

Florence Peto



*Quilter, collector, author of Historic Quilts, museum benefactor
Inducted in 1980 at the Continental Quilting Congress, Arlington, Virginia
Research Associate: Debora Clem*

Florence Peto was a prolific writer and researcher. She wrote numerous articles for magazines and her books include *Historic Quilts* in 1939 and *American Quilts and Coverlets* in 1949. Her great writing skills can be seen in her correspondence with Honorees Dr. William Rush Dunton, Jr., and Bertha Stenge and with quilters Emma Andres and Elizabeth Richardson.

Her first quilt, made in 1926 at the age of 45, propelled her into making other award winning quilts. She was sought after for her lectures on quilts by historic societies and other organizations, as well as for radio programs. As did Honoree Carrie Hall, Florence made cloth pattern books for her lectures and later made them into pillows, which were sold for fund raising.

Her collection of quilts, especially those of early styles, was shared with the public through exhibitions and lectures. Searching for quilts for east coast museums became an avocation. The Henry Ford Museum acquired a number of items from Peto's collection along with some she had made herself. Her quilt, "Calico Garden," in the collection of the Shelburne Museum, was one of the 20th Century's 100 Best American Quilts.

[Honoree Florence Peto Quilt Exhibit at the Shelburne Museum](#)