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The celebration of the Nation's Centennial at Philadelphia in 1876 set the stage for the emergence of the Arts and Crafts movement. Heavily influenced by the Japanese exhibit, this movement glorified the artistic aspects of women's hand work, but rejected traditional patchwork. The Crazy Quilt, with its Japanese motifs, was a direct response to this new decorative style.

"Japanese confusion, which is at heart the highest artistic order, reigns."²⁷

Although impractical as a bed cover, it was considered an admirable expression of women's moral duty to create a beautiful home. Fueling the fervor for Crazy Quilts, commercial interests, previously specializing in clothing and home fashion, advertised silk patches, with painted transfers and embroidery outlines for decorating them.

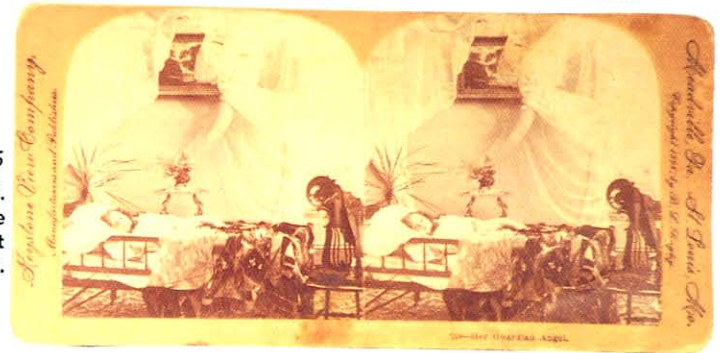


Fig. 71

Scrap Book, dated Dec. 25th 1884. Signed "Cousin Lydia to Alice—With Best Wishes for 'A Merry Christmas' [sic] and 'A Glad New Year' [sic]." Notice the many oriental images.

Fig. 75

Stereoscopic card, "Her Guardian Angel," c. 1898. Seen through a special viewer, these cards look three dimensional. They were a favorite form of home entertainment in the last two decades of the 19th Century.



Advertisement, 1892.



"Hood and Blakeley,
Dealers in Fancy and Dry Goods
Rochester, NY, Feb'y 10, 1883.

Dear Madame: We do not furnish samples of silk except upon the deposit of five dollars. We have been forced to this mode of doing business by the heavy expenses incurred in cutting up samples in compliance with the thousands of requests which we receive. Yours very truly..."

"Papa was in a fearful rage this morning because I cut the lining out of his spring overcoat. I didn't know he wanted to wear it anymore. I found it on the attic stairs and the sleeves were lined with lovely rose colored striped satin, which I cut out." —"The Career of a Crazy Quilt", *Goodey's Ladies Book*, July, 1884.²⁸

Fig. 72



Fig. 73

Broadside, Centennial Exhibition, 1876.

All sorts of commemorative textiles were printed for the huge celebration of the nation's Centennial at the International Exhibition in Philadelphia. It was a source of pride and excitement that so many foreign countries participated.

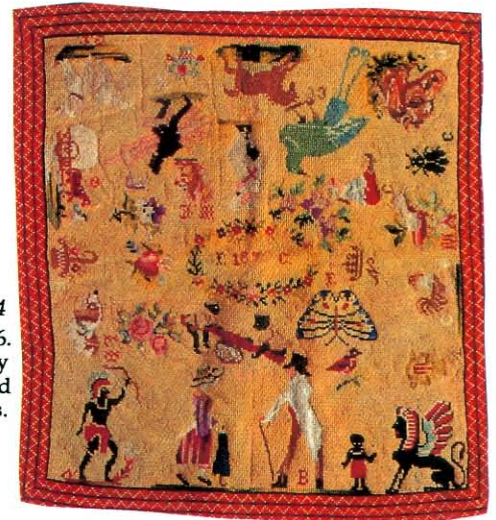


Fig. 74

Pillow cover, dated 1876. The jumbled motifs on this pillow are very similar to those embroidered and painted onto crazy quilts.

Book cover, c.1890.
The heart, the anchor, the cross, and other religious motifs appear on quilts and other fancy work of this period.

Fig. 77



Fig. 76

Badge, c. 1890.

The ribbons from badges like these were often used in quilts and other fancy work.