

# W a r p a n d w e f t

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1966

## warp and weft

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by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North  
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Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff.

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*Vol. XIX, No. 4*

*April, 1966*

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### A Word from the Editor:

Busy! Busy! Busy! Yes, that's the word for this month at the studio of Robin and Russ Handweavers.

We have just purchased some 1,000 lbs. of different kinds and sizes of silks, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of them have arrived and been put away, and the others are yet to come. Among them are two very rich and beautiful tussah silks; one in a 3 ply bleached white slub, and the other in a 2 ply natural colored smooth tussah silk.

Two other silks are of a roving type, having a loose twist, and one of these is natural white and the natural tussah color combined to make it a beautiful yarn.

Now, we are working on some sample sheets to advertise these different yarns, but we must wait for the others to come in before we can complete these.

Also, your editor is now preparing for the first weaving conference of the year, at Bakersfield, California, and will leave to attend this conference, and to be one of the jury at this conference. There will also be a display of all kinds and types of weaving supplies and accessories at this conference from the shop of Robin and Russ.

Yes, that flu that is so prevalent on the west coast made it's visit, and this time all three of us have been waylaid by this virus. As a result, work suffers, and is behind schedule — as usual — .

Your editor made an interesting trip to Spokane, Washington where he met with the members of the INLAND EMPIRE HANDWEAVERS GUILD. The purpose of the visit was to

answer any questions they had about the Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference, as this weavers guild will sponsor this conference in Spokane, Washington at the Davenport Hotel in May of 1967. We hope that any of you from out of state who have a chance will come to this conference in 1967. With this guild sponsoring it, I'm sure that it will be well done.

Spring is just around the corner here in the Pacific Northwest. The Azaleas are now in full bud and will break out any day, and many of the fruit trees are budding, the Crocus are out in their full glory, and many of the yellow daffodils are out to enliven the out of doors.

The grass around the shop needs cutting, so you know that spring is here.

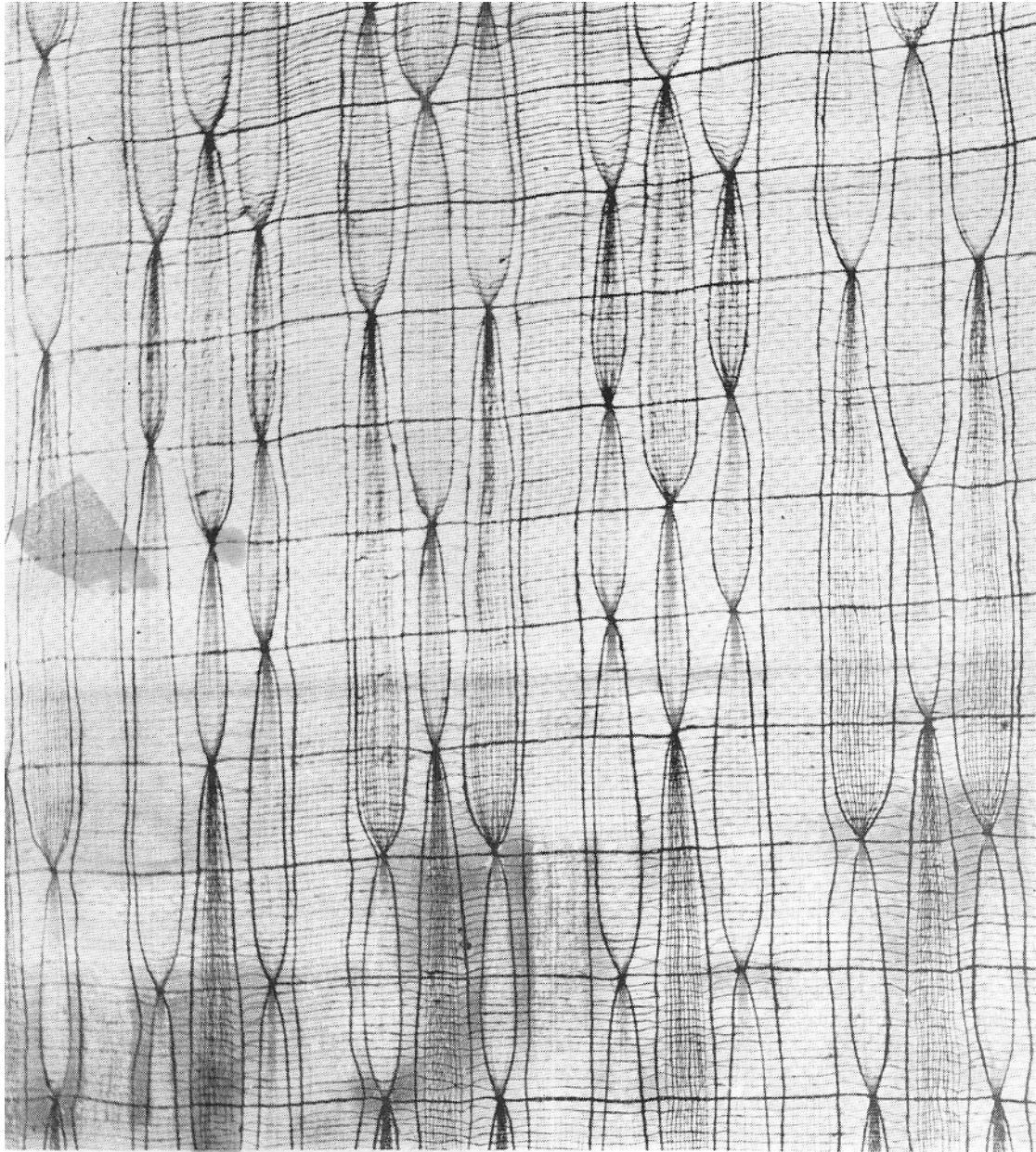
We have hired a Linfield College student on a part time basis to help us here in our shop in getting out sample sheets, our orders, and helping us keep the shop neat and clean. This student is one of the best workers we have ever had help us out, and it certainly is a pleasure to make the acquaintance of Miss Anita Williams, and to have a closer relationship with the local college students.

