

warp and weft

Vol. X, No. 7

September, 1957

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A Word from the Editor

Another summer almost gone, and so the end of vacation time for the Warp and Weft staff.

Our vacation this summer ended up being an 8,000 mile trip back east to Pennsylvania, to Michigan, and to other such places as Cranbrook Academy of Art, visits to other weavers and weaving shops, and side trips to Yellowstone, the Black Hills, the Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Reno (where I hit the jackpot on a 5c slot machine), and also a visit to Colorado Springs, Denver, Salt Lake City, and many, many other points of interest.

We visited the new Gilmore Loom Shop enroute east, and the Norwood Loom Company in Baldwin, Michigan, and also two other shops that we sometimes weave things for. So, with weaving, and many relatives in Pennsylvania, and a visit to Southern Illinois University with another weaving friend, it was a busy and hectic trip. Just too bad that we had to end it.

The summer months saw us doing one other thing well worth while, and that was planning and weaving the projects for Warp and Weft for the next 6 months. Just a few yards more to go, and we'll have the fabrics planned to February, 1958.

And at last I've become acquainted with the intricacies of mixing cement, and begin-

ning the foundations for a retaining wall, and for several flower beds around our house.

There you have it, a few of the details of a hectic summer, and a most rewarding summer.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

Last Month's Cover

We have some data now about the fabric illustrated on the cover of the June *Warp and Weft* issue.

First of all, credit for the weaving goes to Edith Garland, 20 Montecito Road, San Rafael, California. We hope to tell you more about her weaving in a future article.

The warp for this particular piece was a beige ribbon, set at 7 threads to the inch. A grey, 12 cut chenille, quite dark like slate, was used for the background. The vertical portion of the cross was of gold cellophane, and the arms of the cross were of a heavy rose pink or coppery pink rayon yarn, which is normally called tow rayon.

The pattern used in the threading of the loom for this project was a two block crackle weave, and this is the story of the fabric. It was very lovely, and I remember how much I enjoyed seeing it.

This Month's Cover

This particular fabric was one of the ribbon winners at the last annual Contemporary Hand Weavers of Texas show.

It was woven by Mrs. Florence Hickman, and is made of Swiss Rayon Straw and German wooden beads, all in tones of brown. The beads are hard to see in the photograph, but be sure to look closely and you will see them, and see how much work (and I imagine pleasure) that the weaving of this fabric took.

Weavers and Weaving Shops

It is our intention, each month, to give a short article about various well-known weavers, or about different weaving supply centers and shops throughout the country. If you know of an exceptional weaver in your area, or of a good supply center where there is weaving going on, we will be more than glad to hear about them, that we might contact them and see if it will be possible for us to present an article about the individual weaver or shop in each issue.



MR. and MRS. WILLIAM NELSON
The Whistler-Nelson Weavers
of Omaha, Nebraska

We'd like to tell you this month of another weaving team, a husband and wife combination. Above is a picture of Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, who weave and sell their fabrics under the name of "THE WHISTLER-NELSON WEAVERS."

It was in the fall of 1946 that they were able to begin to satisfy a long awaited desire to weave. In 1949, they became instructors in weaving under the Adult Education Program at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. This activity continued until mid-1956, when they decided to branch out independently

with a home studio, with 12 to 15 looms available for students. The looms that are available vary from four harness table looms to eight harness floor looms.

They have specialized in hand woven woolens of all types, from the heavy woolen coating to the sheer and lacy stoles. Besides clothing fabrics, the Nelsons have another specialty — LITURGICAL LINENS. Mrs. Nelson's liturgical linens may be seen in many churches from coast to coast.

Mr. Nelson is a ladies tailor. He now incorporates the custom hand woven fabrics into the finished garment. He does all his own wool finishing, ready for the needle. His method of finishing was described in the Fall 1953 edition of *Handweaver and Craftsman*. The Nelsons have had two independent exhibits at the Joselyn Art Museum in Omaha and have exhibited some of their fabrics in other national shows.

In the picture of the Nelsons, you notice a black and white wall hanging. This is a Summer and Winter weave on a 12 harness threading.

If you're ever Omaha way, I'm sure that you would enjoy a visit with the Whistler-Nelson Weavers, 2222 South 15 Street, Omaha 8, Nebraska.

Book Review

It's always a pleasure to tell you about a book that hasn't been available for a good while, and to let you know that it is in print again.

This month, we want to let you know that Mary M. Atwater's *RECIPE BOOK* is available once again, and this time at less cost than its original publication price.

This is an exceptionally nice put-up of the *RECIPE BOOK*, and it was published by the Mary M. Atwater Weavers' Guild of Salt Lake City.

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finisher, it was only 34" wide, instead of the 38 that originally came off the loom. Also, the finishers had stretched the material 10" longer than it had been when they received it, and also, quite a nap was put on the fabric by the finishers.

I might mention that Mrs. Blum was very disappointed with the work that the finishers did, and stated that she did not intend to send any more of it to this particular company. She stated that if she were to repeat this fabric, that she would wash the material herself, and have it steamed only. You will note that because of the nap on the fabric, the pattern is very indistinct. I'm sorry that it is this way, as the original sample was much more interesting because of the pattern. Perhaps though, if you look carefully, you will be able to see the pattern. It looks something like a huck weave, but isn't a true huck in any way.

