

# warp and weft

Vol. XX, No. 7

September, 1967

## warp and weft

PUBLISHED MONTHLY (EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST)  
BY ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 NORTH  
ADAMS STREET, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**SUBSCRIPTION:** \$4.00 PER YEAR.

**BACK ISSUES:** 40c EACH, PLUS 4c POSTAGE.

**EDITOR:** RUSSELL E. GROFF,

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** ROBIN GROFF.

---

*Vol. XX, No. 7*

*September, 1967*

---

### A Word from the Editor:

I must tell you that the weaving tour of the British Isles was most inspiring, and rewarding, and we hope that our Warp and Weft readers will enjoy some of the articles we present in future issues of Warp and Weft, about things that we saw on this trip.

I will not give you a complete report here, but will tell you that we plan to feature for about 5 or 6 issues, a little article in each issue about one of the outstanding things that we saw on this trip.

I must say that all of the weavers and manufacturers of threads, and companies that I visited on this trip were most cordial, and it resulted in your editor purchasing some 2500 to 3000 pounds of various threads from some of the different companies that I visited.

Meanwhile, while I was abroad enjoying my travels immensely, Robin was at home running the shop and doing an excellent job. It seems that as fast as she was able to put any money in the bank, I was just as able to spend it on some new threads for the shop that I saw on the trip.

Robin didn't enjoy my absence very much though, as shortly after I left on the tour, she fell and BROKE HER LEG, and still managed to come to work every day and answer much of the mail that came in. I wasn't told about this accident until about 4 or 5 weeks had gone by, and by this time, she was well on the way to recovery. I did cut the trip short by about

two weeks after I heard of this accident, but, by this time, I had found many of the threads I wanted, and also had already spent more than twice the amount of money I had allotted for yarns and equipment purchases.

Our daughter Janice was a big help, and worked every day after school was out, until my return, and also we had a college student working for us, Miss Marcia Timmons who also worked many, many extra hours, so that I was able to travel to the British Isles, and Belgium, France, and Switzerland. Enough for now, and we will get back to the sample for this month, and also the rest of Warp and Weft.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

### This Month's Cover Photograph:

On the recent trip to England, I saw a great variety of different kinds of sheep being raised for their wool, and of course, for mutton. I thought that you might like this picture of one of the most popular breeds of English sheep.

This breed is called "Clun Forest." This particular breed of sheep has been experiencing a great growth in popularity in England during the past 50 years. They take their name from the market town of "Clun" and as they grazed in the forests nearby, they are called "Clun Forest."

The wool on these sheep is very dense, and the sheep need almost no individual attention as long as food is available. Their wool is of fine texture and almost free from black or grey fibers and a very uniform quality is found throughout their fleece. They are found now on the Welsh borders and in the lowland areas throughout England and Wales.

Also, please notice the other details in this picture. First of all, you see the typical old country style English house with a thatched roof. These thatched roofs are very durable, and usually last for from 35 to 45 years. Also notice that this house has the oven out in the back yard, where bread, Yorkshire pudding, and other English delectables are baked. This picture was furnished us by the International Wool Secretariat.

## This Month's Book Review:

We are pleased to tell you this month about another folio put out by Mr. Elmer Hickman, which he entitles "*DECORATOR DRAPERY and UPHOLSTERY*"

This is another of his outstanding folios of handwoven sample swatches for drapery and upholstery material. There are 22 woven swatches with the complete threading, treadling, and sequence of textures and colors given.

These are all or mostly all in a sort of contemporary vein, and the colors are luscious and inviting, and it makes you want to weave some of these yourself.

Once again each of these samples is tastefully mounted to set off the colors in the samples, and the colors in each of these samples can only be described as "Yummy."

Several of the samples for upholstery have a backing woven for them also and it seems to me that these would be just ideal for upholstery, and I think you might find it worth trying some of these yourself. And, the sample swatches in some colors should be a great inspiration for you to try something similar, perhaps in a different color combination, or a different texture. I personally feel that the color combinations alone, and the swatches to show these colors, are well worth the price of this folio.

