

Home is Where the Pillow Is

By Nancy Mann

Today, we have orthopedic pillows, air-filled pillows, and fire-trapping pillows, which absorb smoke, rapidly. The fire department may come to your home and install fire-trapping pillows – with luck they might leave you a calendar with photos of all the firemen.

The oldest pillow in history is about 7,000 years old. It was discovered in Mesopotamia and it was more of a U-shaped stone head support. The Egyptians had granite stone pillows, like the Mesopotamians, but later used softer pillows. The Egyptians wanted to prevent bugs from crawling into their ears and noses during sleep.

The Chinese had their stone pillows, as well, and they created ceramic, brightly-painted pillows. They believed that Jade pillows increased one's IQ--the Japanese soon copied the Chinese. Many a marriage was made in Japan, when spies of the bride would investigate a groom's home and find many, high-quality pillows, including fancy buckwheat-filled pillows, in the groom's bamboo closets. This was a sign of good luck and prosperity.

If you visit a home in the United Kingdom, a pillow is used on the bed only, and all other pillows are called "cushions." Pillows in the living room are called "throw pillows." Children the world over can turn any type of pillow into a "throw-pillow!"

Students at Columbia University have a Spring Pillow Fight, bi-annually. They also use "primal scream" during the fight.

During a concert in Chicago, 3,800 pillow fighters had an energetic fight, on October 27, 2013 4,000 pillows were tossed, and no arrests were made.

American gypsies, who have no permanent homes, own many more pillows than the average American. They make beautiful, bohemian pillows for their mobile homes-called "nomadic chic," or Kantha decorations.

Throughout the world, gypsies use pillows in a scam called "nokhani boro" the great trick – the client brings money to the gypsy, who places the money in one's pillow, and sends that client home to sleep and dream on it- the gypsy doubles the money on the second visit; but on the third visit, the gypsy swaps cut-up pieces of brown paper in the pillow, instead of the greenbacks. When the client returns home and opens his pillow, as directed by the gypsy, he discovers the switch – but the gypsy has packed up her worldly goods and left town.

Recently, in England, a gypsy named Mrs. Marina, swapped the money in a client's pillow. The client was a 35-year-old postman, who lost over 350 pounds in the pillow-money swap. To deter angry customers chasing the gypsies down, the gypsies will deliver a carton of eggs to the client before the third switch – every one of the dozen eggs in the carton is filled with red blood.

If you are the foolish sort, the sort that makes visits to gypsies for fortune-telling, change this bad habit. If you can't break the habit, buy two pillows and always keep one pillow behind, at

home, to cry on...