Mrs. Blum also commented on the fact that this was an excellent yarn even for the warp. It was easier and faster to weave than she had expected, because she was able to use a little tighter tension than one normally does with single ply yarns—and that this always helps greatly in maintaining an even beat. The nubs on the yarn were a little sticky at times, but not so much that they created much trouble.

Cost of the Fabric

For the entire set-up, the 12 yard warp, and all the weft, it took some five and three-fourths pounds of the 20 cut Cuthil tweed. This yarn costs \$6.00 per lb., and thus when you figure the cost, the yardage for warp and weft comes to \$3.29 *per yard*. It comes on tubes of 20 to 22 oz.

THE WOOL BUREAU, AND HOW IT CAN SERVE AND HELP YOU

How many of you know of the Wool Bureau, and of its many varied activities? Not many I'll bet, and yet, it is an organization

Yarns Used in the Sample

The yarns used in this sample are available from Mrs. Grace Blum, the Hand Weaver's Work Basket., Box 691, R.R.I, West Chicago, Illinois. We want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Blum for furnishing the yarns and also doing the actual weaving.

that has been formed to help the consumer, the manufacturer, the retailer, and to help especially educators and students alike.

The activities of the wool bureau are many and varied. It is a non-profit organization, and their staff consists of a group of specialists, with experience in all phases of the textile industry — manufacturing, research, marketing, advertising, publicity, promotion, and administration.

The manufacturer is served through the broad research, through statistical and merchandising programs.

You the consumer benefit through the development of new and better wool products, through research for new products and uses of wool, through advice on how to buy better wool products, and how to care for wool.

Much home sewing information is available, as well as films and brochures on educational materials planned to increase the consumer's knowledge of wool.

There are planned programs to help benefit the retailer and the educators and students also, too numerous to go into complete details here.

There are many materials and services available from the wool bureau. There are booklets, brochures, handbooks, films, and training aids for all. A catalogue with all this listing is available and is called "KNOW YOUR WOOL FACTS. It is free if you care

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THE WOOL BUREAU—Cont'd.

to have one by writing to the address given below.

There are also display pieces for stores, for institutional or group meetings, such as your weavers guild, etc.

Many guilds or study groups could develop exceptionally interesting programs by having the entire program devoted to wool, and the many by-products of the wool industry. The Wool Bureau is an exceptionally good place for source material for such a program.

Why don't you become acquainted with the Wool Bureau and get more information by writing to:

THE WOOL BUREAU
16 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

BOOK REVIEW—Cont'd.

This is actually a project book in a sense, as the individual pages are devoted to specific projects.

There are sections of the book devoted to Coverlets, Rugs, Drapery and Upholstery, Fabrics for Clothing, Table Pieces, Toweling, Bags and Blankets, and then there is also a Miscellaneous grouping with different articles featured. Each project gives most of the details you need to work on it, such as the kind of thread used, tie-up, treadling, and threading drafts, and in many cases, directions for the making of the project. There are a series of miniature drafts, examples of different Finn-Weaves, and many, many unusual and different fabrics.

Most of the projects are for four or eight harnesses, but there are some for 10 and 12 harnesses also.

Mary Atwater considered this book her most useful contribution to the art of weaving. It has been in print in looseleaf form, and always in demand. It has this time been re-issued as a memorial, and I'm sure that it would have delighted her. She did most

of the revision and work just before her death in 1946.

Title: THE RECIPE BOOK.

Author: Mary Meigs Atwater.

Published by: Mary M. Atwater Weavers' Guild.

Price: \$8.00 plus postage.

Available: Wheelwright Lithographing Co.

975 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah, or
from Robin & Russ Handweavers

A Second Book Review

For those who are interested in home sewing, and who are interested in working with the fabrics that they have woven, we think that you might benefit from a new book just recently out. It is called "CLOTHING FOR MODERNS," and is a newly revised edition, and was written by Mabel D. Erwin.

It should be of particular interest to those who weave and plan on making their own clothing.

There are chapters devoted to the use of the Sewing Machine, to restyling and remaking garments, to designing your own patterns, to decoration in dress.

Of all the trades, I imagine that dress-making and tailoring is one that has many so-called "tricks of the trade." It looks as though this book might be of that type, with chapters devoted to construction details, fitting of fabrics, collars and neck finishes, sleeves, the waistline, hems, plackets, fastenings, pockets, pressing and finishing of wearing apparel.

There are sections devoted to such problems as building up your own wardrobe, buying ready-mades and accessories, how to use patterns and how to organize your work.

Title: CLOTHING FOR MODERNS

Author: MABEL D. ERWIN

Publisher: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

Price: \$5.90 plus postage

Available: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

60 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 11, NEW YORK
or from ROBIN & RUSS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A new classified advertising section will be tried out in Warp and Weft for a few months, to see if there is any interest or response. Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$4.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

SYLMER, new water, spot and stain resistant finish will keep your handwovens new looking longer with less care. 75c yd. Write to: Countryside Handweavers, Helen & Earle Slason, 5605 West 61st St., Mission, Kansas.

