

## DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE TERMS.

**Mawata:** The Japanese name for waste silk, the product of double and pierced cocoons boiled-off.

**Maxine Taffetas:** A fine woven and exquisitely soft taffetas, registered name, by permission from Maxine Elliott, the popular actress.

**Mayo or Campbell Twill:** An irregular 8 sateen derivative weave, no doubt in the first instance employed for Scotch tartans, but now largely employed in all types of fabrics.

**Mazambeck:** A thin gauze fabric, generally produced with a cotton warp and mohair filling, but distinguishable from an ordinary mohair fabric by its flimsy, gauzy texture.

**McDuff Tartan:** A Scotch tartan, better known as *The Duke of Fife*, which shows red, blue, black and green plaids, divided by red lines.

**McKenzie Tartan:** A Scotch tartan, the ground work of which is formed by blue, green and black plaids, and a red bar flanked by a white one; each side forms large squares.

**McLeod Tartan:** A Scotch tartan which consists of black, dark blue and green plaids, alternating with red and yellow bars.

**Metallic Prints:** Goods printed in metal-dust (Bronze powder).

**Mechlin Embroidery:** An old name for Mechlin lace, because its peculiar manufacture gives it somewhat the look of embroidery.

**Mechlin Lace:** Light pillow lace with the pattern outlined by a fine but very distinct thread or cord, made of three threads twisted and plaited to a perpendicular line. Real Mechlin generally has the ground pattern woven together, the latter running largely to flowers, buds, etc.

**Medallion:** A single, detached pattern.

**Medici Lace:** Special kind of torchon edging, with one edge scalloped.

**Medium Wools (Crossbred):** Fibres showing a medium number of surface markings, consequently they are demilustrous and only fair felting wools.

**Medrinack:** A coarse fibre obtained from the sago-palm.

**Meen Pow:** The Canton Chinese name for cotton cloth.

**Mekkla:** Cotton cloth made in India, used by Hindu women for petticoats, etc.

**Melange:** French for mixture effect. This is a fine mixture yarn produced from a top-printed sliver. The result is obtained by printing at regular intervals the required colors on to the top. The mixing of the fibres and colors is brought about during the drawing and spinning processes. As a rule only long fibres, such as mohair, are subjected to this method of treatment. In these yarns on many fibres two or more colors may be clearly seen under the microscope.

A fabric produced from yarn that has been either printed in the wool or dyed of different colors, and mixed together before being spun.

Fabrics woven in two or more colors in a manner to produce an irregular distribution of same.

**Mellowness and Softness:** These are the reverse properties of hardness and firmness, in connection with the finishing of cotton goods. Mellowness may

be the natural outcome of a finish in which stiffening processes have not been applied, or the result of breaking it down in stretcher, finishing frame, etc., or by wetting out with a softening agent.

**Melrose:** Double twilled silk and wool fabric. Named for Melrose, a town on the Tweed, Scotland.

**Melton:** A heavily fulled woolen fabric in which the fibres have been caused to stand straight up and then the piece cut bare to obtain the typical melton. Careful selection of the material, spinning of the yarn, the correct twist for warp and filling, together with careful weaving and finishing is necessary. Both light and heavy meltons are now made with cotton warp and woolen filling. The weaves for single cloth meltons are either the plain, the 3 or 4-harness twill. For double cloth structures, the double plain weave is used, or the plain weave for face with a 3-harness twill for the back. All trace of the weave is destroyed in the finishing.

**Meltonette:** A cloth of same general appearance as melton, of a light weight for women's wear.

**Mending:** The repairing of a fabric, such as stitching in threads and picks which have been allowed to run down during weaving. The mender must have a good eye for colors used for producing various effects and the interlacing of the threads. More exact work is required for threadbare fabrics that require little if any finishing afterwards, than in dealing with a face finish fabric, where a nap is raised on the face of the fabric and this will cover many imperfections not noticed in the finished cloth.

