trusted senders will prevent our emails from being "whitelisted." Sorry – it's a crazy new world!

bmesrv.com
benchmarkemail.com
images.benchmarkemail.com

Membership Renewals

The National Museum of the American Coverlet is your museum.

It is here for you and *because of you*.

By renewing your Membership, you help this Museum continue in its mission of education, exhibition, and conservation, introducing the public to American woven coverlets.

Your membership includes

- a full year of free admission
- reduced rates for events and programs
- a 10% discount on your Museum Shop purchases
- free access to the reference library.

Take advantage of these "perks"—visit frequently and make the most of your membership. Meet and greet other people who share your (and our) interests in early textiles. Come and enjoy the beautiful town of Bedford, Pennsylvania, with all its myriad attractions.

Your continued support and membership are truly appreciated. We hope to see you often. Let us know what we can do for you.





TEXTILE CLASSES

We need the following for our textile classes:

- boat shuttles
- temples
- bobbin winders
- warping board
- weaving/spinning/dyeing-related reference books

DEHUMIDIFIERS / AIR CONDITIONERS

Dehumidifier / Air Conditioner

In the heat of summer, dehumidifiers and/or air conditioners can be a great help in regulating the comfort level for visitors and textiles. Part of our space is air conditioned, but not all ... !

EVERY DAY TASKS

Folding Work Tables



These tables are used for a variety of projects, both at the Museum and at off-site events, so they must be strong and portable. Our six-foot tables cost \$49.98 each.

Shop News

EXHIBITION CATALOGS

Current Exhibition Catalog

Flora Borealis: Coverlets from the Kitty Bell and Ron Walter Collection

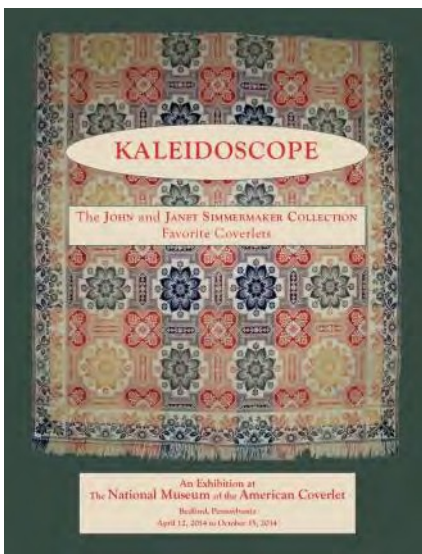


Includes color pictures of all 95 coverlets on display, along with descriptive information and new research.

In addition, by popular request – and thanks to some generous donors - catalogs from three previous exhibitions have been reprinted. Limited numbers are now available as well. This is your opportunity to pick up one (or two) copies of any that you may have missed. These catalogs are important additions to the library of anyone who likes coverlets, and they make great gifts.

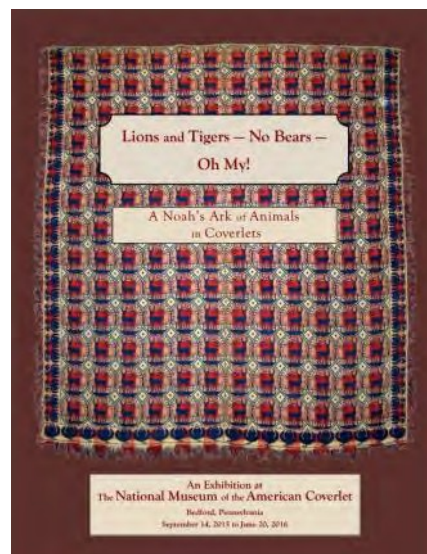


Price is \$35 each (minus 10% discount for Museum members), plus \$3 for postage. Call the Museum at 814.623.1588 for information – and yes, we accept credit cards.



