

Averil Colby



(1900-1983)

*English quilter, lecturer, author of Patchwork, Patchwork Quilts and Quilting
Inducted in 1980 at the Continental Quilting Congress, Arlington, Virginia
Research Associate: Tina Fenwick Smith*

Averil Colby was the first to be inducted into The Quilters Hall of Fame from the United Kingdom. Nearing the age of 60, she began her writing career on a subject she so enjoyed. *Patchwork*, published in 1958, has been reprinted twelve times. Other books followed: *Samplers*, 1964; *Patchwork Quilts*, 1965; *Quilting*, 1971, and *Pincushions* in 1975. Her books are classics and show the depth of Averil's research abilities.

Never deemed a quilter per se, she experimented with various sized of hexagons made in the English method of fabric-turned over a paper template, basted, then whipped to like a patch. She reported that her scrapbag of fabrics spanned nearly 200 years.

As chairman of the Handicraft Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, she was instrumental in organizing courses, classes, and exhibitions of handicrafts that helped reawaken an interest in quilting in the United Kingdom.

Examples of her work can be found at the American Museum in Britain, Bath, and in the collection of The Quilter's Guild of the British Isles.