

E-Release

CONCORD MUSEUM

Lexington Road and Cambridge Turnpike Concord, MA 01742

(978) 369-9763/www.concordmuseum.org

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Photographs and interviews available upon request

A little scrap for recollection's sake: Quilts from the Concord Museum

A New Exhibition at the Concord Museum

Friday, October 8, 2010 through Sunday, March 27, 2011

Concord, MA/ Quilts have about them an aura of virtue. The virtues they are composed of — comfort, thrift, good cheer and community — form the dialogue for this new exhibition of a dozen quilts from the Concord Museum's collection, together with two from Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House.

Whether it is a small, well-used cradle quilt passed down in the family of a patriot of the American Revolution or a large quilt commemorating the 1975 Bicentennial of that war, each quilt has a story to tell about the makers, the communities they lived in, and the era in which the quilt was made. Rarely exhibited, the quilts on view range from child size to full size, and include bold geometrics, traditional patchwork, signature quilts and crazy quilts, most dating from the second half of the nineteenth century. Also included in the exhibition are quilt tops, squares and sewing tools.

Of special interest are:

- A signature quilt made for Rebecca Brooks and Joseph Allen Smith on the occasion of their Concord wedding in 1849, made up of 96 squares signed by friends and family, each "a little scrap for recollection's sake." Like most of the quilts at the Concord Museum, this quilt was passed down in the family and in the 1960s—an era of renewed interest in quilting and women's work—was donated to the Concord Museum.
- A quilt from the collection of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, attributed to Abigail (Abba) May Alcott, mother of the famed author of *Little Women*
- A quilt featuring an early example of the "Pieced Pineapple" pattern in vivid colors of "turkey red," "cheddar" and "poison green"
- A friendship quilt made for Margaret Wyer Locke that is the earliest-known example to date constructed using quilt-as-you-go techniques
- A crazy quilt celebrating the work of 19th-century children's book illustrator Randolph Caldecott

- The newest quilt in the exhibition was made in 1975 by the Concord Women's Club in honor of the Bicentennial of April 19, 1775 and features 63 squares worked by 50 Concordians over 3,000 hours.

Associated Programs

Piecing it Together: A Thanksgiving Weekend for Families

Bring the whole family this holiday weekend to the Concord Museum! We are collaborating with Quilter's Way and Barefoot Books, two Concord landmarks, to create a patchwork of hands-on activities, storytelling and fascinating demonstrations in association with the special quilt exhibition.

Friday & Saturday, November 26 & 27

Explore the new quilt exhibition noticing patterns, colors and stitches. Then, as a family, piece together your own quilt square to take home using brightly colored fabrics and patterns provided by the Quilter's Way shop in West Concord. Be sure to visit with the master quilters working on their quilt-in-progress. Ongoing 11:00 – 2:00; Free with Museum admission; Members free.

Saturday, November 27

Bring the family to hear a storyteller from Barefoot Books of Concord spin tales from far and wide about sewing, quilting and weaving in *The Fabrics of Fairy Tale* by Tanya Robyn Batt and illustrated by Rachel Griffin. 2:00; Free with Museum admission; Members free. Books are for sale in the Museum Shop.

With one of the oldest collections of Americana in the country, the Concord Museum in historic Concord, Massachusetts is renowned for its national treasures: the lantern that hung in the church steeple on the night of Revere's famous ride; the largest collection of Henry Thoreau's possessions anywhere, including the desk where he penned *Walden* and "Civil Disobedience;" Ralph Waldo Emerson's Study, an important gathering place for the greatest American writers of his day; and outstanding furniture, clocks, silver, and ceramics.

MUSEUM ADMISSION: General admission to the Museum is \$10 for adults, \$8 Seniors (62 & over), \$8 Students with valid id, \$5 Youth 6-18. Members and children under 6 are free. Benefit admission prices, which include both *Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature* and the special quilt exhibition are in effect from December 3 through January 2.

HOURS: Monday-Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday 12:00-5:00. Closed November 25 and December 25.

GROUP VISITS: Groups are always welcome! To arrange a visit for a group of ten or more to the quilt exhibition, email grouptours@concordmuseum.org or call (978) 369-9763. Combine your Museum visit with our elegant Teatime, available Fridays and Saturdays, February-March.

DIRECTIONS: The Concord Museum is easily accessible from Route 495 or Route 128 and Route 2 and is located at the intersection of Lexington Road and Cambridge Turnpike, ¼ mile east of Concord

Center. The Museum's entrance is on Cambridge Turnpike; parking is free. The Museum is wheelchair accessible.

For further information contact the Concord Museum at (978) 369-9609 (Taped information) (978) 369-9763 (Reservations) • cm1@concordmuseum.org • Web site: www.concordmuseum.org. The Concord Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums.

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