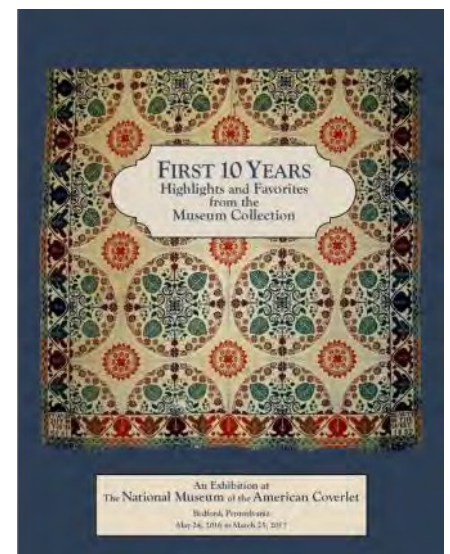
Kaleidoscope: The John and Janet Simmermaker Collection – Favorite Coverlets

Includes color pictures of all 90 coverlets and descriptive information.



Lions and Tigers - No Bears - , Oh My! -- A Noah's Ark of Animals in Coverlets

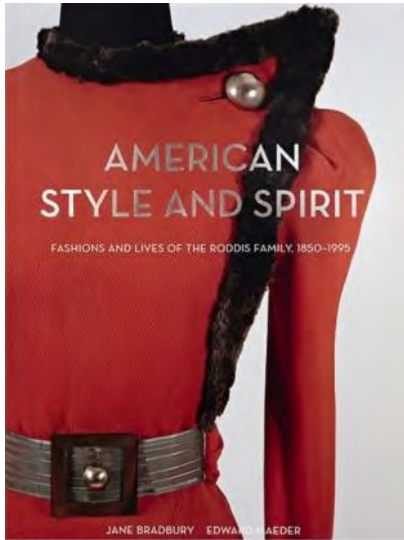
Includes color pictures of all 100 coverlets and descriptive information.



The First 10 Years: Highlights and Favorites from the Museum Collection

Includes color pictures of all 90 coverlets and descriptive information.

Shop News continued



American Style and Spirit: Fashions and Lives of the Roddis Family 1850-1995 by Jane Bradbury and Edward Maeder

It is very difficult to put into a few words an explanation of a project that has taken more than five years. So here goes. Back in Wisconsin in 1972 I was working on a project at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison, creating a series of full-scale patterns for dresses from 1830-1900 in anticipation of the US Bicentennial in 1976. Through the newsletter of the Society, I received a letter from Miss Augusta D. Roddis of Marshfield, Wisconsin (almost dead center of the state) and 17 miles from the village where I grew up. She told me that she had a collection of her family clothes from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present and would I like to see them?

Although nearly impossible, to make a long story short, here is my effort. This highly personal collection of family artifacts was a precious part of her heritage and as I was about to leave to study at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London (The History of Dress) for two years, she entrusted me with two of her grandmother's dresses which I conserved, one in England and the other in Switzerland. After they were returned, our correspondence ceased. Thirty-five years later, January 2011, I received an e-mail from Jane Bradbury, in London, inquiring to know if I was the same 'Edward Maeder' who had restored two of her aunt August's dress back in the 1970s. She had found my name in her aunt's correspondence. She told me that she wanted to do a book and an exhibition and was I interested? I was.

The half-decade journey was a long and fruitful one. The family kept everything. An archive of more than 10,000 letters, more than 2,000 family photographs and endless other ephemera. The clothes were clearly those of a successful and discriminating upper-middle class family who were endlessly fascinating. Both of Augusta's parents were from families that included abolitionists, suffragettes (personal letters from Susan B. Anthony) were highly educated and sophisticated in every way. Research, conservation, and even replicas of lost or nearly destroyed garments were made. And the result is, **AMERICAN STYLE AND SPIRIT: Fashions and Lives of the Roddis Family 1850-1995**, V & A Press, London. The exhibition opened at The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, MI in early November and closed in April. A selection from the collection was on display at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend, Wisconsin through September 17, 2017.

I'm so pleased to be able to offer it to our members and visitors. The book is available in the shop of The National Museum of the American Coverlet and this co-author will be happy to autograph it upon request.

