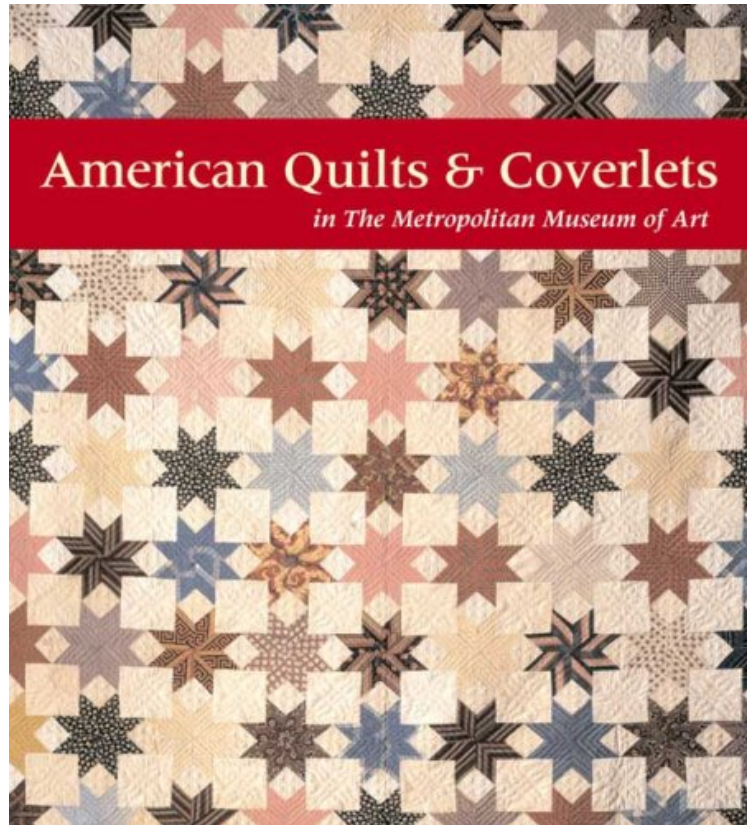


American Quilts and Coverlets in The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Amelia Peck, Cynthia V. A. Schaffner, Elena Phipps
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Amelia Peck, Cynthia V. A. Schaffner, Elena Phipps : American Quilts and Coverlets in The Metropolitan Museum of Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Quilts and Coverlets in The Metropolitan Museum of Art:

3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Quilts and CoverletsBy H. ArrigoUnless you are a historian, this book is not for you. I was also stunned by the poor quality of the artifacts in the collection! Don't waste your money. Get it from the library!!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Authoritative resource on traditional quiltsBy Esther SchindlerI am an ambulatory life-form with a tropism for bookstores. In fact, if it's possible for a human to walk past a used bookstore without entering, you wouldn't know it by me. And in my last visit, I came home with this prize.As the bookflap promises, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's quilt collection includes many masterpieces of the genre. All of the 151 quilts and coverlets are illustrated in this book, along with exhaustive information about their provenance, design, and so on. Sometimes it's a little TOO exhaustive, but hey, that's what you want from a reference book.It's easy to get a sense of why one particular quilt is "important" even if, by current standards, it's not all that gorgeous. For example, "The beautifully designed Crazy quilt illustrated here is exceptional for a number of reasons, the most important being that it is one of the few well-documented examples of a mourning quilt. It was made as a memorial after the death of twenty-year-old Grace Gertrude [died in 1877...], the only child of

Tamar and Benjamin North of North's Landing, Indiana." That's followed by about 600 more words about the quiltmaker, the fabrics (silks and silk velvet), and a little context of the time (sewing as a solace after a loss). Some of the quilts are WayCool, and the text explains why. I'm particularly taken with an autograph project that turned into a Tumbling Blocks quilt: 17-year-old Adeline Harris (1839-1931) asked well-known people to sign a block of silk she sent them, then turned the results into an amazing blanket that's also a historical collection. It has hundreds of signatures including Abraham Lincoln (whom she met), Sam Houston, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Washington Irving. The photos show the entire quilt, and sometimes a detail thereof, occasionally additional information (such as a photo of the aforementioned Adeline). You can usually get a very good sense of the quilting pattern, but in many cases I'm a little frustrated at my ability to see the QUILTING. It shows up well in some photos (such as a Star of Bethlehem quilt that'll take your breath away), and a few of the detail insets help you see how the quilter drew flowers or petals in thread. But in many cases I can't tell whether it's just stitch-in-the-ditch or more elaborate quilting. Ah well -- it's yet another excuse to return to the Met and to see these quilts in person.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great for inspiration! By Inna Goldman I love this book! In fact, the first time I looked inside I was inspired. There are many pictures of old quilts and their history and I think that any quilter would find this enjoyable. There are a few in here that I'd like to recreate for myself!

Newly Available from Yale This handsome book showcases the Metropolitan Museum's superb collection of 151 American quilts and coverlets. First published in 1990 and revised in 2007 to feature 32 new acquisitions and updated scholarship, this volume chronicles the development of quilt and coverlet production in the United States from the 18th through the 20th centuries, provides a glimpse into the lives of the makers and recipients of these pieces, and discusses their emergence as works of art. Notable pieces include the Phebe Warner and the Baltimore Presentation coverlets, Amish, Crazy, and Honeycomb quilts that exemplify achievement in abstract and geometric patterns, along with the Adeline Harris Sears Autograph Quilt, a memorial to the greatest politicians, composers, authors, and thinkers of the mid-19th century. Each work is catalogued with a description and essential information on materials, condition, publications, and references. Also included is an illustrated survey of materials and techniques used in the creation of these works.

About the Author Amelia Peck is Marica F. Vilcek Curator of American Decorative Arts and Cynthia V. A. Schaffner is Research Associate, Department of American Decorative Arts at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Elena Phipps is Senior Museum Conservator in the Department of Textile Conservation at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.