

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



UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Libraries

Lexington, KY 40506-0456

THE WADE HALL QUILT COLLECTION



QUICK FACTS
Quick Facts

Quick Facts

WADE HALL QUILT COLLECTION

- 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