These are the same price as usual, at \$6.95 each, postpaid, and they may be ordered directly from Mr. Hickman, or from Robin & Russ if desired.

TITLE: DECORATOR UPHOLSTERY & DRAPERY

PRICE: \$6.95 each, ~~post~~paid.

AVAILABLE: Mr. ~~Elmer~~ W. Hickman, R.D. 2, Box 158, Emlenton, Penna., or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

## The Story of Irish Poplin

In Dublin, Ireland, while looking for a source of silk, I came across a company that specializes in *Irish Poplin*. The name is misleading, as most of us do not realize that Irish Poplin is a fabric made of silk and wool.

Believe it or not, the warp was a very fine single ply silk, with the set of the silk on the loom averaging *300 threads per inch*. Yes, I meant 300 threads per inch. At first, I just couldn't believe it, but when I watched the weavers weaving and saw the warps on the loom, and saw the warps being chained on a warping mill, I had to believe it.

What was amazing was that they were using a 40 dent reed, with either 7 or 8 threads per dent, and even with this 300 threads per inch, it looked as though there was almost no warp breakage whatsoever.

The foreman of the weaving room was introduced to us, and after talking awhile, we discovered that he was a grand sum of 83-years-old, and that he had been working here at Thomas Elliott and Sons since he was 14 years old. Just imagine, after one more year, he will have worked continuously at one place for 70 years. This also was true of most of the other employees. One man told us that he was working in his 50th year there, but that his younger brother hadn't worked there that long as he had only worked for 40 years.

We figured that the fine silk that was being used for warp had somewhere between 25,000 and 30,000 yards per lb. We checked with the manufacturer of this silk and found that it cost \$14.00 per lb. wholesale, plus dyeing charges.

The weft thread was an interesting one also. It was a 45/3 worsted (same as a 30/2), but the difference was that this 45/3 worsted had been gassed (passed through a gas flame to burn off any fuzz or lint, etc.) and that it cost about \$3.50 per lb. wholesale. It was spun in France, and the minimum order to get this nice quality worsted spun to order was 1,000 lbs.

This shop had about 15 looms there, and they all had overhead beaters, and all were hand looms. There were no fly shuttle beaters used.

The fabric on these looms was from 24 to 28 inches wide, and the average production from a good experienced weaver was 32 to 35 yards per 5 day week. One of the weavers there told us that for the past 10 to 12 weeks,

(Continued on Page 5)

## SILK CIRCLES:

A most interesting fabric woven on 4 harnesses. Another interesting thing about this fabric is the combination of materials used, as the warp is cotton, and the weft is wool, cashmere and silk combination, and pure silk.

## THREADING DRAFT:

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

## WARP THREADS USED:

There is just one thread in the warp. It is a 20/2 mercerized and gassed Egyptian cotton and the color is called Medor Gold.

## WEFT THREADS USED:

There are 4 different threads used in the weft. We call them A, B, C and D.

- A – 16/2 worsted, color Ming Gold
- B – 16/2 worsted, color Dark Brown
- C – 50 per cent cashmere, 50 per cent silk in a four-fold yarn. (4 ends wound together as one, but they are not plied)
- D – 7/2 silk, in a natural white color called "Polished Pearls."

## REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 24 threads per inch.

## THE IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE:

The sample this month was inspired by a sample woven by Malin Selander in her sample book, SWEDISH SWATCHES, Yellow Series." I had long admired this particular sample and finally decided to produce something similar.

Page 4

## TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	O		O	O		
3		O	O	O		
2	O		O			O
1		O		O	O	
	1	2	3	4	5	6

## SAMPLE:



## MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

We started out with this fabric, thinking that we would recommend it for upholstery, but with the weight of threads we have used, I would like to also recommend that it could be used for a tailored coat, for suits, and for skirt materials also. Of course, as a decorative fabric, it would be very striking in such uses, as covering wastebaskets – or making covers for lampshades – or for drapes – . Yes, I think it is a fabric that would have a multitude of uses. We had a 12 yard warp on the loom of this cotton, and found that about 16" was used up in loom waste, and there was about a 20 to 22" take-up of the warp threads. Thus, from the 12 yard warp, we had a fabric just 2 inches shy of 11 yards in length.

