

Jane Austin Replica Quilt - CQG #134

Quiltmaker: Caitlyn Shepherd

This quilt, a replica of the quilt Jane Austin made with the help of her sister Cassandra, and her mother (1811), was part of the “Quilts of Yesteryear” exhibit at the guilds 2009 quilt show. It fits in the same genre as the *Dear Jane Quilt* (# 086), though not as popular a pattern, likely because it was not a pattern booklet. This piece without the outer border was made from the pattern produced by the Jane Austin Society of Australia. Today, quilters can purchase the pattern and a kit: Riley Blake, *Jane Austin At Home Coverlet Quilt Kit*, from quiltinaday.com.

“This very fine patchwork quilt uses 64 different fabrics. The quilt is worked in two sizes of lozenge diamond, and a rhomboid shape of black-and-white- spotted fabric for the light coloured trellis effect dividing the diamonds... Each diamond-shaped patch is placed in a sequence of four around a central diamond-shaped floral motif... “. The original quilt can be seen at the *Jane Austen’s House* museum in Chawton, Hampshire, UK. Caitlyn’s version does not have the outer border made of 2,500 smaller diamonds.

Caitlyn made this quilt as a present for her mother in 2008 - Caitlyn was 23. She was able to find many ‘reproduction fabrics’ for the quilt top. Creating replicas of quilts that were crafted in the past by historian figures or that are featured in novels, is another contemporary expression of quilting. It is an interesting way to study history.

“*The Quilt Jane Made*” adorns the couch of one of Cranbrook’s finest heritage homes. The Parkin Residence, referred to locally as the “Tower House” was built in 1910 by James Parkin. A picture can be seen on the website of the *Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History* (basininstitute.ca). A member’s grandfather was a carpenter on the house (Susan Little/Robert Clark #020), and a member was the owner before the Shepherd’s - Bernice Sargent (#091) - such are the connections in small towns.

Caitlyn didn’t pursue quilting. She is a pattern-writer for knit sweaters. Her online knitting site to show and market her patterns is Plucky Pigeon Knits (pluckypigeonknits.ca).

CQG# 134: *The Quilt Jane Made*

Quiltmaker: Caitlyn Shepherd

Owner: Carolyn Shepherd

Pattern	Jane Austin Quilt from Learn Patchwork, by Lynette-Merlin Syme (2003). Jane Austin Society of Australia
Subject	Replica of Jane Austin’s quilt made in 1811
Date	Specific date: 2008
Size	L 69½ x 45”
Overall style	Finished quilt/Reproduction Medallion Repeated one-block Directional/On Point

Medallion	L 19½" x W 11¾" Diamond
Frame	Block, diamond plus rhomboid edge Spacing: side-by-side, (on-point) L 5 ½" x W 3¼" Number 232 flowered patches (3 ½"), 22 cut in half lengthwise, 24 cut in half across the width + 282 (3 ½" x 1¼") rhomboid patches (light fabric)
Sashing	Faux (Rhomboid edge appears as sashing) Colour: tonal/light Straight (diagonal)
Border	W 3" (sides) & 1 ½" (ends), straight, one fabric Colour: red print
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front/hand back Colour: brown print
Batting	Unknown, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers, geometric, leaves, birds Feature colours: red, brown, beige, green, rose Quilt fabric designer: Jane Austin Reproduction (Riley Blake)
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Backing	Horizontal pieced, one fabric Feature colours: rose, beige, green Motif: roses
Quilting	Domestic Machine Thread: cotton, off-white Pattern: in-the-ditch
Condition	Used (has been washed) Some loose threads