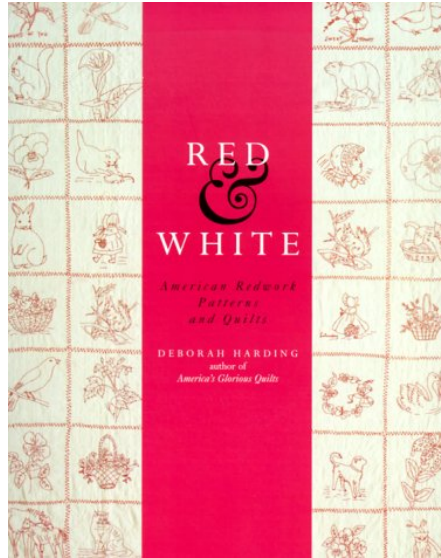


**THE DEBORAH HARDING COLLECTION**

2001:160



**SUMMARY**

The Deborah Harding Collection consists of manuscripts and photographs collected by Deborah Harding in order to publish the book Red & White; American Redwork Quilts and Patterns (2000). The manuscripts include newspaper clippings; magazine write-ups; biographies; promotional materials; correspondence between Harding and various museums, publishing companies; and photographic prints of quilts, with some transparencies. Michigan State University Museum purchased these materials from Deborah Harding in 2001.

**ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS:** Viewing access to the collection is unrestricted. Duplication of the materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

**KEY SUBJECTS:** quilting; quilts; quilters; embroidery; needlework; prick; pounce; tating; transfer; patterns; stamping; etching

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Manuscripts, photographs and transparencies: 32 folders (2 boxes) including 12 photographs and 17 transparencies

## BIOGRAPHY

Deborah Harding began her exploration of redwork as a means to satisfy her curiosity about a redwork quilt she purchased at a flea market. As she began to explore the quilt's origins, Deborah discovered nursery rhyme motifs of "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" and "Who Killed Cock Robin?" within the stitching, along with Beatrix Potter characters including Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddleduck, and Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail. She came to call the quilt "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" because of its imagery.

Deborah's research led to an exhaustive look at redwork's origins and development. Her collection of textiles and research materials form a comprehensive examination of this style currently enjoying a revival among quilters. Her work culminated in the publication of *Red & White: American Redwork Quilts and Patterns* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2000). Harding has also written *America's Glorious Quilts* and was the Crafts and Needlework editor at *Family Circle*.

Redwork quilts became popular between 1885 and 1925. They consisted of outline-embroidered images, usually square, and were stitched with colorfast Turkey red cotton floss onto muslin squares or household linens. Embroidery motifs were marketed for quilt blocks, but also for other home linens such as pillowcases, tidies, and splashers. Designs included Japanese inspired images, Kate Greenaway children, animals, nursery rhymes, floral designs, commemorative images and more.

Redwork began to emerge following the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The Royal School of Art Needlework at Kensington produced one of the exhibits at this World's Fair. American women were intrigued with the ornamental embroidery and it replaced previous styles of needlework in popularity. This trend became known as art needlework to separate it from plain sewing. Women began decorating all sorts of objects with embroidery as a means of adding beauty and serving as an artistic expression. Household objects of all sorts were embellished. The origins of redwork are closely related to crazy quilting, which also emerged from the Centennial Exposition and shared many of the same influences.

Women's magazines such as *The Ladies' Home Journal* and *Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine* began publishing patterns and offers for patterns in the 1880's. Often, the patterns were premiums for subscriptions. Numerous catalogues of designs competed for the stitcher's attention. Pre-stamped linens were also available. Women would often combine designs from multiple sources to create their quilts.

The Deborah Harding Collection at the Michigan State University Museum/Great Lakes Quilt Center consists of twelve redwork quilts, embroidered pieces, research, and related ephemera. All of the quilts in the collection were featured in her book and include "Mikado Quilt", "Nursery Rhyme Quilt", "Holy Bible Coverlet", and "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary." Among the other embroidered pieces are splashers, chair backs, laundry bags, and a child's doily. The numerous files of accompanying research add to the collection's richness.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
2001:160a:	catalogs and classified ads
2001:160b:	art work used in book; all photos
2001:160c:	magazines & premiums
2001:160d:	Turkey Red examples
2001:160e:	Perforated Patterns; Stamped Linens; Iron On Transfers (1 original)
2001:160f:	Outlining & Etching technique examples

### QUILT RESEARCH

2001:160g:	Ladies Home Journal
2001:160h:	Little Miss Muffet
2001:160i:	Mikado
2001:160j:	Nursery Rhyme
2001:160k:	God Bless Our Home
2001:160l:	Blue & White
2001:160m:	“E” Crib
2001:160n:	Blue Star Flag
2001:160o:	Good Night
2001:160p:	Grateful Dead/Bible
2001:160q:	Quaddie Quiltie
2001:160r:	Elizabeth Metz’ Floral Top
2001:160s:	Sunbonnets
2001:160t:	Mary, Mary Quite Contrary

