

QUILT LABELS

Always sign and date your work. Every quilt teacher worth her salt will tell you this. You've worked hard on it. Hours of planning, piecing, applique, borders and binding, hand quilting it, machining it yourself, or sending it to a long-armed.

Now you have--One. More. Step. Sign and date your work!

Whether you write it in pen (I like a black Ultra Fine Point Sharpie) on the front or the back, hand embroider it, machine embroider it, or write it on a purchased label or even a personalized woven label, make a record of who did what and when. We have labels you can buy by the yard or the single. You can design your label on the computer and run it through your printer onto muslin and make it fancy and quite fitting for that particular quilt! We have at least one stencil with four different styles of labels and several lines on which to write. You can Google "how to make a quilt label" and get inspiration from the Internet and/or Pinterest!

In ten or twenty or fifty years from now, the label will say you made this quilt and maybe the occasion and person for which you made it.

If you exhibit your quilt at quilt show (even if it's not for judge or jury), you are required to have a hanging sleeve and a label to identify it as yours.

Every state has a Quilt Project and most of them have evolved into a book. I have the book for the Ohio Quilt Project. My mother made the hanging sleeves and sewed them onto the backs of the quilts. The committee took out classified ads in the newspapers in the 1980s asking for quilts from families and the history of each quilt. The majority of the quilts had lost their history and were made by the most prolific of all quilters—"Anonymous"! "We know it's from my husband's mother's family; we think her grandmother, but we don't know and nobody's alive now to tell us!" How very sad! Sometimes a quilt historian can glean clues by the fabrics, but the dates of birth and death can help date the quilt.

Sign and date your quilt! If nothing else, write your name and the date you finished it in a lower corner. Include the pattern and reason for making it. You'd be surprised how fast the years go by and you forget when you made it.