

Applique Quilt Prince's Feather Pattern — Circa 1845



Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.

often be traced through the elements of a quilt.¹⁻³ Although we don't know the particulars of this *Applique Quilt Prince's Feathers Pattern* (81 × 81 in) quilt, it likely was created

History, function, and form come together in this display of a mid-1800s favored quilt pattern. Quilt aficionados deliberate and debate on the true inspiration for this particular pattern; and as suggested by one blog, wonder if it was based on plumage from hats or on leaves from palm trees (which are doubly pinnately compound) and mirror feathers.¹ There is also a plant



for the same reasons all quilts are made: To provide warmth on a cold winter's day, infuse beauty into the home, and showcase the skilled needlework of the seamstress.

Applique Quilt Prince's Feather Pattern is located on the 15th floor of the Gonda Building on the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, Minnesota, and is sponsored by Jack E. and Leila A. Nessen.

commonly called "Prince's Feather,"² which clearly is reflected in the quilt, especially when you consider that early representations of this pattern adhered to red and green on white as the primary and sole colors used in quilts of this genre.^{1,3}

In addition to the artistry of the quilt, history, economics, tradition, and lineage can

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1. Quilt History Reports: Prince's/Princess Feather — Hat or Trees? Karen Alexander's Quilter's blog. <http://karenquilt.blogspot.com/2012/08/princessprincess-feather-hats-or-trees.html>. Accessed October 3, 2016.
2. Quilting. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quilting>. Accessed October 3, 2016.
3. Amaranthus Hypochondriacus (Prince's Feather). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaranthus_hypochondriacus. Wikipedia. Accessed October 3, 2016.