We might mention that we have enjoyed tremendously the exploits of the Linfield College basketball team who had a wonderful year with a record of 23 wins and 6 losses. They won the conference championship and the district playoff, and had the opportunity of going to Kansas City to play in the NAIA National Championships. Robin and I had the pleasure of seeing about 12 of these games, and really did enjoy them.

Janice is in her full swing of 8th grade school activities, and next week will have a spring vacation and will work at the shop, and also work on her Science fair project. Her subject is RAMIE, and she has some plants growing of this, and also will set up a loom and weave some samples, using Ramie for warp and weft. This will be her own work, and she will do all of the planning and the loom set-up and weaving herself.

Well, time to sign off, and tell you a little more about this month's sample.

Russell E. Groff, Editor



A VERY STRIKING, SHEER, ROOM DIVIDER. This was one of the pieces which was displayed at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in Fresno, California in 1965. I was very impressed by this piece. This picture was taken in the daytime when this divider was hanging in front of a window with bright sunlight coming through. What was particularly impressive was the way this changed and how much different it appeared on that same window at night against a black or dark background. This is actually a simple project in that the warp threads used to set off the areas or divisions created by the pick-up lace were very dark thread, and the threads inside each of these dark threads were very light or natural. All of the threads were set very widely apart. This piece must have been a lot of fun to weave.

## MOHAIR PLUS

A beautiful material for sport coats, over coats, suits, etc. made of mohair plus a wool tweed homespun type yarn.

### WARP:

The warp is a 1¼ run Wool Tweed in a dark avocado green with flecks of yellow, green and black.

### WEFT:

Two threads are used in the weft. One of these was a brushed mohair and orlon combination yarn with 900 yards per lb. The second yarn used is the same wool tweed as was used in the warp.

### REED USED:

An 8 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed with 2 ends per dent, or 16 threads per inch.

### THREADING DRAFT:

4	x		x		x	
3	x		x			x
2		x		x		x
1		x			x	

### MORE ABOUT THE THREADING DRAFT:

The threading draft above is a broken twill weave called a DORNIC TWILL. In most twills or point twills you have a turning point where normally 3 threads will float at one of the turning points in the weaving. However, this is not true in a DORNIC TWILL, as you cut down the number of float threads, so thus, it can be assumed that it is a more satisfactory weave for durability purposes. This weave has sometimes been called a Broken Herringbone weave, and the word Dornic has also been spelled Dornick and Dornock.

### TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

X--tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.

○--tie-up for Jack-type looms.

## TREADLING SEQUENCE

1. Treadle No. 1 – grey brushed mohair
2. Treadle No. 2 – avocado wool tweed
3. Treadle No. 3 – grey brushed mohair
4. Treadle No. 4 – avocado wool tweed
5. Treadle No. 1 – grey brushed mohair
6. Treadle No. 2 – avocado wool tweed
7. Treadle No. 4 – grey brushed mohair
8. Treadle No. 3 – avocado wool tweed
9. Treadle No. 2 – grey brushed mohair
10. Treadle No. 1 – avocado wool tweed
11. Treadle No. 4 – grey brushed mohair
12. Treadle No. 3 – avocado wool tweed.

END OF ONE PATTERN REPEAT. REPEAT OVER AND OVER AS DESIRED.

This treadling sequence can also be called "Treadled as drawn in," as you use exactly the same sequence in the treadling that you have in the threading draft.

### SAMPLE:



### MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

First of all, let me say that this is the DORNIC TWILL threading draft that we used in the sample in the February, 1966 issue. I used this deliberately, as I felt it would be more practical for sport coat material and overcoat material and suiting, because of the short two thread floats.

This fabric is quite easy to weave, but might present some problems to the inexperienced weaver. This would be particularly true in the set-up using the thread we did for warp.



This wool tweed homespun type yarn has a good twist so that it can be used for a warp thread. However, because of this twist, if you do a chain warp, you should keep the thread under tension all the time, or the thread is liable to want to twist back on itself. THIS IS A WARNING, AND MIGHT BE A PROBLEM TO THE WEAVERS DOING CHAIN WARPING.

I might mention that we put 14 yards of this on the loom using a sectional warp beam, and this tight twist did not present any problem whatsoever.

In the weft, every once in a while, you want to be careful and watch for this same tendency to twist if you let a loop of your weft thread hang at the edge when weaving. This really was not a problem but I wanted to mention that it could be with some weavers.

Also, I used a medium light double beat, beating with the shed open, changing to the next shed, and then beating again lightly to help clear the shed.

One more thing that helped in the weaving was the fact that we had an 8 thread selvage of 20/2 ramie on each selvage edge.

I wound eight ends of ramie all on a spool of thread about 1/2 lb. in weight, and let this hang down over the back beam. I did not wind these 8 threads on the warp beam along with the wool tweed warp, as you know that the wool will stretch and the ramie will not. However, with the strength of the ramie, and with the 1/2 lb. weight hanging down from the back, we always had an even tension on the two selvage edges of the fabric.

The tweed yarn that we have used in this sample is quite beautiful, and actually the beauty of the color and texture in this thread is overshadowed by the texture of the brushed mohair and orlon yarn. I hope that on the last four yards still on the loom, that I can experiment with some other yarns, and make an entirely different appearing fabric.

I do not think that this tweed yarn used for warp has much oil in it, but I feel that you should either send this yardage out and have it processed by a regular processing company, or you should wash it and press it yourself.

I would suggest washing in lukewarm water

in a bathtub. Rinse thoroughly two or three times. Also in the initial washing, use a little ivory snow or lux. Then allow to drip dry, and then steam press with a medium hot iron. These modern steam irons are just wonderful for this purpose.

This sample here is actually not washed or processed, but before you do use it for a coat or suit or overcoat, you should process it in this manner.

I still have not finished this fabric, but have about 7 to 8 yards finished on the loom. However, in this entire length, I have had only two broken threads in the warp, and this was where there were knots in the warp thread. I glued these ends together with SPEE-DEE CEMENT, and then continued weaving, and when I look for where these ends were glued, it is impossible to find it. The spee-dee cement dried clear, and will be very strong and durable.

I also think that there are many other effects that you could achieve on this warp, and using the brushed mohair. In one of my samples, I alternated it with a delft blue tweed wool yarn with white flecks, and this sample also was very striking.

Another one that was also very effective was alternating it with a raspberry red wool tweed yarn. I wove 12 different samples in my original sample, and I'm sure that others would like some of those that I myself did not care for. In other words, I think that this is a very versatile warp thread.

