

ROSE HOUSE MUSEUM QUILT

The Dresden Plate blocks that were donated for the benefit of the Rose House Museum have begun their transformation into a quilt. We are fortunate that our guild member Patricia Fullerton volunteers for the museum and so was a great resource to present the project to the museum board for their input and approval. The blocks cannot be used in a quilt to be displayed at the Rose House since the blocks are from the 1930s which is well after the period represented in the museum. Instead the museum has provided the funds to complete a quilt, using the blocks as the base, to be raffled as a fund-raiser benefiting the museum.

Hedy Campbell undertook the painstaking work of removing the 'plates' from the stained and worn backing that had to be completed before any other work could begin. The 'plates' were then laundered to ensure they were strong enough to withstand day-to-day use. There are two sets of Dresden Plates - one of green based fabrics and one of blue. The blue coloured plates were selected to be made into a quilt first as we think it will most appeal to modern tastes. The 'on point' setting that the original quilter planned is being maintained with additional borders so that the completed quilt will be Queen sized.

Patricia spent a busy afternoon in January at Picton Fabric World where, with the assistance of Geraldine Rorabeck and Ann House, she selected the fabrics and notions that will be used to complete the quilt. We were incredibly fortunate that Carol Harvey had seen the blue plates and thought she had some blue reproduction fabric in her stash - she did and it was perfect! Carol has generously donated the piece and there is enough to border the central motif as well as for an outer border. Patricia then took on the thankless task of pre-washing the fabrics ready for cutting. The first thing to be done was to applique the blocks onto the new backing. To share the work we arranged a workshop at Picton Fabric World and invited some of our guild members to bring a lunch and come applique. Because of the layout only five sewers could work on the project at one time so we needed four volunteers. After very few phone calls we had our four - Molly Jones, Joan Pentel, Jane Perry, and Jane Spilchen all volunteered to spend Valentine's Day in town sewing. We had a fun day and by mid-afternoon the plates and their centre circles were appliqued onto their new background. Thanks for your hard work, ladies!

Next step is squaring the pieces and adding the borders. Stay tuned - we'll be deciding a strategy to hand-quilt the top and I'm sure it will involve more volunteers!

Daphne Turner



APPLIQUE IN PROGRESS



TRYING OUT BORDERS