Onward and upward....Edward

Coverlet College 2017

by Ron Walter

Coverlet College 2017 was another exciting learning experience for all attendees. The keynote address “Peter Hartman of Wayne County, Ohio, Celebrated Coverlet Weaver of the Year” presentation was given Friday evening by Dr. Virginia Gunn. This schedule change allowed us to end Sunday’s sessions earlier. The large coverlet rack in the all-purpose room was filled with twenty Peter Hartman coverlets. Virginia explained how Pater Hartman came to Ohio and what styles of fancy coverlets he wove. He began weaving in a partnership with his younger brother John from 1837 to 1839. Then he continued to weave fancy coverlets signed Wooster Ohio by himself until 1845. After 1845 he wove unsigned coverlets with special trademarks and dropped the Wooster location. Finally after the civil war he wove coverlets signed **WOVE BY P. HARTMAN** across the bottom. Her presentation was followed by a lengthy question and answer session which all the attendees enjoyed.



Coverlet Weaver of the Year Peter Hartman of Wooster Ohio - Exhibition
Coverlets from the Dr. Virginia Gunn Collection



Indigo Dyeing Workshop - Removing Dyed Skeins from the Indigo Dye
and Dyed Skeins Drying Outside on Racks



Tape Loom Weaving Workshop Attendees Practicing their Craft

The weekend started with two workshops held Friday afternoon. An Indigo Dyeing Workshop was led by Mara Riley and a Tape Loom Weaving Workshop was led by Bonnie Weidert. The workshop attendees worked hard and received a better understanding of the effort and skill required to master the craft.

Saturday sessions started with attendees introducing

themselves to the group.

Edward Maeder introduced the three Richard Jeryan Memorial Coverlet College 2017 Scholarship recipients. The requirement is for applicants to write short essays outlining how they became interested in textiles and coverlets in particular, their background in textiles, what they expect to gain from the experience and how they will use this knowledge in the future.

The first presentation was a brief history of fibers used in coverlet weaving by Edward Maeder. He gave a historical perspective of the fibers used in textiles throughout time.

continued on next page



Attendees introducing Themselves to the Group Saturday Morning.



Edward Maeder introducing the Richard Jeryan Memorial Scholarship Winners
Nicole (left), Felicia (center) and Wendy (right)

Coverlet College 2017 continued from page 16



Tom Knisely Talking about Coverlets and Textiles from his Collection

The attendees gathered around the lab tables covered with coverlets and textiles from Tom Knisely's collection and Tom discussed the Addiction to Collecting Coverlets and Textiles.



Edward Maeder presenting his Exploring the Goddess Flora Presentation

Next Edward presented Exploring the Goddess Flora. Flora was a symbol for nature and flowers. She was the goddess of flowers and the season of spring in Roman mythology.

This was an introductory discussion for the current coverlet exhibition titled *Flora Borealis: Idyllic Woven Gardens* at the National Museum of the American Coverlet. The NMAC board decided this exhibition would be an exhibition of colorful coverlets from the Kitty Bell and Ron Walter collection. The coverlets included in the exhibition must be woven with prominent motifs of trees, vines, flowers and leaves woven in the centerfields and / or borders.

Ron then explained how the collection grew over many years of collecting, how the coverlets were selected to be included in the exhibition, how the selected coverlets were grouped in the catalog. He also discussed how the photographs were processed before being inserted in the catalog. Lastly he showed how the poster was prepared to include a photo of every coverlet in the exhibition.

After a pleasant lunch break with time for the attendees to get to know each other better Ron led the group through a tour of half of the coverlet exhibition. He gave insight as to why the coverlet was added to



Ron Walter leading the Tour of the Flora Borealis Exhibition on the first Day

the collection and highlighted the floral motifs that allowed the coverlet entry into the exhibition.

Ted Wachhaus followed with his presentation Buying and Preserving the Tusing Sisters Weaving Draft Collection. Ted discovered the Tusing Sisters' weaving drafts were going to be sold at auction. He thought the drafts should be purchased with a goal to donate them to NMAC. He gained support from another collector to purchase the collection. At the CCGA 2016 Annual Meeting in April Ted surprised Melinda explaining that the drafts were going to be donated to NMAC at the completion of their restoration. Ted then explained the process he followed to flatten the rolled strips of paper and store them in rigid, clear holders.