**Men Jies Tartan:** A Scotch tartan, having a simple blue and white plaid. The red Men Jies tartan consists simply of black and red plaids.

**Meraline:** A woolen material for women's dresses and cloaks, usually having a narrow stripe.

**Mercerizing:** The process of subjecting cotton in the form of yarn or fabric to hydrolysis by the action of caustic soda of about 60° Tw. (30% NaOH). This is the invention of *John Mercer*, a prominent calico printer in Lancashire, England, and was patented by him in 1850; however, Mercer missed to discover the proper application of the material under treatment, as practiced so extensively at the present day, and which is the invention of a firm of German dyers, who, experimenting on some half-silk and cotton goods which they desired to piece dye, found that the cotton did not take the dye with the same intensity as the silk. To help themselves over the trouble, they concluded to mercerize the fabrics, and when, to prevent the loss in the cotton by shrinkage, and which was the drawback of Mercer's invention, put it through the concentrated solution of caustic soda in a strongly stretched condition. This experiment was a perfect success. They not only found that they had achieved all they desired, but to their astonishment, also that the cotton had assumed a lustre somewhat equal to that of silk. They developed this discovery into a process to produce the silk lustre upon cotton now known as mercerized cotton, silkoline, sub-silk, silk lustre, etc., i. e.,

the process known at present as mercerizing, was then invented. When examined under the microscope, mercerized cotton appears as a cylinder without any twist. It is this cylindrical form, very probably, to which its great lustre is due.

To test mercerized cotton, proceed as follows: Prepare two solutions: (1) Five grams of potassium iodide and 0.5 grams of iodine crystals are dissolved in 16 grams of water. (2) Twenty-five grams of zinc chloride are dissolved in 12 grams of water. Mix the two solutions, allow them to settle and decant. If mercerized and non-mercerized cotton is immersed in this solution for about 3 minutes, both will be colored brown. Place them in a dish filled with distilled water and wash until the brown iodine solution has been removed, leaving a dark, blue-black color. Then place them in fresh water, and then the non-mercerized cotton will lose its color in about 5 minutes, while the mercerized cotton will retain its color for about one hour. Be careful to keep the two samples immersed while testing, since otherwise they will discolor, on account of the oxidation of the iodine.

**Merino:** This sheep was bred for wool and not mutton. The fleece of this breed of sheep is fine, strong, elastic and of good color; it also possesses a high felting power. Though naturally short, it is now grown to good length and the fleece is dense. The Merino sheep is a native of Spain, and that country was for a long period the chief country of its production. It was also in the past centuries extensively bred in England, and English wool owes much to the Merino for the improvement it has effected in the fleeces of other breeds of English sheep. It was also introduced into Saxony and was highly bred there, and Saxony soon came to surpass Spanish wool in fineness, softness and felting properties. The Merino was introduced into the United States at the beginning of the last century. By 1810, 5,000 Merino sheep had been imported and these 5,000 sheep formed the basis of most of the fine wool-producing flocks of our country to-day. The terms  $\frac{1}{2}$  blood,  $\frac{3}{4}$  blood and  $\frac{1}{4}$  blood refer to the full-blooded Merino standard. As the scale descends, the wool becomes coarser, the wool of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  blood usually being a comparatively coarse fibre. The general classifications of fine, medium, coarse and low, refer to the relative fineness of Merino combing wools. These distinctions naturally overlap according to the opinion of the parties in transactions. Picklock, XXX and XX, represent the highest grades of clothing wool, the grade next lower being X and then Nos. 1 and 2. These again are used in connection with the locality from which the wool is grown, as Ohio XX, Michigan X, New York No. 1, etc.

A term applied to hosiery or underwear of soft quality, which is properly made by using both cotton and wool mixed together, but which is sometimes made for cotton only. Also to the yarn, whether used for knitting or weaving purposes—merino yarn.

A fine French all wool ladies dress-goods, twilled on both sides, originally made of merino wool.