

Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project
Awarded Major Grant from the Coby Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOWELL, MA—The Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project (dba MassQuilts) is very pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Coby Foundation of New York City to help fund its forthcoming book, tentatively titled: Quilts: The Social Fabric of Massachusetts. The University Press of New England, headquartered in Lebanon, New Hampshire, is the publisher.

MassQuilts was organized in 1994 as a volunteer effort to document pre-1950 quilts made, used, or currently owned in this state, to promote the study and preservation of quilts, and to produce educational materials in the form of a book, exhibitions, and public programs to provide information about the rich history of quilts in Massachusetts. The group has documented over 5,000 quilts in both public and private collections.

The 300-page book will feature approximately 100 of the most beautiful and interesting quilts relevant to the history of Massachusetts documented by MassQuilts. The Coby Foundation grant funds the subvention to the University Press of New England and the part-time salary for two years of an experienced editor for this project. Lynne Zacek Bassett of Ware, Massachusetts, has been hired as editor. Bassett, a founding member of MassQuilts, is an independent scholar. She is an associate fellow of the International Quilt Study Center of Lincoln, Nebraska, and is the author of numerous publications on the early history of New England's textiles and clothing.

The book will be published in 2009, in conjunction with exhibitions of selected quilts from the project, which will be featured at several museums across the state. MassQuilts, which keeps an office at the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, is currently working to raise another \$20,000 to fund photography, permissions, and other expenses related to the book.

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