One of the other treadlings that I used was to treadle 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 2, 1, 4, 1, 3, 1, 2 over and over, using a solid color yarn on the 1's, and a brushed mohair on the 4's, 3's and 2's. Try something like this, and I think you'll be pleased with the results.

#### **COST OF THE THREADS USED:**

The wool tweed yarn in avocado with colored flecks is 100 per cent wool; is called a 1 1/4 run yarn; and it has 2000 yards per lb. It is priced at \$3.20 per lb., and comes on cones of about 1 lb. 4 ozs. each.

The brushed mohair yarn has 900 yards per lb., and comes on about 1 lb. cones. It is priced at \$4.80 per lb, and this is a reasonable

price. If you purchased this yarn in a knit shop, you would pay about \$1.25 per ounce for this quality mohair and orlon.

### **COST OF THE FABRIC:**

Our warp was 39" wide on the loom, and it had 16 threads per inch, and we had a 14 yard warp. It took 4 lbs. 6 ozs. of the tweed type yarn for warp, and so the total warp cost for 14 yards was \$14.00. Thus, you can see our warp cost per yard was \$1.00 per yard.

In the weft in 5 yards of fabric, it took 1½ lbs. of mohair and orlon at \$4.80 per lb. It took 10 ozs. of the wool tweed yarn at \$3.20 per lb. Thus the weft cost for 5 yards of fabric was \$9.20 in all or the actual weft cost per yard came to \$1.84 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD ..... \$1.00

WEFT COST PER YARD..... 1.84

Fabric cost per yard, 37" wide ..... \$2.84

### **This Month's Cover:**

The cover this month is a beautiful wall hanging woven by Mrs. Selle, of Selle's Chalet in Spokane, Washington. This was displayed at the Pacific Northwest Conference held in Portland last year.

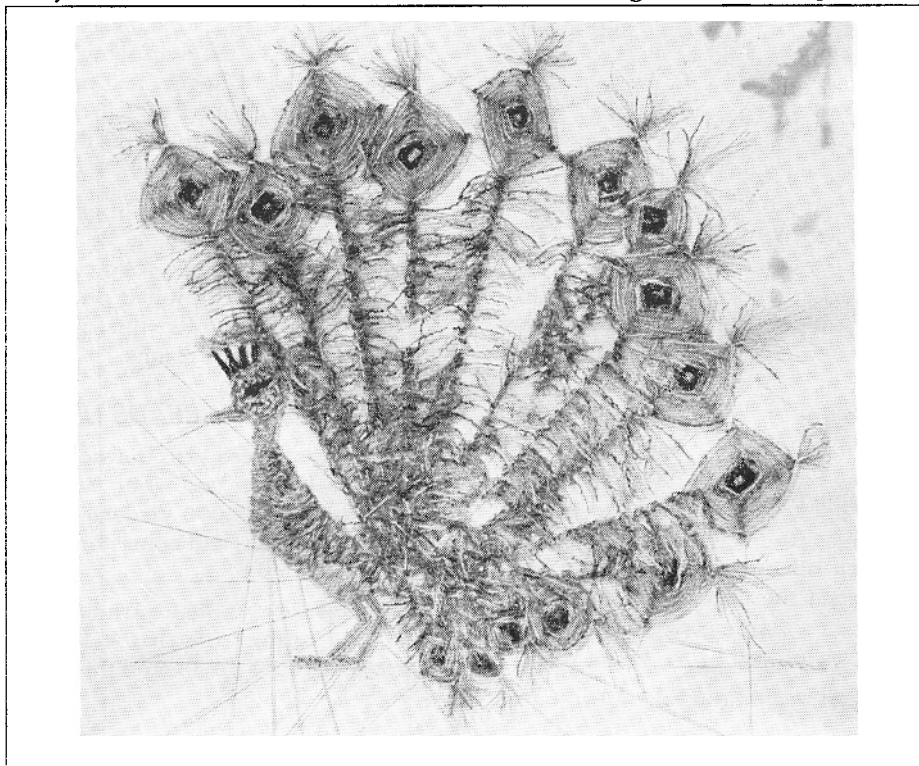
This was woven in a Duk-A-Gang Technique, and I believe it had about 15 threads per inch.

