

warp and weft

Vol. XIV, No. 5

May, 1961

warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August)
by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa
Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Subscription: \$3.00 per year.

Back Issues: 30c each, plus 3c postage.

Editor: Russell E. Groff, 632 Santa Barbara St.,
Santa Barbara, California.

Assistant Editors: Robin Groff and Frederick
Brown.

Vol. XIV, No. 5

May, 1961

A Word from the Editor

Another busy month has gone by and another summer is approaching, but the weaving continues regardless,

We are making a beautiful authentic tartan for our sample for next month of an extra fine and extra soft and beautiful quality worsted yarn. The tartan we are using is not too common, and one that we hope will please you when you see the sample next month.

This coming week-end, Robin and I will journey to Oakland, California where we will handle two booths at the Northern California Handweavers Conference. Robin will help out in the Lily Mills booth, and of course I will have our Robin and Russ Handweavers booth. This is always an exciting show, and we hope that we will have both pictures and a verbal report for you later.

The annual fashion show and exhibition of the Southern California Handweavers Guild was a very pleasing one to me. The exhibition was held in one of the early California homes of about 1900 to 1920, and the home was completely furnished, and so I thought an ideal place for an exhibition. There is a

Page 2

large stage and auditorium in conjunction with this home, and so the fashion show was also very inspiring and well done. If you ever have a chance to do so, you will find it worth-while to try and visit this annual exhibition and fashion show of the Southern California Handweavers Guild.

There were many interesting pieces, and from these, we have at least one future Warp and Weft project planned, and perhaps two or three others that will mature eventually. Also it is always a pleasure to make new acquaintances and renew old friendships as you so often do at such meetings, and so I probably enjoyed it more than most do.

Summer vacation is around the corner, and we will take ours in two- one week doses. Our first week will be a bicycle trip with Janice, Robin and I riding our bicycles from San Francisco to Santa Barbara, a distance of about 400 miles. We hope to do this in about 9 days, and as it has been about 3 years now since our last bicycle trip, it will be interesting to see how we hold out. We have no fears at all of Janice, as she is only 8, and is as strong as a horse. It is Robin and I who will have to get in shape for this trip. The second week will be in August, and will be a trip to Washington and Oregon and a visit to several national parks and monuments.

Well, back to realism and to weaving.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

Exchange Exhibitions Wanted

A new weavers guild of Tryon, North Carolina would like to contact any guild that might like to exchange exhibits with them. For further information write to: Mrs. Smith F. Weiser, Box 776, Tyron, North Carolina.

Book Review

The book review this month is for a new book just available titled, "LACE AND LACEY WEAVES" by Mary E. Snyder.

This is actually, a very interesting collection of 47 Lace and Lacey Weave Projects with complete worksheets on each of these 47 weaves.

About 1/2 of these projects are for the 4 harness loom, and the others are for 6, 7, 8, and 10 harness looms.

This to me, is an extremely interesting study of this type of weave, and should be of particular interest to the multiple harness weaver. It actually just begins to touch the surface of this type of weaves, and is a great stimulus for study groups, for guilds who want to experiment with one type of weave.

The threading, tie-up, and treadling is given for each of these 47 projects, plus recommendations as to the sizes of threads to use for both warp and weft.

TITLE: LACE AND LACEY WEAVES.

ARRANGED BY: Mary E. Snyder.

PRICE: \$3.50 plus 9c postage.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ.

Card-Weaving Exhibit Available

Robin & Russ Handweavers have mounted in two notebooks, samples of all 53 patterns in their Card-Weaving Book, and will be glad to exchange this exhibit with any other guilds, in exchange for their traveling exhibitions. This exhibit is mounted in two leather notebooks, with the samples and directions for each of the 53 patterns given. Interested guilds are to contact Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

This Month's Cover

The cover this month shows a series of hand-bags woven by Mrs. Wm. L. Van Allen of Bend, Oregon.

These were woven on a fairly large over-shot pattern (4 harnesses) and with a change in the tie-up and in the treadling some of

these bags were woven in a honeycomb weave on the same threading draft. I'm sorry that we haven't this cover in color, as I'm sure that these are very bright, gay, and colorful.

A History of Spinning

During the next 3 or 4 issues of Warp and Weft, we will present a series of articles on the History of Spinning, and bring it up to date and include some of the latest developments in this particular field. Most of the source for the information for these articles will be from the new "Encyclopedia of Textiles" recently published by American Fabrics Magazine.

The History of Spinning

Spinning is much older than recorded history. It parallels the development of man as a social creature who organized into groups for protection and self-preservation.

