

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
BOSTON

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTS

November 9, 1960

Mr. and Mrs. Basil D. Hall  
1878 Main Road  
Westport Point, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hall:

I was asked to look at the biblical quilt you brought last week to our Textile Department, because our Print Department contains a considerable group of folk art drawings and engravings. Your quilt is fascinating and has many of the same qualities found in our folk art drawings. A friend of the Print Department, very much interested also in folk art, was with me at the time and asked me to find out if your quilt were for sale. He would like to give it to a New England museum which already owns such things and has them constantly on exhibition. Mr. Cavallo, Curator of the Textile Department, does not think you wish to sell. If, however, you would care to sell on the definite assurance that your quilt would be in the permanent collection of a New England museum, please let me know.

Faithfully yours,

*Henry P. Rossiter*

Henry P. Rossiter  
Curator

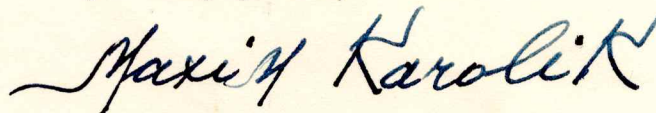
January 19, 1961

My dear Mr. Hall,

Yesterday I was at the Museum of Fine Arts and Mr. Cavallo showed me your quilted bed cover. It is charming. He didn't know what it is worth. I said to him that I am ready to pay five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for it. He advised me to write to you direct. If the above mentioned sum of five hundred dollars is acceptable to you, then I am inclined to acquire it.

By the way, it may not be the best price; but to me it is worth no more. If it is satisfactory, please let Mr. Cavallo know of your decision, as I will be away for a few weeks.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Maxim Karolik". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'K'.

Maxim Karolik

Mr. Basil D. Hall  
1878 Main Road  
Westport Point, Massachusetts

MK:ag

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS



Department of Textiles

January 24, 1961

Dear Mr. Hall,

This morning I received your kind letter of January 22, and I telephoned to Mr. Karolik immediately. He has asked me to tell you he is pleased to know that you found his offer of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) acceptable as the purchase price of the quilt. He plans to send a check to you on or soon after February 1. After the purchase has been made, and before the quilt may be presented to the Trustees as Mr. Karolik's gift, the museum Registrar will get in touch with you concerning cancellation of the Museum receipt issued to you on November 2, 1960.

We are all pleased to know that soon the quilt will become a permanent part of the Museum's collection, and I hope that my idea of publishing it as a picture book will one day be realized.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Adolph S. Cavallo*  
Adolph S. Cavallo  
Curator of Textiles

Basil D. Hall, Esq.  
93 Carlton Road  
Waban 68, Massachusetts



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS



January 31, 1961

Department of Textiles

Dear Mr. Hall,

Mr. Karolik has just given me his check, drawn to your order, in the amount of five hundred dollars, in payment of the quilted bed cover you have kindly agreed to sell to him. He has instructed me to ask you for a receipt. I enclose a sample form for your convenience if you wish to use it.

Mr. Karolik has also asked me to obtain all the pertinent information we can gather concerning the maker, design, date and history of the quilt. Notes written on the lower part of the framed document which accompanies the quilt indicate that the quilt was made by a negro woman, Mrs. Harriet Powers (born October 29, 1837) in Athens Georgia, and that it was given to Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall when he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Atlanta University, Georgia. I believe you told me that Dr. Hall was your father, and that because of certain events in his life, you believed the quilt was made, or given to him, between 1895 and 1906. Did you also tell me that Mrs. Powers worked as a servant in your father's home? If you would be good enough to confirm or correct these few notes, and add any supplementary information which might be pertinent, both Mr. Karolik and the Museum will be most grateful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Adolph S. Cavallo  
Curator of Textiles

Mr. Basil D. Hall  
1878 Main Road  
Westport Point, Massachusetts

ASC:ag  
Encl.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

1 February, 1961

Mr. Basil D. Hall  
1878 Main Road  
Westport Point, Mass.

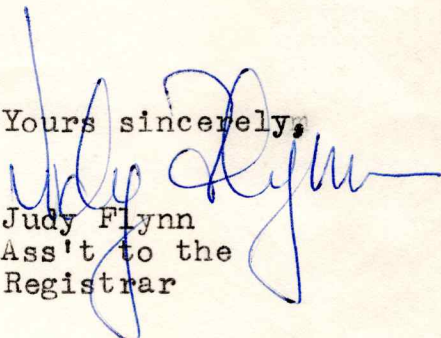
Dear Mr. Hall:

Mr. Cavallo of our Textile Department has informed me that you have sold to Mr. Maxim Karolik your American quilt and its document.

In order that we may close this transaction would you be kind enough to sign and return the enclosed receipt.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

  
Judy Flynn  
Ass't to the  
Registrar

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS



Department of Textiles

February 9, 1961

Dear Mr. Hall:

Your kind letter of February 4, with the enclosed receipt for Mr. Karolik, has arrived. The receipt and a copy of your letter are now on their way to Mr. Karolik.

Thank you very much for sending all this information concerning the history of the quilt. I know Mr. Karolik will be pleased to have it. If, as you suggest, any further pertinent information comes to light, we will be pleased to have it.

We are delighted to have the quilt here. When it is placed on exhibition, at Mr. Karolik's direction, I will let you know.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Adolph S. Cavallo*  
Adolph S. Cavallo  
Curator of Textiles

Basil D. Hall, Esq.  
93 Carlton Road  
Waban, 68, Massachusetts