5 Antique American Quilts Worth Far More Than Most People Realize

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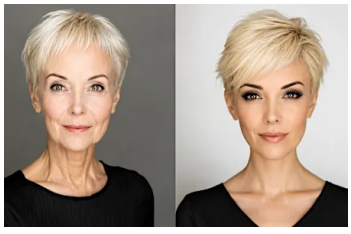


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Quilts today are typically family keepsakes. They share history, tell a story, and are an impressive piece of art that offers comfort and warmth. However, there are certain antique American quilts worth far more than most people realize, especially when a quilt (https://nerdable.com/rarities/ordinary-collectibles/) has a documented maker, unusual design, strong provenance, or important historical connections. The five quilts below show just how wide that gap can be.







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5. Anna Georgia Lake's "Tulip" Appliqué Quilt – $520



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The first on the list of antique American quilts worth more than you might realize is Anna Georgia Lake's *Tulip* appliqué quilt, made by the New Jersey quiltmaker between 1870 and 1955. The stunning quilt shows a red and green border with a stunning red tulip design, a familiar pattern among collectibles.

According to Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates (https://live.jeffreysevans.com/online-auctions/jeffrey-evans/anna-georgia-lake-1870-1955-perth-amboy-new-jersey-tulip-applique-quilt-8842476), the quilt is a hand- and machine-stitched (https://nerdable.com/rarities/antique-sewing-items-worth-money/) tulip appliqué and was only estimated at about $100 to $200. The auction result reached $520 in March 2026.



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4. Ruth McConnell, Hannah & Mary Parry's 1793 Philadelphia Broderie Perse Quilt – $28,440



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For our next entry, we see a very large jump in price. Made in 1793, this Philadelphia Broderie Perse quilt is one of the most sought-after prizes for collectors, as it has a detailed history. An inscription identifies Ruth McConnell and her cousins, Hannah and Mary Parry, as the makers.

The quilt was estimated to be around $8,000 to $12,000; however, a January 2013 auction showed the final price being a whopping $28,440 (https://www.colonialsense.com/Antiques/Auction_Results/January%2C_2013.php). The quilt's age, condition, construction, and unusually strong documentation all helped distinguish it from more ordinary examples.

3. Sarah Ann Wilson's 1854 Album Quilt – $30,800



Unsplash

According to the Katonah Museum's catalogue (https://www.katonahmuseum.org/content/pdfs/FINAL_Bisa%20Butler%20Catalogue_FINAL.pdf), another one of the many antique American quilts goes to Sarah Ann Wilson's 1854 Album Quilt. According to the museum, the piece is an appliquéd, pieced, and embroidered American quilt, although the museum notes that Wilson's authorship can't be established with absolute certainty.

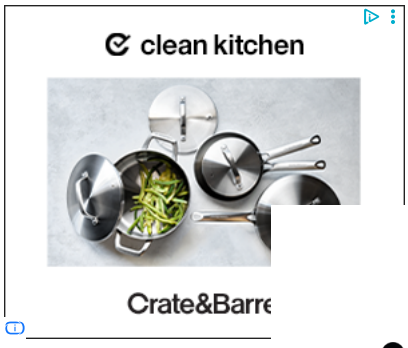
A scholarly history of the American quilt market records a $30,800 sale for a Sarah Ann Wilson-signed quilt in 1988 (https://api.drum.lib.umd.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/e3d88fe5-a396-484c-8de8-49121719596f/content). Data from the University of Maryland also documents the broader surge in prices for exceptional American quilts during the 1980s.

2. Sarah and Mary Pool's 1840 Baltimore Album Quilt – $176,000



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Next on the list is another major jump in price compared to the last entry, sitting at a staggering $176,000. This one in particular holds a lot of history and features a well-known name.



Baltimore Album quilts are known for elaborate appliqué work and individually designed blocks, but this example went considerably beyond the usual antique-quilt market (https://nerdable.com/rarities/antique-musical-instruments/). According to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, (https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60817b5a9885b67d0431529a/t/683f544e3f0e8327fab4a4ad/1748980819064/Spring_2025.p the quilt is identified as an 1840 quilt by Sarah and Mary Pool.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the quilt sold in 1987 for $176,000 (https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1994-09-17-hm-39572-story.html). That sale came during a period when interest in exceptional antique quilts was climbing sharply. A quilt that might once have been viewed primarily as a household object was increasingly being treated as American folk art.

1. Lucinda Ward Honstain's *Reconciliation Quilt* – $264,000



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One of the most shocking antique American quilts that are worth more than you might realize is the Reconciliation Quilt, made in 1897 by Lucinda Ward Honstain. It is truly the most remarkable American quilt to reach the auction market.

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According to the International Quilt Museum (https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/about/quilt-month/reconciliation-quilt), Honstain made the quilt during a period of major change in American history, giving its imagery added historical significance. And according to the description, this is not only a historical account, but a personal one as well, as the quilt "reveals intimate details of her family's life." And according to News Wise (https://www.newswise.com/articles/rare-valuable-and-historic-quilt-at-home-at-nebraska), Sotheby's sold the quilt for $264,000 in 1991, setting a quilt auction record at the time.

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