

# Merikay Waldvogel



*Inducted in 2009 at The Quilters Hall of Fame Triple Anniversary Celebration in Marion, Indiana*

Merikay Waldvogel, one of the key players in the late 20th century quilt history revival, has served on the board of directors of both the American Quilt Study Group (AQSG) and The Alliance for American Quilts (AAQ). She has been a key player in building The Alliance's online Quilt Index. She has also taken key roles in the Boxes Under the Beds and Quilt Treasures programs that are major contributions of The Alliance to the study of American cultural history. Waldvogel is a fellow of the International Quilt Study Center (IQSC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she has worked with graduate students and has built an important database of quilt kits.

In 1983 Waldvogel began her collaboration with TQHF Honoree Bets Ramsey to co-direct the Quilts of Tennessee project through its mission of documenting the quilts of that state. Together they wrote the book *Quilts of Tennessee: Images of Domestic Life Prior to 1930*, and put together a traveling exhibit, one of many exhibits Waldvogel has curated over the years. They later collaborated on the book *Southern Quilts: Surviving Relics of the Civil War*. In 2003, Rosaline Webster Perry and Waldvogel co-edited the first book of articles about the Honorees, *The Quilters Hall of Fame*.

In addition to serving quilt history organizations, Waldvogel is recognized as an expert on quilts of the twentieth century quilt revival. Her own book *Soft Covers for Hard Times: Quiltmaking and the Great Depression* is the key work on mid 20th century quilts and quiltmaking. Her collaboration with 2001 Honoree Barbara Brackman on *Patchwork Souvenirs of the 1933 World's Fair* was a major contribution to quilt research.

Her *Uncoverings* articles for AQSG on Southern Linsey Quilts, the WPA Milwaukee Handicraft Project, the Anne Orr Studio of Nashville, Round Robin Pattern Collecting, and the early history of Mountain Mist patterns were all groundbreaking research. Her latest book *Childhood Treasures: Doll Quilts By and For Children* highlights Lincoln, Nebraska quiltmaker Mary Ghormley's extensive doll quilt collection.

Waldvogel has written for *Quilters Newsletter magazine*, *McCall's Quilting Vintage Quilts*, *American Patchworkd and Quilting*, and *Quilting Today/Traditional Quiltworks*. In the Southeast, she is also known for her writings about Southern women and their quilts in *Appalachian Life* and *Smokies Life* magazines. She also lectures frequently to quilt guilds, historical societies, and museums in the area.

Merikay Waldvogel is a graduate of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She was raised in St. Louis, Missouri, but now raised in Knoxville, Tennessee.