### TREADLING SEQUENCE:

1. Treadle No. 1, Dark Brown Worsted
2. Treadle No. 2, Natural cashmere and silk
3. Treadle No. 1, Natural cashmere and silk
4. Treadle No. 2, Natural cashmere and silk
5. Treadle No. 1, Dark Brown worsted
6. Treadle No. 3, 7/2 P. P. silk
7. Treadle No. 4, 7/2 P. P. silk
8. Treadle No. 3, 7/2 P. P. silk
9. Treadle No. 4, 7/2 P. P. silk
10. Treadle No. 3, 7/2 P. P. silk
11. Treadle No. 4, 7/2 P. P. silk
12. Treadle No. 2, Dark Brown Worsted
13. Treadle No. 2, Natural cashmere and silk
14. Treadle No. 2, Natural cashmere and silk
15. Treadle No. 1, Natural cashmere and silk
16. Treadle No. 2, Dark Brown Worsted
17. Treadle No. 1, Ming Gold Worsted
18. Treadle No. 2, Ming Gold Worsted
19. Treadle No. 1, Ming Gold Worsted
20. Treadle No. 2, Ming Gold Worsted

END OF PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat over and over as desired.

### MORE ABOUT THE TREADLING:

Be sure to use a light single beat on all threads except the 6 shots of the 7/2 Polished Pearls Silk. On these 6 shots, you must use a firm, double beat first with the shed open, and then changed to the next shed and beat again.

If you use this sequence, it will allow the 2 threads of dark brown worsted beat together to close ranks and set off the 7/2 white silk in the oval circles.

We first tried making these oval circles with 8 shots of the 7/2 silk, but then we found that the two of the dark brown worsted shots did not close together enough to set off the circles properly.

### COST OF THE THREADS USED:

1. The 20/2 Egyptian cotton in the medor gold comes on 1/2 lb. spools, has 8400 yards per lb., and is priced at \$5.50 per lb.
2. The 2/16's worsted yarns in the dark brown and the ming gold are available on 2 oz. spools. It has about 4200 yards per lb. The price is \$1.00 per 2 oz. tube, or \$7.85 per lb.

3. The 7/2 Polished Pearls Silk has about 5800 yards per lb., and it is priced at \$4.00 per lb. We can wind this off in 4 oz. or 8 oz. tubes.

4. The 4 fold cashmere and silk yarn has 4 ends wound together. It has about 2300 yards per lb., and is available on 1/2 lb. tubes at \$3.20 per lb.

### COST OF THE FABRIC:

In the warp, we used 1½ lbs. or slightly less of the 20/2 medor gold cotton for warp. Thus the total warp cost for 12 yards, 40" wide was \$8.25, or the cost per yard is 69cents per yard.

In the weft, we used these amounts for 11 yards of finished fabric.

- 10 oz. of dark brown worsted
- 10 oz. of ming gold worsted
- 10½ oz. of 7/2 silk, polished pearls
- 1 lb. 10 oz. of cashmere and silk

The total cost for these 4 weft threads used in 11 yards of fabric is \$17.83 or the weft cost per yard was \$1.62.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" WIDE....69  
WEFT COST PER YARD .....\$1.62  
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....\$2.31

### The Story of Irish Poplin

(Continued from Page 3)

he had been weaving about 42 to 43 yards per week, and he thought this was better than usual.

Still another interesting point of interest was their method of tying on a new warp to an old one. Instead of actually tying a knot, they would take the end of the old warp and the end of the new warp, and rub them together between the thumb and the second finger. This put a twist in the two threads which seemed to hold and give no problems.

