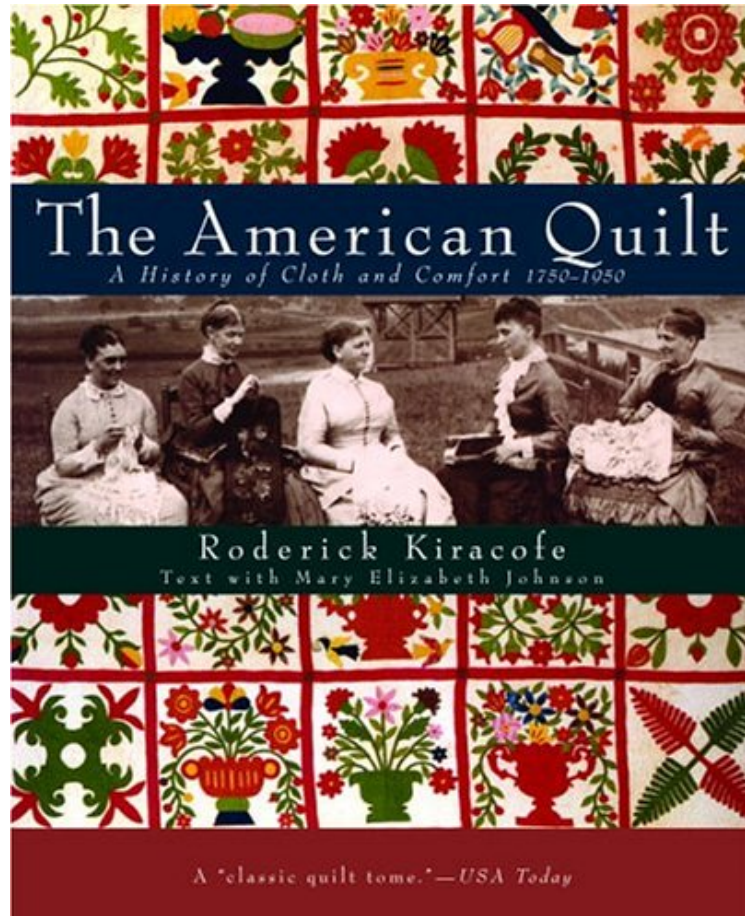


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The American Quilt: A History of Cloth and Comfort 1750-1950

Roderick Kiracofe, Mary Elizabeth Johnson
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Roderick Kiracofe, Mary Elizabeth Johnson : The American Quilt: A History of Cloth and Comfort 1750-1950
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Quilt: A History of Cloth and Comfort 1750-1950:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Phenomenal reference book for quilters and historiansBy K. DrakeAs a history buff, Civil War reenactor, and (very) beginning quilter, I wanted a basic reference book to help me learn about quilting styles and techniques from the Colonial through Victorian periods. This book provides that information and much more. In simple yet evocative language the authors lead us through the development of American quilting and discuss how social, economic, and political circumstances affected how quilts were designed and constructed over the years.This book is a fascinating glimpse into the past, tracing the evolution of our country through the stitches of quilting. The supplies and tools that were available at any given time, together with the imagination and ingenuity of women at each point in history, resulted in the emergence of new techniques and designs. It's amazing to page through this book and see how something as seemingly simple as a quilt block takes on a whole new meaning in the context of its time. For example, in the 1840s, a time of migration to the West: "As family and

