

# Amy Emms, MBE



(1904-1998)

*English quilter and teacher, revived Durham Quilting in England  
Pictured here with her MBE award at Buckingham Palace in 1984.  
Inducted at The Quilters Hall of Fame Celebration, Marion, Indiana  
Research Associate: Dorothy Osler*

Amy Emms was honored by Queen Elizabeth with a Member of the British Empire (MBE) award for "services to quilting" in 1984. She indeed was proud of this honor, but was also proud of her skills as a "Durham Quilter." Durham quilting was a style of wholecloth quilts known in Northeastern England.

She enjoyed quilting on satin, occasionally silk, using her favorite patterns, "Durham feather," "feather twist" and "scissors," in medallion designs on her wholecloth quilts.

At the age of 7 she threaded the needles for her mother and at 14 was adding her own stitches to the quilts. During World War II she aided her country's efforts by leading fund raisers and community activities. This work led naturally to forming quilting groups and to teaching her art form.

Amy enjoyed writing about her quilting activities for the magazine of the British Quilters Guild, which made her an Honorary Member in 1981. She corresponded with people around the world, which thrilled her because it was all "due to her art of quilting." At the age of 86 she wrote her autobiography, *Amy Emms' Story of Durham Quilting*, edited by Pam Dawson.