

IMPORTANCE OF LABELING YOUR QUILTS

The following is from a presentation by Julia Ziegler to the Idaho PieceMakerS on March 22, 2006. There was open discussion and some of the ideas and tips came from participants in that discussion. All good information!

I decided to give this little lecture because a fellow quilter whose work I admire and appreciate recently told me that they NEVER labeled their quilts. (Note that I do not use names or gender, so you will not know who I am talking about!). They said “Oh, who is going to care who I am 100 years from now.”

I do not think we should label our quilts just to be remembered, although that would be nice! I think we should do it to give a little history and to preserve our craft. It is not an act of vanity to label our quilts. I think it is a responsibility.

At the very least, the label should have the name of the quilt maker, a date (sometimes a time span of years it took to make it), the pattern name, and location where it was made. Additionally, it would be nice to know for who or what occasion it was made. We love stories. Name your quilt; let us have a peek into what you were thinking.

We all have our DNA on the quilts we make – we sweat over it, cry over it and sometime shed blood. Why not make it easier to identify the maker by putting on a label?

A good example of this was a quilt brought to Show & Tell by Suzi Maggard. It was a butterfly quilt from possibly the 40's or early 50's – hard to tell because there was no documentation. It was hand pieced, hand quilted and hand embroidered. It even had a humility block – one butterfly was upside down! Suzi had acquired it from an auction and only knows that it was donated three times to make it to the Kuna Community Auction. It was beautiful, but how we all wanted to know more about it!

Don't let this happen to your quilts. Be proud of your work. Don't drive us crazy trying to figure out what pattern (or variation of pattern) you used. Name your quilt!

Here are some of the suggestions given for labeling your quilt:

- At the simplest, use muslin and permanent ink fabric markers to create a label to sew on the back.
- Embroider a label.
- Paper piece your label.
- Use freezer paper, muslin and your computer to create a label. Be sure to set the ink with vinegar and water solution and then heat set with the iron.
- Use a typewriter to type your labels. Heat set the carbon with an iron.
- Attach the label BEFORE quilting. That way, if the quilt is lost or stolen, it is harder to remove without destroying some of the quilting.
- If you attach the label after quilting, consider putting some scraps of the fabric used in the top behind the label in the event a repair is needed.
- Sew the label in while sewing on the binding so it is harder to detach.
- Consider writing your name and social security number in one corner UNDER THE BINDING – so only you know where it is in the event the quilt is lost.
- Consider signing the label with your actual signature. Our handwriting says a lot about our personality.

Room To Learn – Julia Ziegler – 708 E. Wythe Creek Court, Kuna, ID 83634
www.Roomtolearn.biz