Quilt Created by H. Penny Nii

BUILDING BLOCKS

Of

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ANTHOLOGY EDITED BY EDWARD FEIGENBAUM

Published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Inc.

About the Quilt

Friendship Quilts

When a young bride moved out West in search of opportunity and riches, she carried with her a friendship quilt. A friendship quilt was made up of many simple blocks made by friends and family members. Each block was signed by its maker and often contained inscriptions. The quilt served to comfort her in the often harsh and lonely land.

Thousands of friendship quilts were made between 1840 and 1875. The popularity of this type of quilt was in part due to the invention of indelible ink in 1841. Today, the surviving friendship quilts serve as an important living record. Prior to 1850 only the names of the heads of families were listed on government census records. The heads of families were usually men. The only record of a woman's existence were the family bible and a gravestone which were lost or destroyed. For some women the friendship quilts are the only remaining record to indicate that they existed. In a simple gesture of friendship the women created a medium where they would be remembered.

> "... she signed her name in friendship onto cloth and in [her] own way, cried out, *remember me.*" from <u>Remember Me</u> by Linda Otto Lipsette

The <u>Building Blocks</u> Quilt

This quilt was made to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the field of Artificial Intelligence. Though scientific work was begun somewhat earlier, the birth of the field is usually associated with the Dartmouth Conference held in the summer of 1956.

There is something incongruous about an age-old craft carried on almost exclusively by women and a high technology field dominated by men in its first thirty years. Yet, a friendship quilt is a recording device. In this case, it serves to record a community of scientists who started the science and contributed to it in its infant decades. Most of the scientists worked closely, as colleagues and students. This is one way to remember them.

The Anthology

<u>The Building Blocks of Artificial Intelligence: 1956 - 1986.</u> Edited by Edward A. Feigenbaum. To be published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc.

The anthology is a collection of articles written by the men whose signatures are recorded on the quilt. Each article was chosen by the author and serves as a token of that individual's total contribution. The collection symbolizes the cumulation of knowledge in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The collection is organized with interstitial material provided by Edward Feigenbaum.

H. Penny Nii
Stanford, California
July 1986

Signers of the Building Blocks Quilt

Saul Amarel

W. W. (Woody) Bledsoe

Daniel G. Bobrow

Ronald J. Brachman

John Seely Brown

Bruce G. Buchanan

Alan Bundy

Randall Davis

Richard O. Duda

Edward A. Feigenbaum

Richard Fikes

Kazuhiro Fuchi

Herbert Gelernter

Cordell Green

Carl Hewitt

Takeo Kanade

Robert Kowalski

Joshua Lederberg

Douglas Lenat

Hector Levesque

John McCarthy

Donald Michie

Marvin Minsky

Thomas M. Mitchell

Joel Moses

Allen Newell

Nils J. Nilsson

M. Ross Quillian

Bertram Raphael

D. Raj Reddy

Lawrence G. Roberts

Charles Rosen

Stanley J. Rosenschein

Earl D. Sacerdoti

Arthur L. Samuel

Oliver G. Selfridge

Roger Schank

J. Clifford Shaw

Edward Shortliffe

Herbert A. Simon

Mark Stefik

Gerald J. Sussman

Donald A. Waterman

Terry Winograd

Patrick H. Winston

William A. Woods