Ted Wachhaus explaining how he flattened the Drafts using a Chicken Incubator to increase the Moisture in the Paper

The next presentation by Gay McGeary gave a closer look at the Tusing Drafts. She said there were forty seven overshot coverlet drafts and forty three counterpane and / or table linen drafts. Thirty one of the drafts were signed, ten were dated between 1840 and 1878, one had the location McGaheysville, Rockingham County, Virginia written on it.

Gay also was responsible for one of the highlights of Coverlet College 2017. She contacted a Tusing family descendant and encouraged her to come to Coverlet College.

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Attendees examining and discussing the Tusing Sisters' Weaving Drafts



Attendees Examining an Overshot Coverlet

She not only came but brought five Tusing Sisters' coverlets with her to show the group. She enjoyed her visit so much she stayed for the Sunday sessions.

Next was the Discovery Session for coverlets brought by attendees new to coverlets. These included a John Keagy Bedford County, PA coverlet and an Ambrosius Miller, Somerset County, PA coverlet. That ended the Saturday presentations.

Many attendees and presenters stayed in the museum for dinner that allowed plenty of time for informal conversation to get to know each other. After dinner we watched *The Texture of Life: The Tusing Sisters of Branch Mountain* video that is available on YouTube.

After the relaxing dinner break we held our annual exciting show and tell session where attendees show some of the latest additions to their coverlet collections.

The Show and Tell coverlets included an 1858 Ohio



Some of the Show and Tell Coverlets

VOGLER coverlet, possibly Ohio; a red and blue Seal of United States of America coverlet; an 1845 Josiah and Samuel Slaybaugh coverlet; a Maryland red on blue cotton background coverlet; an 1852 John Rich, Clinton County, Pennsylvania coverlet and an 1836 coverlet wove in New York for Mary A. Young.

Sunday presentations began with an overview of the extent to which inhabitants of the British colonies in North America produced their own textiles versus importing them given by Mara Riley in her presentation titled *A Useful Trade: Spinning and Weaving in Colonial America*.

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Three Tusing Sisters' Overshot Coverlets

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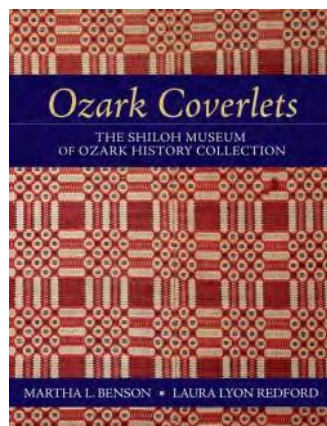
Mara Riley discussing Spinning and Weaving in Colonial America

This was followed by The Weavers Workshop presented by Tom Knisley. Tom met with the group in the museum exhibition room where the early Pennsylvania German loom is on display as well as some of the other textile tools used to process and spin the fibers used by early weavers to weave the coverlets and textiles we collect.



Tom Knisley discussing some of the Tools used in a Weaver's Workshop

The group returned to the all-purpose room where a Bill Leinbach coverlet display had replaced the Hartman coverlets display. Bill's presentation about weaving in the old style today led us through his career of fifty years as a weaver. He showed examples of the various weave structures he learned to weave and was able to use to make a living in modern



Bill Leinbach Coverlets Displayed on the Large Rack and Lab Tables



Attendees asking Bill about his Weaving Experience

times. His talk was enjoyed by everyone.

The Ozark Coverlets Project was presented by Laura Redford. Laura explained how the twenty seven coverlets at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History were documented by her and Martha Benson. They wrote a book titled *Ozark Coverlets* published by the museum. Martha analyzed the coverlet patterns producing a draw down and tie-up for each coverlet and Laura researched the weavers and their families. This presentation fit nicely with the weaving drafts presentations on Day 1.

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Martha Benson and Laura Redford analyzing a Coverlet
Ozark Coverlets Project - Shiloh Museum of Ozark History



Next Virginia Gunn gave a presentation on comparing the strong visual relationships between the design elements woven in coverlets and those formed from pieces sewn on appliqued quilts. Quilts and woven coverlets were the bed coverings of choice in mid-nineteenth century America. Few coverlets were woven after the Civil War. Many coverlet weavers ceased weaving and some continued weaving only carpets.



SAVE THE DATE

COVERLET COLLEGE 2018

SEPTEMBER 21-22-23, 2018