

Documenting Your Quilts

5 Ws and an H

presented by
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Who should document? Quilt maker, acquirer. Whether you've been given a quilt, made a quilt, or purchased a quilt, if there is no attached documentation, now is the time to take care of it.

What should be included? Maker, quilter, designer, who from, who to, date and location, name of quilt, and any other pertinent information. *Bare Minimum: Maker and date. Better : Maker, date, location and design source. Best: Maker, quilter, design source, date, location plus any additional information about the quilt.* As much as you can find out for antiques.

When should this be done? As soon as the quilt is completed, or as it is being completed, or acquired. Stitch the label into the binding for extra security. Contact information stitched into the seam allowance then hidden by the binding is a great security measure.

Where should documentation be placed? On the front or back of the quilt. Journal entries are good as well. Inside the binding.

Why should I document? So the quilt will never be anonymous and its story can be told, for future identification if the quilt outlives you, for help tracking if it is lost. Including care instructions can be a bonus for the receiver.

How should I do this? Use a label or mark directly on the quilt surface. Suggested instruments include Pigma or other permanent pens, crayon, fabric paint. For embroidery (hand or machine) use good quality threads or floss. For computer transfer, use an Inkjet printer and purchased pre-treated sheets (such as Printed Treasures) or fabrics you have treated yourself and fused to freezer paper. There are unlimited resources for graphics that are copyright-free on the web! . Preprinted labels are available, as are iron-on transfers. A pocket containing paper documentation can be sewed on to the back of your quilt as well. If you look throughout the collections in the IQSC&M you will notice pen and ink and typed documentation in some of the quilts.



Tips: Iron your label base to freezer paper for stability before hand writing on it.

If you are not comfortable with your handwriting, print the information onto paper, then take it to the light box and trace over what you have printed.

Test computer designs on paper before printing on treated fabric. Some fonts read better than others on fabric.

It is a good idea to keep a master list and photos of your quilts somewhere safe, for insurance purposes. Keep it current. And it is advisable to keep one photo of YOU with each quilt.

Heat set your labels when finished.

Always check for colorfastness before you apply a label.



Really great websites:

<http://blog.shopmartingale.com/quilting-sewing/how-to-label-a-quilt-7-ideas/> (Labeling ideas from well-known quilters)

<http://www.dafont.com/> (All kinds of fonts)

<http://www.quilterscache.com/Q/QuiltLabels.html> (Label templates)

<http://www.bryerpatch.com/faq/bjs.htm> (Using Bubble Jet Set)

<http://www.straw.com/quilting/articles/directprint.html> (printing on fabric)

Other websites that offer label templates and basic instructions:

<http://www.victorianaquiltdesigns.com/VictorianaQuilters/PrintableQuiltLabels/freeprintablequiltlabels.htm>

<http://www.sewaquilt.com/quilt-labels.html>

<http://quiltwithus.connectingthreads.com/page/quilt-labels>

http://www.ehow.com/how_6664479_make-quilt-label-printer.html

http://www.allpeoplequilt.com/techniques/finishing/making-quilt-labels_1.html

<http://reddawn.net/quilt/label.htm>

Quilt Identification Days

What do you know about the family heirloom tucked in the closet?
How do you get a quilt to talk?
Every quilt has a story.

Learn more about your quilt's history at Quilt Identification Days scheduled throughout the year at the International Quilt Study Center & Museum.

Staff and trained volunteers examine quilts and offer information about patterns, fabrics, styles and estimated age. A history form and documentation label is be completed for each quilt.

This event has grown in popularity as people research and record their family histories. Quilts are often the most lasting and cherished pieces of material memory connecting families past and present.

Upcoming Dates May 19, 2013
Aug. 4, 2013
Nov. 3, 2013

Call 402-472-6549 to reserve a time slot for the next Quilt Identification Day. Cost is \$15 per quilt, plus museum admission for non-members, and \$10 per quilt for museum members.

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