The average warps had from 6800 to 7200 warp ends, and was about 24" wide. When weaving the weavers were paid by the amount of yardage they wove, and when tying on a new warp, they were paid 29 cents for every 400 twists (similar to knots).

I might also mention that they did have a jacquard loom and a dobbie loom there, and one person was weaving on each of these. However, Mr. Elliott told us that it took so much longer to weave on these two looms, that the fabrics were so high priced, that they were not so popular as the striped materials and the tartans. If I remember correctly, the wholesale price of some of this material started at about \$8.00 per yard for the Irish Poplin and went up to \$12.00 to \$15.00 per yard for the Jacquard weaves and in all silk fabrics (silk for both warp and weft instead of wool weft), some of them were even more expensive than this.

I asked about the trade-mark, Irish Poplin, and Mr. Elliott told me that they had it registered. He stated that many, many different attempts had been made to produce this type of fabric on a power loom, but that it always came back to hand weaving, and that it was not practical on the power looms.

This shop is located in an area called "Weavers Square," and that at one time, there used to be 6 different companies doing this same Irish Poplin. Now, however, because of modern threads (man made) and the increasing costs of silk, they have gradually dropped out of business, until now there is only one company left in the whole world weaving what is known as Irish Poplin.

There were also 3 beginning weavers who were working there. These were apprentices, who worked there for a period of 2 or 3 years, learning the trade, before they received full pay. These 3 beginners were 14 year old boys. One of them was so small that they had to attach about 8" high blocks of wood to the treadles, so that he could raise and lower the treadles to create his shed. I asked the youngest boy how much he wove in a week, and he said that he almost did 20 yards in the past week.

The loom manager told us two things of interest. They have been using the same looms in this shop for over 100 years, and this present owner is the third generation to have the business in his family. The shop foreman told us that no new equipment had ever been purchased since he had started there.

Still another item of interest was that the 83 year old shop foreman had a hand operated

Page 6

jacquard loom at home, and his hobby was weaving faces on fabric, cutting up the fabric and mounting the cloth in Christmas cards, and then selling the cards.

To my way of thinking, this particular visit to this handweaving shop was the most inspirational point of my whole tour.

Mr. Elliott told us that another item which they made in the thousands was a small, hand-woven Irish flag. He said that they usually sold several thousand each year to American customers who had Irish flags for St. Patrick's day parties and dinners and parades. While there, I purchased 18 of these small Irish flags and gave one to each of our party, so that when we sailed by boat from Ireland to Wales, we were all able to have an Irish flag to wave if we desired.

Many of the fabrics woven here of the Irish Poplin (a registered trade mark) are woven for the fashion world in Paris. Also, much of their fabric is used to make men's fancy ties, and I liked these so much, that I purchased 4 dozen of them to try and sell them in our shop.

I might mention that they did several other things here of interest. They did have a dobbie hand loom for weaving a little more intricate patterns, and they also had a hand operated jacquard loom.

On this jacquard loom, they wove cloth for various churches, and fancy silk dress fabrics.

Well, I hope that you've enjoyed reading about IRISH POPLIN as much as I enjoyed my two visits to Elliott's Irish Poplin Weavers in Dublin, Ireland.

### Distinctive Irish Gifts

For that special occasion of a birthday, or for Christmas, let us suggest that you give your friends a distinctive hand-woven silk and wool, Irish Poplin necktie, or if they are of Irish extraction, give them a miniature Irish flag, hand woven in Ireland.

Irish Flags, handwoven, 2½ x 5", mounted on a flag pole. Price \$1.00 each

Irish Poplin Ties in Stripes or Tartans. Silk and wool, handwoven. Price \$5.00 each

\*Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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.

### IN STOCK:

48 colors Swedish Linen. (Color cards 50c). Fabri and Afghan. (Color cards 35c). The Handweavers' Workbasket, Box 399, Rt. 1, West Chicago, Illinois 60185.