A **NEW CATALOGUE**, of books and accessories available from Robin and Russ Handweavers. **FREE**, for the asking. **ROBIN AND RUSS**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

HEDDLE BAR HOOKS. The new spring type, so easy to use, to fasten and unfasten your heddle bars to move heddles back and forth. just 25c each. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

HANDWOVEN NECKTIES, available in many different stripes or plaids. About 50 different combinations available. Just \$2.00 each. Wholesale, quantity prices upon request. Choose a tie for your husband's or son's next birthday. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

NETTING NEEDLES, or Netting Shuttles for pick-up work of all types. Of pliable plastic, in 4 sizes, small, narrow, medium narrow, medium wide, and long wide. You can wind the yarn for inlay on this shuttle. 60c each plus 4c postage, or 4 for \$2.25, parcel post prepaid. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

DYES, DYES, DYES. An unusually good quality line of dyes in 90 different colors. One package dyes, one pound. Color cards of the 90 colors are 35c each, and the dyes are 15c per package or in quantities of 7 packages, 7 for \$1.00, parcel post prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

BINDERS, for Warp and Weft. Will hold from two to three years' issues, and it is easy to add your latest copies because of the binder construction. \$2.75, parcel post prepaid. **WARP AND WEFT**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

LOOM ANCHORS, a special felt pad, with a pressure adhesive on both sides. Will hold your loom in one place—no skidding or creeping—without use of screws, bolts or fastenings. \$2.00 per set of 4, parcel post prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

A **HEAVY BLEACHED WHITE RAYON**, with just 1,000 yards per lb. Sufortified white, on spools, slubby in texture, with an 8 ply. Just \$2.40 per lb. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

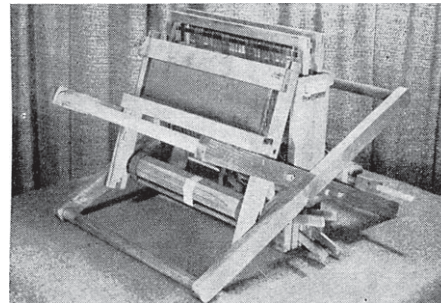
SILK TWEEDS, 18 colors now in stock. 11,000 yards per lb. on cones. Use singly, doubled, or tripled. \$8.00 lb. Free sample sheet upon request. Robin and Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

SLUB RAYON, 2 ply, about 2,500 yards per lb., on spools of about 1 lb. 4 oz. each. Looks very much like some of our silks when woven. Good for weft in skirts, blouses, etc. \$2.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California

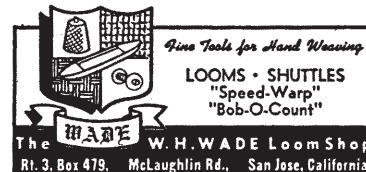
THE SCOTTISH CLANS AND THEIR TARTANS, an imported book with 96 of the tartans pictured in color. A small, pocket sized edition, with a history of each of the tartans. \$1.50 plus 18c parcel post, and insurance. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

MANUAL OF SWEDISH HANDWEAVING, by Ulla Syrus. Just recently printed in English. Many Swedish techniques explained. Price is \$5.95 plus 17 cents postage. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

THE "CRUSADER"
14" and 20" Table Model Looms
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Constructed of Maple, compact, designed for strength, light weight and portability. Jack type, 6 in. weaving space, harness lock and release automatically. Wire staple sections on 1 in. warp beam. Firm, heavy removable beater or change reeds. Choice of 10- or 15-dent, 400 steel heddles on 14 in., 600 on the 20 in. Shed will take a standard throw shuttle.
CRUSADER—14", \$42.50 shipping weight, 30 lbs.
CRUSADER—20", \$67.50 shipping weight, 40 lbs.



The Weaver's Marketplace

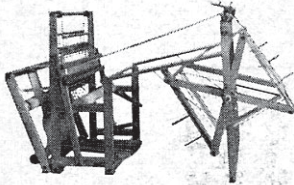
SPECIAL SCOTCH CUTHILL TWEED (Spun in oil)

26 cut, 5,200 yds per lb.— \$6.00 lb.
 20 cut, 4,000 yards per lb.— \$6.00 lb.
 A good set — 24 to 27 threads per inch
 On tubes of about 20 to 22 ounces each

For free samples send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

THE HAND WEAVER'S WORK BASKET
 Box 691, Rural Route 1, West Chicago, Illinois

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You can put a warp on your loom without touching it, with this half-automatic warping mill. All warp ends the same length and parallel to one another.

For further information write to:

NILUS LECLERC, Inc., W. W. L'Isletville
 Quebec, Canada

LOOMS - ACCESSORIES - YARNS



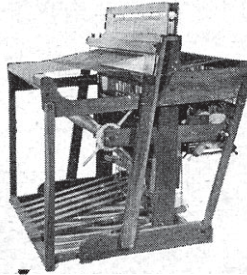
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 P. O. Box 272 — Baldwin, Michigan

warp and weft

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