The first spinning was probably done by accident, and then when it was discovered that a stronger material or fiber resulted, it was deliberately done.

As man progressed, so did the art of spinning. Implements were invented to make this work easier, and among the first of these implements were the spindle and also the companion tool to the spindle, the distaff.

The distaff is the stick to which the loose mass of fibers is tied. The spindle is a short stick, about a foot long which is pointed at one end and notched at the other.

The spinner attached the fibers to the spindle notch and allowed the weight of the spindle with a whorl on top of it, to pull the fibers down when she (the spinner) let it hang from her hand. She would then whirl the spindle, and gradually pull out the fibers from the distaff and then she would form

(Continued on Page 6)

GREY ROSE

A very nice textured material for use as bed-spreads, or for decorative purposes such as pillows, covers for waste baskets book covers, and other such uses.

THREADING DRAFT:

4			X	X	X	
3			X	X		
2	X	X				
1	X	X	X			

WARP USED:

The warp used is a 10/2 cotton with a tight twist in a dark brown. It has 4,200 yards per lb.

WEFT USED:

Two threads are used in the weft. One is the shiny, glossy 6/3 rayon in a deep rose pink. The other is a 6 cut cotton chenille in a light grey. The rayon has approximately 1,300 yards per lb., and the 6 cut light grey chenille has approximately 440 yards per lb.

REED USED:

An 8 dent reed is used and it is sleyed 5 threads per dent in every other dent of the reed, making a total of 20 threads per inch.

TREADLING:

Treadle # 6—6/3 rose pink rayon

Treadle # 2—grey chenille

Treadle # 6—6/3 rose pink rayon

Treadle # 5—6/3 rose pink rayon

Treadle # 2—grey chenille

Treadle # 5—6/3 rose pink rayon

End of one pattern, Repeat over and over.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	O	O	X	X	X	O
3	O	X	X	O	O	X
2	X	X	O	O	X	O
1	X	O	O	X	O	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

X's above—tie-up for Counter-balanced

O's above—tie-up for Jack-type.

SAMPLE:

Sample on next page.

ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

This sample was inspired by some experimental work done by a weaving acquaintance, Mrs. Julius A. Kayser of Beverly Hills, California.

Of course most of you recognize the threading draft as what is normally called a Double Huck weave, with 5 threads in each of the two huck units.

Mrs. Kayser was one of the students in the Color Theory Course which 10 of us worked in last year and the year before, and her sample is also almost identical to ours with just a little difference. She reminded me of one of the lessons in our color theory course



of combining shiny threads and dull threads, and textured threads with smooth threads, and as you can see, the sample is exactly that.

Actually, the threading draft and the treadling are taken from Evelyn Neher's book, "FOUR HARNESS HUCK." However, it was the combination of materials used by Mrs. Kayser that so attracted us to the sample.

Mrs. Kayser made a sample using 5 different shades of green in the warp, and using 6/3 rayon and chenille in the weft. She eventually used a 6/3 rayon and another thread of cotton with a gold twist together as one thread, and the other of course was the chenille.

You could use a 10 dent reed with the fabric also, but you will find that if you can spread the warp just a little more, the rayon floss tends to form a zig-zag effect in the weft, and it is one of the methods of using a huck threading to get a very interesting effect in your weave, a little different than the ordinary.

In our sample we used the double huck unit, but you could make this fabric much more interesting by using a single huck unit, a double huck unit and a triple huck unit, and also by using one, two or three different weights and — or — colors in the warp for more interest.

I have always felt that the huck weaves are one of the most interesting classes of weaves, and perhaps one of the most overlooked. Of course, most people associate huck with table linens, towels, etc., and actually it has a tremendous range of possibilities, and you will probably see some of these explored in future samples of Warp and Weft.

The cotton chenille is an exciting thread to weave with also, and it comes in the 6 cut and also in the 3 cut size. The 6 cut has about 440 yards per lb., and the 3 cut has

about 220 yards per lb. There are 16 colors plus natural and bleached white available in these two sizes. It is one of the most expensive of cottons available, but one of the more exciting. The 6 cut chenille is \$3.80 per pound and the 3 cut is \$3.60 per lb.

COST OF THE SAMPLE:

The 10/2 cotton in the dark brown comes on 1 lb. cones, and it is \$3.20 per lb.

The 6/3 rayon comes on spools of about 1 to 1½ lbs. each, and on these large spools it is \$4.00 per lb., or if you desire a lesser amount, it is rewound by us onto smaller cardboard spools of 4 oz. each, and this is \$1.25 per 4 oz. spool.

