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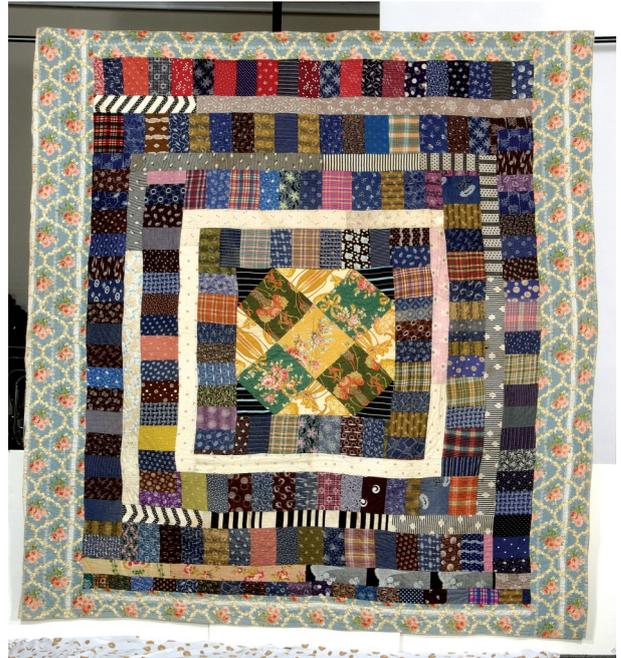
In the early 19th Century, the Industrial Revolution in Britain produced better and cheaper ways of printing and dyeing fabric, particularly cotton.

In turn, the popularity of cotton and linen made many parts of the country - especially the North West of England - key fabric manufacturers, with many people employed in its production.

Quilting and patchwork had never been more popular but as cottons became cheaper, wealthy people stopped using cotton and chose richer, brightly coloured silks and velvets instead.

You can see this fashion reflected in patchwork quilts, objects and garments made during the Victorian era (1837-1901), especially those made to decorate the 'parlour'; the Victorian Living Room.

These highly embellished and decorated objects moved away from the utility quilts of the past. People now used decorative quilts on tables, walls and everyday objects like tea cosies!


From top:

Art Nouveau cotton fabric samples quilt; Close-up of 'crazy patchwork' Jubilee quilt, 1887; Crazy patchwork and embroidered tea cosy. All courtesy of the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles.