

Shiela Betterton



English museum curator, lecturer and author of *Quilts and Coverlets from the American Museum in Britain* and other titles

Inducted in 1999 at The Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration, Marion, Indiana

Research Associate: Pat Nichols (England)

Shiela Betterton is widely recognized as an authority on American quilts. She lives in Bath, England, where from 1963 to 1993, first as steward and later as textile advisor, she helped amass the textile collection of the American Quilting in the only venue outside the United States.

Once the collection of quilts was acquired she began sharing its history by curating exhibitions, including the 1976 Exhibition with the Commonwealth Institute of London and the 1980 British Council Exhibition in St. Louis, Missouri. The prestigious 1997 exhibit "Crazy for Quilts: 200 Years of American Quilts," held at the American Museum in Britain, was dedicated to Shiela, who had recently retired.

Shiela lectured not only in England, but also on the continent and in the United States. She wrote *American Textiles and Needlework* (1971), *The American Quilt Tradition* (1976), *Quilts and Coverlets* (1978) and *More Quilts and Coverlets* (1988).

She has been recognized for her contributions by election to the Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts and was appointed Honorary Life Member of both the British Quilters Guild and the Bath Quilters.