It took 4 lbs. of the 10/2 cotton for a 20 yard warp, 40 inches wide, 20 threads per inch, so the warp cost per yard is 64c.

The weft cost is the most expensive, as 1 lb. of the 6 cut chenille is enough for about 2 yards of the fabric and it takes about one lb. of the 6/3 rayon for 4 yards of weft. Thus the weft comes to approximately \$2.90 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD.....	\$0.64
WEFT COST PER YARD.....	2.90
FABRIC COST PER YARD.....	\$3.54

USES OF THIS MATERIAL:

I think that this material would make an excellent bed-spread, good material for covering lamp-shades, waste-baskets, for covering pillows, magazine stands or racks, etc. It would work well as covering for note-books and many other uses too numerous to mention.

THE HISTORY OF SPINNING—Cont'd.

these fibers into a thread with her fingers. While she is doing this, the spindle is turning and twisting these threads into a tight strand. When the spindle nears the ground, the spinner picks it up, winds the finished thread on the bottom of the spindle, catches the thread in the notch again, and then repeats this entire process.

Many countries and peoples even today use this same method of spinning, and you will find it in common usage with the Indians of the U.S., with natives of India and Tibet, and other isolated areas of the world.

The first history of man is commonly associated with the Swiss Lake Dwellings and among their remains are found spindles, clay whorls, and even thread which has been spun in this method. Ancient Egyptians recorded scenes of spinning in some of their drawings which are well over 6,000 years old. The Bible and many other ancient writings refer to the spindle and the distaff many times.

The results of hand spinning with the spindle and distaff are not always crude. Some of these were so beautifully spun and have refinements which even the most complicated spinning machines of today have not equalled. Some of the ancient muslins of India were made of thread so fine that one pound of raw cotton produced a yarn 253 miles long. The cloth woven of this thread was so fine that when it was spread over grass, it was invisible, because it was difficult to distinguish from the dew.

The spindle and the distaff were the only methods known to make thread for many centuries. The spinners of India were the first to introduce the mechanical improvement of the spinning wheel, but it was not until the 14th century that this became known in Europe. The next development was the Saxony Wheel with its foot-operated

treadle which was invented in Nuremberg in 1533. This incorporated the use of a flyer, originally invented by Leonardo da Vinci about 1519.

This "flyer" is shaped something like a wishbone. Because of this flyer, it was then possible to twist the yarn before winding it on the bobbin, and to distribute it evenly the whole length of the bobbin.

The Spinning Wheel and How it Works

The Saxony Wheel is often associated with the Colonial period in American History. It is still used throughout the world where handicrafts prevail. It is basically, a method of turning the spindle and twisting and winding the threads by mechanical means. Instead of being suspended as in the primitive method of spinning, the spindle is held horizontally in a frame within the U-shape of the flyer. The distaff that holds the fiber is rigid and in an upright position. Then, you feed the fiber by hand from the distaff to the spindle, through the flyer, and finally onto a bobbin on which it is wound.

The spindle and bobbin are connected to the big spinning wheel by separate bands so that they revolve at different speeds, the spindle slightly faster than the bobbin. This makes it possible to twist and wind the yarn at the same time. The big wheel is of course, operated by a foot treadle.

(Continued Next Month)

STOCK REDUCTION SALE of WEAVING THREADS

Cotton and Rayon — Smooth — Nubs
Boucles — Colors

RANGE EXCELLENT—Priced 5 lb. Lots
Only \$1.35 lb.

Cash with Order

Postage and mailing extra — Michigan Residents to add 4% sales tax. Will sample in your color request only.

HARTLAND AREA CRAFTS
P.O. Box 53 Hartland, Michigan

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A 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.

SWANSONS LODGE, Troy, Montana. A delightful mountain vacation resort offers **WEAVING** during July and August. Mrs. Dorothy Rock, Portland, Oregon, Instructor.

THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET now stocks a complete and full range of Bernat colors in both the Fabri and Afghan yarns. Sample color cards, thirty cents, upon receipt of request. Grace D. Blum, **THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET**, Box 691, R. R. 1, West Chiacago, Illinois.

