

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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Media Contact:
Lauren R. Dolan
312-799-2161

HISTORY IN STITCHES: 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PIECEMAKERS

The Chicago History Museum showcases quilts with history

CHICAGO (May 24, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum is proud to announce our first textile exhibition in the new Costume and Textile Gallery. *Quilts: A Patchwork History* opens Saturday, June 30, and will remain on display until December 31, 2007. The exhibition features 13 traditional quilts from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The quilts on display are only a sample of more than one-hundred 19th and 20th century quilts held in the Museum's collection. The featured quilts represent two of the most popular styles of American quilts including crazy and patchwork. The quilts range in size from 61 x 51 to 94 x 92 inches, and date from 1855 to 1945. Throughout *Quilts: A Patchwork History* visitors are encouraged to observe the quilts' construction, view the quilts as objects of art and utility, and to consider the personal histories the quilts represent.

“Quilts have a unique way of helping us understand the past, and connect us to the present particularly since quilting remains so popular,” stated Joy Bivins, curator of the exhibition. “These quilts are powerful because they reveal something about the moment in which they were created, and the individuals who created them.”

Historically, American quilt making has been dominated by women, although this exhibition features one created by a man. The quilters developed patterns that reflected their physical environments, political orientations, social aspirations, and aesthetic viewpoints. *Quilts: A Patchwork History* demonstrates how these artistic expressions remain useful tools for understanding the lives and stories of the people who made them.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is a suggested donation of \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.