

# M008

## Marie Webster Study Collection, 1885-1940, n.d. | Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

By Samantha Norling

### Collection Overview

Title: Marie Webster Study Collection, 1885-1940, n.d.

Collection ID: M008

Primary Creator: Webster, Marie D. (Marie Daugherty), 1859-1956

Extent: 2.44 linear feet

Arrangement: This collection has been divided into two series:

Series I: Quilt Patterns and Templates, 1911-1929

Series II: Memorabilia

Date Acquired: Various

Languages: English

### Scope and Contents of the Materials

The Marie Webster Study Collection has been divided into two series:

**Series 1: Quilt Patterns and Templates, 1911-1929** contains design elements from various Marie Webster quilt patterns. These elements include placement guides made out of tissue paper, blueprints for quilt appliqué shapes, tracing templates for pattern shapes, pieces of quilt appliqué and textile samples, instructional pamphlets with color samples, and the envelopes that contained these design elements. Where relevant, the Indianapolis Museum of Art accession number has been added in brackets, linking the archival material to its related piece in the museum's Permanent Collection. The dates for this series refer to the date of the initial creation of each quilt pattern, though the actual material may have later creation dates. This series is arranged chronologically by the creation date of the pattern.

**Series 2: Memorabilia, 1885-1940, n.d.** includes a variety of items saved by Marie Webster to document her career as a quilt designer. This personal memorabilia includes photographs of Webster, her family, home, and quilts, correspondence with her book publisher, Doubleday, Page, & Co., and clients, newspaper clippings about quilts, clippings from *Ladies Home Journal* which feature Webster's designs, a hand-drawn flower design, and a scrapbook compiled by Webster between 1910 and 1940.

In 2015, the IMA Archives digitized the majority of the Marie Webster Collection. The digitized collection has been made available online through the Indianapolis Museum of Art's [Digital Archives Portal](#). The Box and Folder Listing below has been hyperlinked directly to the online digital content for individual folders when available.

## Biographical Note

Marie Webster was born to Josiah and Minerva Daugherty on July 19, 1859 in Wabash, Indiana. She married George Webster Jr. in 1884, after which she lived in Marion, Indiana. The couple had one child, a son, Lawrence Webster.

Marie Webster did not begin her quilting career until the early Twentieth Century, when the Websters relocated to a new house and Marie undertook its decoration. Dissatisfied with the quilting patterns available to her, Webster decided to create a pattern of her own, adapting a traditional Rose of Sharon pattern and applying a pastel color scheme that was made popular by the Arts and Crafts Movement. The first quilt, completed around 1909, Webster first titled "Pink Rose," and later changed its name to "American Beauty Rose."

After submitting her quilt design to the *Ladies' Home Journal* and receiving positive feedback, Webster was invited to contribute a full page of quilt designs to the publication, which appeared in the January 1911 edition. The inclusion of Webster's design in this publication is particularly notable for the fact that the designs were printed in color. Webster's designs for full size quilts, baby quilts, and cushions appeared in three subsequent issues of *Ladies' Home Journal*: August 1911, January 1912, and August 1912. As a result of these features, Marie Webster became a household name in quilting circles, and she began producing and selling patterns for her quilts, with the help of her sister Emma Daugherty. These patterns were also unique for the time, containing a blueprint and a tissue paper placement guide. At the height of her designing career, Webster had 22 different patterns available.

Webster's interest in quilting extended far beyond the creation of her distinctive patterns. Webster conducted exhaustive research into the history of the craft, and authored the first book on the subject, *Quilts: Their Story and How to Make Them*, in 1915. The publication led Webster to give many lectures, and she was often consulted as an expert on the subject. During this time, Webster's quilts were exhibited in a variety of venues.

In the 1920s Marie Webster started a new business with two friends, Evangeline Beshore and Ida Hess, to compliment her successful pattern-selling business with her sister. Webster and her

friends formed the Practical Patchwork Company, which produced illustrated catalogs and sold quilt-making kits and completed quilts. During this time, Webster created nine new quilt patterns.

The Practical Patchwork Company continued to operate through the 1930s, though Webster scaled down her involvement due to her husband's poor health. In 1942, Webster moved to New Jersey to live with her son and his family. The Company continued on in Marion for a few years under the direction of Beshore and Hess. Marie Webster died in 1956 at the age of 97.

### Sources

Material in the collection.

Perry, Rosalind Webster and Marty Frolli. *Marie Webster's Garden of Quilts*. Santa Barbara, CA: Practical Patchwork, 2001.

## **Subject/Index Terms**

Appliqué;  
Artists—Indiana;  
Embroidery;  
Quilting;  
Quiltmakers;  
Quiltmakers—Indiana;  
Webster, Marie D. (Marie Daugherty), 1859-1956

### **Forms of Material:**

Appliqué embroidery;  
Clippings (information artifacts);  
Correspondence;  
Pamphlets;  
Pattern books;  
Pattern drawings;  
Patterns (design element);  
Photographs;  
Publication;  
Scrapbooks;  
Textiles

## **Administrative Information**

Repository: Indianapolis Museum of Art Archives

Alternate Extent Statement: 1 oversize box

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research with permission of the Indianapolis Museum of Art Curator of Textile & Fashion and the Registration Department. Requests to access this collection should be sent to the IMA Archivist, [archives@imamuseum.org](mailto:archives@imamuseum.org). These materials are housed outside of the Archives, so advance notice of one week is requested to allow time for the material to be pulled for research and for Curator and IMA Registration to approve access.