BLACK MOHAIR LOOP YARN in a large loop yarn is available again. About 800 yards per lb. Available in 4 oz. spools. Excellent for knitting bulky sweaters and coats as well as for use in weaving. \$3.20 per lb., or 80c per 4 oz. spool. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

NATURAL MOHAIR BOUCLE YARN. Fairly large and heavy, with about 1,000 yards per lb. Available on 1/2 lb. spools. Good for knitting or weaving. \$3.20 per lb., or \$1.60 per 1/2 lb. spool. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

BLEACHED WHITE WOOL BOUCLE. This is the same beautiful quality wool boucle that we had several months ago, and we have purchased 50 more lbs. of it. Good for knitting or weaving, with about 1,700 yards per lb. On cones varying from 1/2 bl. to 1 1/2 lbs. each. \$3.20 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

OATMEAL COLORED HEAVY RAW SILK. This silk has about 1,600 yards per lb., and is what many of the expensive women's coats you see today are made of. A very nice texture. Free sample upon request. Available on 4 oz. spools. \$4.00 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

RAW SILK IN A MEDIUM WEIGHT. This is a natural, scoured raw silk with 3,200 yards per lb. It has been washed and all of the gum has been removed. Very nice quality. Available on 4 oz. spools. \$4.00 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

BAMBOO RINGS FOR BAG HANDLES. These are 6" diameter rings, and seem to be quite popular. \$1.15 per pair, or 60c each if just one is desired. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SPIRAL TWIST, RAYON AND METALLIC boucles. 100 lbs. just received in various interesting colors. The white with silver has been the most popular. 10 different colors available. Free samples upon request. \$2.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

METAL, GATE TOP BAG HANDLES. There are in non-tarnishable gold and silver and are beautifully made. Imported from Germany, these are a much better quality than the plastic ones we had which sold for \$3.00 each. These new metal ones are just \$3.50, and well worth it. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SHUTTLE PINS for coat lapels. Beautifully made miniature shuttle lapel pins with clasp. Made of Italian Pear or Ebony. Special prices for Guild. Quantity Orders. Individual pins are \$2.00 each, postage prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

CARDBOARD SPOOLS, with end caps. For use in sectional warping or storage of small lots of extra threads. Large capacity on each spool. Size is 2 1/2 x 3 1/4 inch, with end caps. \$1.00 per dozen. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

WOODEN SLATS: For weaving place-mats and lampshades. Available in black walnut and madrone wood. 1/4" wide and either 14 1/2 or 20 1/2 inches long. (Madrone is reddish wood like Manzanita). In bundles of 100 slats. 14 1/2"—100 for \$1.00; 20 1/2"—100 for \$1.35. A limited amount of both available. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

CARD-WEAVING: Our new book on card-weaving is available for immediate shipment. \$3.50 postage prepaid. Contains 53 patterns and complete illustrations of all patterns and step by step procedures in Card-Weaving. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

COMMERCIALLY WOVEN, Ramie dish-towels imported from Switzerland. We have been so pleased with our own towels of this kind that we have been using for two years and find in almost perfect condition, so we imported some to see if anyone else might like some. They are \$1.25 each, postage prepaid, and there are 4 different kinds available. They are equipped with hangers on each end and are available in red and white or blue and white. Four styles altogether. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

WARP AND WEFT BINDERS: Made for us by the printers of Warp and Weft. One binder will hold about 2 to 3 years. \$2.50 each. Held together with Chicago Screws, gold leaf lettering. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Weaver's Marketplace

NEW!!!

Functional Overshot by Grace D. Blum
A basic source for modern designs.
Contains concise directions for weaving almost any overshot threading, in 24 different methods and 32 woven swatches.

\$16.50 per copy

Mailed prepaid when
check accompanies order.

HAND WEAVERS' WORK BASKET
Box 691, R.R. 1 West Chicago, Illinois

HANDWEAVING

YARNS and SUPPLIES

A wide variety of distinctive yarns, developed especially for handweaving is available for prompt shipment in quantities to suit your needs.

WRITE TODAY FOR FREE CATALOGUE
AND FREE PRICE LIST.

The Handweaver's Headquarters

LILY MILLS COMPANY
Dept. HWWW Shelby, N. C.

A Complete Line
YARNS LOOMS
AND WEAVING SUPPLIES

GOLDEN RULE PRODUCTS

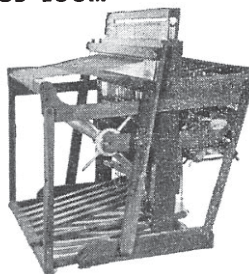
Write for a catalogue and list of agents

HUGHES FAWCETT, INC.

P. O. Box 276 Dunellen, New Jersey

THE NORWOOD LOOM

1. Custom built, of Cherry.
2. 22", 30", 40", 50".
3. Rising Shed—Sectional beam.
4. Multiple harnesses and special looms to order.
5. Adapted to handicapped by special prescription.
6. Folding models only.



THE NORWOOD LOOM CO.
P. O. Box 272 — Baldwin, Michigan

warp and weft

632 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, California
Return Postage Guaranteed

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 440
Santa Barbara, Calif.