It was woven in shades of Lilac and Lavender by Mrs. Selle especially for the booth of the Inland Empire Handweavers Guild.

The design shows the skiers on Mt. Spokane, the surrounding countryside, the city center itself, and then the rivers and bridges at the entrance to the city. I personally thought that this was one of the outstanding pieces in this conference.

### **A Fantail Peacock**

This peacock was a very fanciful piece made by one of the members of the Inland Empire Handweavers Guild, and displayed at the Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference in Portland in 1965. This was most beautifully done in true peacock colors, and was mounted on a type of mat board. I believe it was in a wooden frame. It was exciting, stimulating, and very, very clever, and was a ribbon winner, if I remember correctly. I liked this piece of **WHAT EVER YOU CALL IT**, because it showed so much imagination on the part of the creator.



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### 3 1/2/1 ROVING TYPE SILK WITH NATURAL AND BLEACHED TUSSAH SILK SPUN TOGETHER.

It is a beautiful, soft roving type yarn which is an excellent weft thread in dresses, sport coats, etc. 2800 yards per lb., and available on 1 lb. tubes. Price is \$4.80 per lb. Would work well as weft on a fabri warp. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### 3 1/2/1 SLUB SILK WITH A TAN FLECK.

This is a natural colored silk slub yarn with a tan fleck injected throughout the silk in the spinning. It has 2800 yards per lb., and has the same uses as the roving type silk. Price is \$4.80 per lb., and it is available on 1 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### CREATE WITH YARN:

An excellent text on the two crafts of stitchery and rug-hooking by Ethel Jane Beitler. The price is \$7.50 plus 20c pp. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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A beautiful color silk is this fine silk with some 6500 yards per lb. Excellent for weft in dress yardages of all kinds. Price is \$4.80 per lb. Available on approximately 1 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon.

### 1 1/2 LEA LINEN SPECIAL:

This is available in a half-bleached white, and is on sale at the excellent price of \$1.60 per pound. This linen comes on about two pound tubes, and has 450 yards per pound. Use it in heavy linen towels, in upholstery, drapery, and mats. Free sample upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### LARGE FLAKE LINEN & RAYON TWIST:

This yarn has a natural white rayon twisted in a flake yarn with a dark, natural linen. It has 900 yards per lb., and was spun to order for us. Price is \$4.00 per lb. Excellent in drapes, upholstery, table linens. Should dye beautifully. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### TWO LEA NATURAL GREY LINEN FROM SCOTLAND:

This linen is a rough spun linen and is fuzzy and interesting in appearance. It has 600 yards per lb., and comes on two pound tubes. Price is \$3.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### SPEE - DEE CEMENT IN PLASTIC SQUEEZE TIP TUBES.

This is excellent for use in glueing the broken ends of a warp thread together, for glueing the end of a fabric to keep from unraveling while washing and pressing. Dries in about one minute, and the joint is stronger than the original thread was. I have used this on wool, linen, silk and rayon with great success. Dries clear, and is waterproof, and does not show in the fabric. 80c per tube, plus 10c postage per bottle. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### THE WEAVERS BOOK OF SCOTTISH TARTANS.

This manual contains the sets of some 260 authentic Scottish Tartans. It gives the number of threads of each color, and such information as the history of tartans, tartan colors, contemporary adaptations in Tartans, and other related information. Price is \$4.00 plus 10c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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### DYE PLANTS AND DYEING:

An excellent manual on the use of vegetable dyes from all parts of the world with an extra well done section on materials used in the United States and Canada. Price is \$1.65 plus 10c postage.

### FINE LINEN AND RAYON FLAKE:

50 per cent Linen and 50 per cent rayon this flake yarn has 2400 yards per lb. Can be used for warp or weft. Has dark natural linen with the white rayon for the flake effect. Price is \$4.00 per lb. Excellent for drapes, upholstery, table linens. Available on 1/2 lb. spools. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore.

### THE STITCHES OF CREATIVE EMBROIDERY

by Jacqueline Enthoven was on the best-seller list for many months here in the Pacific Northwest. An excellent book on stitchery, well illustrated. Price is \$7.95 plus 20c pp. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### LOOM ANCHORS TO STOP YOUR LOOM FROM MOVING:

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