

Coverlets in the Pioneers Museum

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(Documentation completed by members of Pikes Peak Weavers Guild, May, 2008)

Coverlet Catalogue # 43-116 (fragment)

Date of Documentation: March 5, 2007

Pattern Name(s): Four Lilies

Weave Structure: Double Weave

Type: Figured and fancy

Grid: Horizontal/vertical

Size: 39 1/3" length x 34 1/2" width. (Dimensions are an average of three measurements in both directions.)

Number of Panels: 1

Probable Loom Type: Jacquard

Warp Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: equivalent size of 10/1 cotton

Spun: Z, Tight twist, single ply, Commercially spun

Dye: Navy indigo dyed

Pantone Color: Pea Coat, #19-3920 tpx

Ends/Inch: 20, 40 total

Warp Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Cotton?

Estimated Yarn Size: equivalent size of 8/2 cotton

Spun: Z, Loose twist, Ply S, 2 ply, Hand spun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: White Asparagus, #12-0104 tpx

Ends/Inch: 20, 40 total

Weft Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: equivalent size of 10/1 cotton

Spun: Z, Tight twist, single ply, Commercially spun

Dye: Navy indigo dyed

Pantone Color: Pea Coat, #19-3920 tpx

Ends/Inch: 20, 40 total

Weft Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Cotton?

Estimated Yarn Size: equivalent size of 8/2 cotton

Spun: Z, Loose twist, Ply S, 2 ply, Hand spun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: White Asparagus, #12-0104 tpx

Ends/Inch: 20, 40 total

Border: Integrated. Side is different from bottom. Bottom is Willow? Eagle. (Compare to "Bird of Paradise" A77-12 coverlet.)

Weaving: Pattern squared: No

Even beat : Yes
Panels match: fragment.

Condition: very poor

Place of Origin: Cuba, New York

Circa: 1840

Date received by museum: November 12, 1943, Gift

Donor: Mrs. Flora Thomas Fulton

Inscription: Woven in "1840 E.A.B"

Museum Note:

"2 pieces of a handwoven coverlet completed in 1840 by Elizabeth Ann Brooks the grandmother of the donor. The colors are blue and white and the design is either the Weeping Will or the American Eagle, both are distinctly seen in the piece though it is badly worn. The initials E. A. B. and the date 1840 are clearly discernible in the corner. Mrs. Brooks carded, dyed and spun the wool and wove the coverlet. The pattern is intricate as shown in a picture taken of it before it became so worn. Elizabeth came from Cuba, New York. She was grandmother of donor."

Analysis Speculation: Brooks may have been the person who ordered the coverlet woven by a professional weaver. Compare to "Bird of Paradise" A77-12 coverlet. She may have prepared and spun the undyed yarns and given them to the weaver to use. At this early date she might have also prepared, spun and dyed the indigo yarns.

Museum History: Storage: 4-2-5-6

Documenter's Note: This is one of two handwoven pieces donated at the same time. This piece is about ¼ of a coverlet. The other piece (A43-116a) is a whole coverlet. They have different patterns.

For further information on the weaver or coverlets with similar motifs or design features see:

Anderson, C.S. *American Coverlets and Their Weavers: Coverlets from the Collection of Foster & Muriel McCarl*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 2002. ISBN 0-87935-215-9. p. 18

Davison, M. & Mayer-Thurman, C. *Coverlets: A Handbook on the Collection of Woven Coverlets in the Art Institute of Chicago*. Chicago: Art Institute. 1973. LCCN 73-82570. pp. 94-95, 162-163, 213

Montgomery, P. *Indiana Coverlet Weavers and Their Coverlets*. Indianapolis: Hoosier Heritage Press. 1974. p. 104

Shein, J.D. *Coverlets and the Spirit of America*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer. 2002. ISBN 0-7643-1660-5. p. 70, coverlet 30

Swygert, L. *Heirlooms from Old Looms: A Catalogue of Coverlets Owned by the Colonial Coverlet Guild of America & Its Members*. Chicago: R.R. Donnelley. 1940. p.268