2001:160u: Pan-American Expo  
2001:160v: Cedar Street Baptist Church Signature

### **RESEARCH MATERIALS, PRINT & MANUSCRIPT**

2001:160w: Royal School of Art, The Kensington Influence  
2001:160x: excerpts from “The Delineator”  
2001:160y: materials from the Lynn, MA Museum; mainly Ingall’s Work Books  
2001:160z: materials regarding Kate Greenaway (short bio, examples of work, Collection listing); *Mother Goose Coloring Book*, *Kate Greenaway Postcards* [in library: *The Kate Greenaway Book*]  
2001:160aa: *McCall Embroidery Book, Winter 1921-1922*  
2001:160bb: *Bentley’s Catalogue of Novelties in Art Needlework* [housed in **Box 2**]  
2001:160cc: Miscellaneous Research Materials  
2001:160dd: Miscellaneous Patterns  
2001:160ee: Correspondence and Credits  
2001:160ff: Un-used and extra art work  
2001:160gg: 1 copy of “The Delineator” Sep. 1891; ‘A Treatise on Embroidery-Crochet and Knitting’ 1899-1900; Ladies Home Journal Transfer Pattern 14312; Household Sewing Machine Card; 2 two-sided coloring book pages used as art work [housed in oversize box]; 2 Trancilla transfer pattern books #4, #6; color copy of “Richards’ Magic Stamping Pad for Ladies Fancy Work” front page [housed in oversize box]; DMC Stitcher’s Color Guide (thread chart); (1) 1882 Briggs’ Pattern Book [housed in protective box]; (2) Woolco Patterns with Envelope [patterns housed in oversize drawer]; (3) Briggs Xmas Pattern Sheet [housed in oversize drawer]; (4) Children’s Pattern Sheet [housed in oversize drawer]; (5) “Friction” Patterns [housed in oversize drawer]; (6) Perforated Patterns [housed in oversize drawer]

#### **Box 2**

2001:160hh: The Ladies Home Journal and Practical Housekeeper  
1884 (May), 1885 (Feb, May, Sep, Oct, Dec), 1886 (Aug, Sep, Oct),  
1887 (May, Aug, Sep, Oct), 1888 (Jan, Feb, Mar, May, Jun, Jul, Oct),

Dec), 1889 (Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug), 1890 (Christmas),  
1899 (Sep)

Needlecraft Magazine [Home Arts Needlecraft]  
1924 (Oct), 1929 (Apr), 1934 (Aug), 1938 (Sep, Oct)

The Modern Priscilla  
1900 (Feb), 1902 (Mar, May, Sep, Oct, Nov)

The Ladies World  
1896 (Dec), 1897 (Nov)

## ARTIFACTS INCLUDED IN COLLECTION

2001:160.1	Quilt: The Ladies Home Journal Coverlet
2001:160.1.2	Fabric backing from 2001:160.1
2001:160.2	Quilt: Mikado
2001:160.3	Quilt: Blue Stars
2001:160.4	Quilt: Holy Bible/Greatful Dead
2001:160.5	Quilt: Elizabeth H. Metz's Floral Top
2001:160.6	Quilt: Good Night coverlet
2001:160.7	Quilt: Nursery Rhyme Quilt
2001:160.8	Quilt: E's Crib Quilt
2001:160.9	Quilt: Sunbonnets
2001:160.10	Quilt: God Bless Our Home
2001:160.11	Quilt: Little Miss Muffet
2001:160.12	Quilt: Mary, Mary Quite Contrary
2001:160.13	Quilt: Blue and White Outline Quilt
2001:160.14	Quilt: Clean Hands and a Pure Heart
2001:160.15	Sit Thee Down chairback
2001:160.16	Fringed carving cloth
2001:160.17	Girl With Parasol and Hat laundry bag
2001:160.18	Child's doily with baby and dog
2001:160.19	Bessie Reading
2001:160.20	Give Us Our Daily Bread bread tray cloth
2001:160.21	Comb and brush bag
2001:160.22	Splasher
2001:160.23	Embroidered redwork cloth/curtain
2001:160.24	Redwork embroidered damask tray cloth
2001:160.25	Embroidered shelf edging
2001:160.26	Redwork embroidered wall hanging
2001:160.27	Redwork embroidered apron
2001:160.28	Red and white embroidered bureau scarf or wall hanging
2001:160.29	Redwork embroidered Splasher
2001:160.30	Redwork embroidered Splasher
2001:160.31	Redwork embroidered vertical Splasher
2001:160.32	Quilt block
2001:160.33.1	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.2	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.3	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.4	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.5	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.6	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.7	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.8	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.9	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.10	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.11	Redwork quilt block

2001:160.33.12	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.13	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.14	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.15	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.33.16	Redwork quilt block
2001:160.34	Four quilt blocks