Dr. Wade Hall

- Dr. Wade Hall is a retired professor of English and the Humanities at Bellarmine College in Louisville
- He is a folk art aficionado who has collected quilts for the past 30 years, purchasing primarily in the Ohio Valley region
- He is the author of several books, articles, plays and reviews relating to Southern literature and history
Quick Facts

Textiles was chosen as the main art theme of the William T. Young Library.

Sixty-four of the over 110 quilts donated by Dr. Wade Hall to the William T. Young library are displayed on the 5th floor.

Many of the quilts were purchased within a 100 miles radius of Lexington in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

This collection contains quilts that have been used and loved in the course of their lifetime.

Prepared for exhibit by 25 Lexington quilt makers and coordinated by Helen L. Thompson and assisted by Barbara West.

The project began in the University of Kentucky Special Collections Library and was completed for the dedication of the William T. Young Library.

Quilt Notes

Each quilt is lined with a muslin fabric backing; a muslin sleeve is applied to the top and bottom to accommodate both a hanging rod at the top and a weighted rod at the bottom.

Common quilt colors are red, green and gold.

Amish quilts are made with more detail and use bigger designs.

The oldest quilt, Compass, is from about 1860 (on south wall).

North star quilts are hanging on the North wall to provide direction.

The purple quilt on the north wall is unusual because of its color.

The necktie quilt on the west wall contains bright silk and satin ribbons or neckties to construct this pattern, which is an example of the "string" piecing method.

Strip or "string" piecing was popular during the early part of the 20th century and especially during the Depression.

Viewing from the rotunda, the crazy quilt on the west wall looks like large books haphazardly stacked on a bookshelf.

The Blue Basket quilt on west wall is an example of a "decorator or designer" quilt frequently found in women’s magazines of the 1920s. It utilizes both appliqué and reverse appliqué.

On the north wall, the Unusual Broken Star utilizes “string” piecing of corduroy, chintz, drapery, cotton and other scraps to create a folk interpretation of a star pattern.