

# FROM WOODS & FIELDS



by Connie Magoffin

Since we have recently acquired several new dye books, it is about time I discuss those available to us in the Weavers Guild library.

1. Adrosko, Rita J., Natural Dyes and Home Dyeing, Dover Publications, Inc., 1971. This book is an unabridged republication of the U.S. National Museum Bulletin 281 entitled Natural Dyes in the U.S. For anyone interested in the history of dyes in the U.S. during the 18th and 19th centuries, this is fascinating reading. It also includes recipes and a good bibliography.
2. Bolton, Eileen M., Lichens for Vegetable Dyeing, Charles T. Branford Co., 1960. This invaluable lichen handbook discusses both orchil-producing and boiling water lichens found in the U.S. and Britain. Several color illustrations show the lichens in proper scale and how they look when wet.
3. Handbook No. 46, Dye Plants and Dyeing, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1964. This handbook remains one of my favorite dye books. It has a disorganized wealth of dye technique, recipes and historical information from all over the world. (No index.)
4. Handbook No. 72, Natural Plant Dyeing, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1973. A supplement to Handbook No. 46, it contains more recipes, sections on lichens and the chemistry of dyeing, and more. (It has an index!)
5. Davidson, Mary Francis, The Dye-Pot, published by the author, 1950. A basic manual for dyeing, including sketchy recipes, but it contains my favorite recipe for an indigo vat.
6. Grae, Ida, Nature's Colors, Dyes from Plants, Macmillan Publishing Co., 1974. A new and expensive dye book that I think is worth every penny (Santa Claus brought me a copy). In addition to several recipes not found in other dye books, Ida Grae has a sensitive, relaxed, yet extremely professional approach to natural dyeing. A must on your reading list if not on your bookshelf.
7. Hale, Mason E., How to Know the Lichens, Wm. C. Brown Co. Publishers, 1969. While this book is not on dyeing, it is an absolute necessity for lichen identification.
8. Lesch, Alma, Vegetable Dyeing, Watson-Guptill Publications, 1970 (\$7.95). This book includes basic dyeing techniques and dye recipes arranged according to color. Two good charts in the back of the book condense into 9 pages the most important information on all the dye plants discussed. -new
9. Merrill, Ruth Robertson and Barbara McCabe Haight, Barbara 'N Me, on Lichening and Learning, Sherwood Press, 1975 (soon to be in our library). Another great new book on lichens. I understand Barbara is originally from Duluth. They sneak a lot of important information about each of 13 lichens in amidst the delightful narrative about their experiences collecting. And a bonus—samples of each of the lichens discussed and yarns revealing the dye colors obtained from them.
10. Robertson, Seonaid M., Dyes From Plants, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1973. A good general dye manual including chapters on a dye garden, lichens and suggested applications of natural dyes.
11. Weigle, Palmy, Ancient Dyes for Modern Weavers, Watson-Guptill Publications, 1974 (\$8.95). As the title indicates, this book discusses dye materials used in ancient times. In addition to basic natural dyeing instructions, recipes for 24 different dyestuffs are organized according to color. -new

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