



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 Remember Me by Linda Otto Lipsette

### The Building Blocks 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

The Building Blocks of Artificial Intelligence: 1956 - 1986. 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