



Wednesday 20 January 2010

Welcome to another issue of Midweek Moments. Well, last year we all learned about the history of the sewing machine, but what about the history of quilting itself? After all, that came first. In today's issue we begin a casual little stroll back through the pages of history and look at where, when and how quilting came to be the fabulously creative and sophisticated pursuit that it is today. Enjoy.

**Book Launch, Meet and Greet with Monica Poole**  
"Quilt as you go - The Moon Shine way"  
Thursday 28 January 2010  
[Click here to register and find out more.](#)

### Stitches Through Time

Let's face it. We love quilting. Many of us are quilting addicts, and what's more, we're proud to admit it. We love dedicating as much time as we can squeeze out of our busy schedules to produce beautiful creations for family members, new babies, friends, and, of course, ourselves. Given how passionate we are about what we do and how much it can dominate our lives, it might be worth pausing for a moment to learn a bit about the history of our favourite pastime and where it actually originated.

First of all, it's been around for a lot longer than you probably realise. Commonly cherished scenes of early colonial women in the New World hunched over their needlework by the fireplace, circa the early 1700s are romantic, but don't do justice to the true history of quilting. We've gotta go waaaaaaay back to... yes, the ancient Egyptians.



Practically nothing is known about the ancient Egyptians' relationship with quilting, such as what materials they used. The only clues we have come from ancient sculptures and some hieroglyphics, which depict people wearing what looks like quilted clothing. It would appear that, due to the warm climate, quilting wasn't all that common for the ancients, and was more than likely a fashion statement rather than something practical.

If we jump forward a couple of thousand years to roughly the last century BC or the first century AD, evidence of quilting pops up in Asia in the form of what appear to be padded linen carpets, which have been found in caves in parts of Siberia. Central motifs of animals on these 'quilts' were worked in the backstitch with a primitive running stitch making up a diamond background. A far cry from the sophisticated wizardry we're all used to today.

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## Symbols of Japan with Val Moore



This quilt is really one to be seen in person, when out and about be sure to drop into Blueberries to admire this stunning quilt.

Many "uh's and ah's" were heard today when eager patchworkers laid eyes on this quilt. They were also able to meet and greet Val Moore, who talked about the Symbols of Japan class beginning on 24th February.

[Click here for class details.](#)

## Rotating Cutting Mat

This Rotating Cutting Mat makes it very easy to cut out templates. It is a self-healing 15" diameter mat with a 360 degrees rotation, on a sealed ball-bearing base.

[Click here](#) or on the picture to watch a VIDEO on how to use the Rotating Cutting Mat!

It is available for \$55.00 [click here](#) to purchase.



## Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

### Marion Alexander's Paper Piecing challenge

#### What attracted you to this particular quilt?

I'd been wanting to try a new technique called English Paper Piecing, which is how all those little hexagonal pieces are joined together. As you can see from the photo there's a lot of them in this quilt so I knew it would be providing me with the right challenge I was after.



#### Did you follow the original colours as well?

No, I decided to use colours that would coordinate with my home and the original pattern was primarily pink, which is a colour I'm generally not crazy about.

#### How long did it take you to complete?

About eleven months, as I was only working on it whenever I could grab some spare moments here and there. It turned out better than I'd expected, though.

#### Have you been making quilts for long?

I've been quilting for about four years and I've made half a dozen quilts in that time. I'd also like to say that all the materials I used in this quilt came from Blueberries. Jackie got everything in for me. She asked if she could see the finished article as most of the time she doesn't get to see the end result.

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.