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Acquisition Source: Rosalind Webster Perry

Acquisition Method: Gift (to the Indianapolis Museum of Art)

Preferred Citation: [Item title], [date], [Container information], Marie Webster Study Collection (M008), IMA Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN.

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## Box and Folder Listing

**Series 1: Quilt Patterns and Templates, 1911-1929** contains design elements from various Marie Webster quilt patterns. These elements include placement guides made out of tissue paper, blueprints for quilt appliqué shapes, tracing templates for pattern shapes, pieces of quilt appliqué and textile samples, instructional pamphlets with color samples, and the envelopes that contained these design elements. Where relevant, the Indianapolis Museum of Art accession number has been added in brackets, linking the archival material to its related piece in the museum's Permanent Collection. The dates for this series refer to the date of the initial creation of each quilt pattern, though the actual material may have later dates. This series is arranged chronologically by the creation date of the pattern.

### Box 1

- Folder 1: [Quilt pattern pamphlets \[78.287; 1992.151\], ca. 1911-1915](#)
- Folder 2: ["Wind-blown Tulip" and butterfly quilt templates, ca. 1911](#)
- Folder 3: ["Morning Glory" quilt pattern pieces \[2010.79\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 4: ["Morning Glory Wreath" baby quilt pattern kit \[79.100\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 5: ["Morning Glory" large and baby quilts templates \[2010.79; 79.100\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 6: ["Sunflower" quilt templates \[79.101\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 7: ["Sunflower" quilt templates in newsprint \[79.101\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 8: ["Daisies" baby quilt pattern kit \[79.98\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 9: ["Baby Bedtime" baby quilt pattern kit \[79.103\], ca. 1912](#)
- Folder 10: ["Bunnies" baby quilt pattern kit, 1914](#)
- Folder 11: ["Grapes & Vines" quilt pattern kit \[79.96\], 1914-1920](#)
- Folder 12: ["Grapes & Vines" quilt templates \[79.96\], 1914-1920](#)
- Folder 13: ["Wreaths of Roses" quilt templates, 1914-1920](#)

- Folder 14: ["Poinsettia" quilt pattern kit \[79.99\], 1914-1920](#)
- Folder 15: ["May Tulip" quilt pattern kit \[79.102\], 1920s](#)
- Folder 16: ["May Tulip" quilt templates \[79.102\], 1920s](#)
- Folder 17: ["Iris in Baskets" quilt pattern kit, 1920s](#)
- Folder 18: ["Primrose Wreath" quilt templates and appliqué pieces \[79.95\], 1920s](#)
- Folder 19: ["Pink Dogwood in Baskets" quilt pattern kit, 1920s](#)
- Folder 20: ["Pink Dogwood in Baskets" quilt templates, 1920s](#)
- Folder 21: ["Rainbow" quilt templates and fabric samples \[1992.151\], 1920s](#)
- Folder 22: [The New Quilt Patterns envelopes, 1911](#)

**Series 2: Memorabilia, 1885-1940, n.d.** includes a variety of items saved by Marie Webster to document her career as a quilt designer. This personal memorabilia includes photographs of Webster's family and quilts, correspondence with her book publisher, Doubleday, Page, & Co., and clients, newspaper clippings about quilts, clippings from *Ladies Home Journal* which feature Webster's designs, a hand-drawn flower design, and a scrapbook compiled by Webster between 1910 and 1940.

#### **Box 1**

- Folder 23: [Photographs, 1885-1988](#)
  - Folder 24: [Correspondence, 1914-1917, n.d.](#)
  - Folder 25: [Correspondence and notes on "Cotton," 1915-1928, n.d.](#)
  - Folder 26: [Correspondence and handwritten notes, 1915-1919, n.d.](#)
  - Folder 27: [Clippings relating to quilts, n.d.](#)
  - Folder 28: [Ladies Home Journal cover, January 1911](#)
  - Folder 29: [Ladies Home Journal page, "The New Patchwork Quilt by Marie D. Webster," January 1911](#)
  - Folder 30: [Ladies Home Journal page, "The new Patchwork Cushions by Marie D. Webster," August 1911](#)
  - Folder 31: [Ladies Home Journal page, "The New Flower Patchwork Quilts by Marie D. Webster," January 1912](#)
  - Folder 32: [Ladies Home Journal page, "The Baby's Patchwork Quilt," August 1912](#)
  - Folder 33: [Ladies Home Journal page, "A Rose Patchwork Bedroom," October 1915](#)
  - Folder 34: [Ladies Home Journal page, "Pink Dogwood in Appliqué for the Bedroom," September 1927](#)
  - Folder 35: [Ladies Home Journal page, "The May Tulip Quilt in Appliqué," ca. 1932](#)
  - Folder 36: [Hand-drawn flower design, n.d.](#)
  - Folder 37: [Sample of Panamanian appliqué with letter, January 21, 1916](#)
- Item 1: [Marie Webster quilting scrapbook, 1910-1940](#)