



Mid Week Moments #67

Wednesday 7 July 2010

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Brrrrrr, and welcome to your Midweek Moments. Yes, it's certainly been a bit chilly for the last week or so, and while everyone else is busy being indignant and outraged that it should actually be cold in winter (shock! horror!), we quilters have the advantage of a different point of view. After all, hibernation mode is just perfect for our unique and fabulous craft, plus the fact that our gorgeous creations will help keep ourselves and family and friends warm at night. In other words, can it ever get too cold for quilters?

[Show and Tell with Jackie Brazier](#)

Show us the item and tell us the story



[Jackie Brazier's Double Irish Chain Quilt](#)

What attracted you to this particular quilt?

I was attracted to the flow of the pattern. I can only live with something that I can look at every day and some designs can be a bit jarring, especially if the colour isn't quite right. I think the colour of a quilt can make a big difference to how you respond to it.

How long did it take you to complete?

It took me about two months to complete, which I think wasn't too bad considering it was my very first quilt. I'd been living in England for 34 years and after my husband died, my family and I moved back here and built a house. During the construction all our things were in storage but my sons went and dug out my old sewing machine so I could work on the quilt.

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Did this quilt inspire you to continue with other quilts?

Absolutely. I found that it's a great sisterhood belonging to a quilting group. It's wonderful for creativity and confidence. People are there from all walks of life, all singing from the same hymn sheet and we constantly inspire each other to do things we wouldn't normally do. And it's also about aspiration as well. Of all my weekly activities I really covet my day at Blueberries.

Workshops with Sue Daley

These workshops are going to fill up fast - so be quick!

Faith, Hope and Love Workshop - Monday 6 September 2010. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Antique Sampler Workshop - Tuesday 7 September 2010. Click [here](#) to find out more.



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Who wants to be a Milliner?

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 17 - The Safari Hat

The safari hat has become synonymous with hardy European explorers or adventurers in wild untamed parts of the world like the jungles of India and Asia, the savannahs of Africa and even the deserts of Australia. Technically, its real name is the pith helmet (so named because of the material it's made from), but for the purposes of this column we'll use its more traditionally recognizable (if inaccurate) name of safari hat. Also, we thought that 'pith helmet' somehow sounded a bit rude.

Early forms of the safari hat started to appear in the first half of the 19th century, as European explorers and missionaries ventured further and further afield and deeper into hot, tropical climates. For a long time, it was made primarily from pith, a spongy substance found in many vascular plants, and overlaid with a white cloth covering, with small eyelets for ventilation and a chinstrap to keep it firmly fixed to the head. By about 1870 it had been adopted by many European colonial military forces as standard headwear in tropical outposts, almost becoming an unofficial symbol of the British Empire and its brave 'Soldiers of the Queen'. However, while pith proved an effective and practical hat-making material for tropical climates, it didn't fare so well in cold, damp England, as returning soldiers soon discovered when their safari hats became sad and saggy back home in the Mother Country. This brought about the switch of material from pith bark to cork.

By the early 20th century, the safari hat was standard headgear for military forces in the Boer and Punjabi wars, the Italian Abyssinian war, the Foreign Legion in North Africa and even the US Marines. It was also commonly adopted by European civilians, men, women and children, living in the tropics, although the civilian version was generally less decorative, shorter and with a wider brim than its military counterpart.

Uniformly, safari hats were almost always white in colour, but when British troops in the Anglo-Zulu war of South Africa began dyeing their safari hats with tea for camouflage, this led to the khaki-coloured versions of the hat that appeared in various military forces in the following decades, most notably in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War, the Viet Minh replicated the safari hat, which had been introduced to the country earlier by French colonisers, and quickly adopted the hat as its own. Even today, the safari hat is popular in Vietnam with both civilians and the military.

The safari hat continues to make frequent appearances in popular culture on the heads of cinematic adventurers and explorers, practically part of the supporting cast in such popular movies as *Out of Africa*, *A Room With a View* and *The English Patient*. Controversially, however, Harrison Ford's *Indiana Jones* is often described as wearing a safari hat, but this is inaccurate. Mr Jones' choice of headwear is a 1930s fedora, although even this varies from movie to movie, and sometimes even scene to scene. This confusion surrounding the popular adventurer's headwear is not altogether surprising, however, given the sometimes slippery ambiguity of the iconic safari hat.

Quote of the week: Dull women have IMMACULATE Sewing Rooms.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team

Safari hat wearers, historic, military and cinematic.



Explorer Dr Henry Morton Stanley ("Dr Livingstone, I presume?")



Vietnamese soldiers on parade



Juliette Binoche in 1996's The English Patient