friends were uprooted and separated from one another, a great many women carried quilts composed of blocks with precious messages from those left behind, whom they would likely never see again." Chapters include: Fabrics - fiber production; weaving and dyeing; fabric printing; fabric designers 1750-1825 Preindustrial America - how the settling of the colonies related to trade and in particular the production of fabric; seaports; the role of women in the New World; quilt styles of the period including whole-cloth, medallion, and mosaic piecework 1825-1850 Rise of the Cult of Domesticity - how social and economic changes were reflected in the fabric arts; women working in the mills; friendship and album quilts 1850-1875 A Tranquil Nation is Ripped Apart - reform movements; effects of the Civil War; children's and dolls' quilts; new block designs; indigo and white designs; influence of the sewing machine 1875-1900 The Grand Epoch - prosperity in the centennial period; effect of availability of education; crazy quilts; log cabin quilts; decorative styles shown at the Centennial Exposition of 1876; Hawaiian quilts; mourning quilts; fundraising quilts 1900-1950 A New Century of Quilting Begins - influences of the World Wars, Depression, and the New Deal; small piece "competitive" quilts; fairs and exhibitions; African-American women's quilting; Amish quilting; flour and feed sack quilting; 20th century quilting personalities Additional resources include tips on dating and investigating antique quilts, how to conserve and maintain antique quilts, where to view antique quilts, and more. 'The American Quilt' has hundreds of beautiful color plates of quilts, quilt blocks, and textiles. This is a lovely and engrossing book for anyone interested in American history or women's history, as well as in quilting and other fabric arts. Highly recommended. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I LOVE this book! By Holly I LOVE this book. I've read every single word--studied every picture. It's been fascinating matching the history of American women to the evolution of the various styles of fabrics and quilts. I have a large collection of rather shabby but beloved quilts that span 170 years. After reading this book, I finally feel that I could arrange them all in a timeline format. I have little post-its sticking out from all edges of my book so I can continue to use it as a reference. If you have a passion for older quilts and an interest in understanding their importance you will enjoy reading this big, heavy book. If you're not a reader, the photographs alone will suffice. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The information is good though, if that's what you're looking for By Customer If you're looking for quilt patterns, forget about it. It's more on the history of the fabric used in quilting than on quilting techniques or samples. The information is good though, if that's what you're looking for.

The most important, comprehensive, and sumptuously illustrated addition to the literature of quilting since i1 Quilts in America. Most of the book's 250 stunning full-color quilts have never before been published. With them as a reference, Kiracofe shows us how to read a vocabulary of fabrics, dyes, patterns, and other clues to put quilts in their social and cultural context. Full-color photographs.

From Publishers Weekly This is something that an overcrowded market actually needs: not just another do-it-yourselfer's patchwork quilt guide, Kiracofe's (*Homage to Amanda: 200 Years of American Quilts*) ambitious survey takes stock of American quilting's causes and effects. And, naturally, he recognizes the story of quilt lineage as social, involving members of families or communities in work that was practical, durable, and aesthetically satisfying. Kiracofe goes into detail, addressing what fabrics and dyes, as well as patterns, were used at different points in American history; the role of slaves in Southern quilting, and African American quilting styles; the effect of westward expansion on quilt supply and demand; and the craze for the "Oscar" quilt (featuring a sunflower motif) following a much-publicized visit to the U.S. in 1882 by Oscar Wilde. Of course, that's not all: there are also the quilts themselves, on view here in startling illustrated abundance--from an Islamic-seeming "sunburst" specimen, made in Pennsylvania, circa 1901, to an azure-blue and canary-yellow Hawaiian applique variety from 1946. Serious collectors and quilters will need this book; many others will want it. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap The most important, comprehensive, and sumptuously illustrated addition to the literature of quilting since i1 Quilts in America. Most of the book's 250 stunning full-color quilts have never before been published. With them as a reference, Kiracofe shows us how to read a vocabulary of fabrics, dyes, patterns, and other clues to put quilts in their social and cultural context. Full-color photographs. About the Author RODERICK KIRACOFE was cofounder of The Quilt Digest, produced *Homage to Amanda: 200 Years of American Quilts*, and authored *Cloth Comfort*. He has assembled corporate and private quilt collections across the country and curated quilt exhibits here and abroad. He lives in San Francisco. MARY ELIZABETH JOHNSON wrote her first quilt book in 1976 and has since authored a dozen more craft and home decorating titles. Her latest and final book on the subject will be a history of the quilting in her home state of Alabama. She lives in Montgomery. For more information, visit www.theamericanquilt.com. From the Trade Paperback edition.