### TARTAN TIES, HANDWOVEN IN SCOTLAND:

We have imported from Scotland, some 40 different tartan ties, which are of a beautiful quality wool yarn, and are handwoven in Scotland. Price is \$3.00 each, postage prepaid. We hope to stock these continuously. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### FOUR PLY CASHMERE and SILK THREAD

This is the 50 per cent cashmere and 50 per cent silk thread that we had plied and then dyed in 6 glamorous colors. It can be used for warp or weft, has 2400 yards per lb., and is available on approximately 1 lb. cones. Price is \$6.00 per lb. for the colors, and it is \$4.80 per lb. for the natural. We saw this same yarn in natural in England on sale at the manufacturers at a wholesale price for the natural of \$9.20 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### 6" MINIATURE SHUTTLE, MADE IN ENGLAND

We had these made to order for us after seeing them in use in England. Price is \$1.85 plus 10c postage. Has a well-made spring clip to hold bobbins about 2½" long. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### COTTON LACE . . . COTTON LACE . . . COTTON LACE . . .

It is now available once again in 16 colors. Price is \$2.50 per 1/2 lb. spool. There is about 1900 yards per lb. Available for immediate shipment. Excellent for those textured towels for hand towels, guest towels or face towels. Use as weft on a 20/2 cotton warp. We had a project in Warp and Weft using this cotton lace about 2 years ago. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### A DELUXE NEW WARP and WEFT BINDER.

This new binder was made especially for us, and will hold 3 years issues of Warp and Weft. Easy to put each current issue in without removing screws or taking out other copies. Price is \$3.50 plus postage. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### RYA RUG WOOL:

A new line just imported by Robin & Russ. There are 41 beautiful colors available. Approximately 750 yards per lb. Available in small skeins of about 6 oz. each. PRICE IS REASONABLE AT \$4.80 per lb. EXCITING COLORS. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon, 97128.

### TIES OF IRISH POPLIN, SILK & WOOL

Handwoven in Ireland, these ties have a silk warp of 300 threads per inch, and a 45/3 worsted weft. They are a warp face weave, with the silk warp providing all of the color. JUST BEAUTIFUL. Price is \$5.00, postage prepaid. Few of these are in tartans, but most are in stripes. Regular small 4 in hand style, which is the popular style now. We visited this shop and watched these being woven. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### 6 PLY RUG WOOL:

This is another import from England, and this is a quite heavy, 6 ply yarn, 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent nylon. It is available on approximately 1/2 lb. skeins. 31 colors available. Price is \$4.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### BOBBIN LACE LINEN:

We have bobbin lace linen in 4 sizes from Sweden, and in 2 sizes from Scotland.

35/2 white — .90 spool — Swedish  
40/2 white — .95 spool — Swedish  
50/2 white — \$1.00 spool — Swedish  
60/2 white — \$1.10 spool — Swedish  
20/2 mercerized white Knox —  
\$2.00 per 4 oz. spool  
40/2 mercerized white Knox —  
\$2.50 per 4 oz. spool

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### 20/2 SPUN SILK, WITH A SHEEN

We have small lots of various colors in stock which we imported from England. We will send samples upon request. Price is \$9.60 per lb., while it lasts. Most of these are on 2 to 4 oz. spools. Limited amounts of 3 to 5 pounds of a color. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### DELUXE LOOM LIGHT:

Has two swivel joints, which can be changed in position with a fingertip touch. Has a light shade with blower so that you will not burn your fingers when you touch the light shade. Has a clamp mount or swivel mount, whichever you wish to use, and has 2 arms 18" in length with spring tension. Light shield is adjustable in any position. Price is \$20.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### LARGE SWEDISH OPEN BOTTOM SHUTTLES:

This is one of the more popular Swedish shuttles called the S-15. It is 15" long, by 2" wide by 1 1/8" high. It will hold up to a 6" length bobbin. Price is \$2.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

### THE MAGIC OF SPINNING:

This book has been written by a beginning spinner for interested spinners. Tells of her experiences and how she mastered spinning. Price is \$1.60 plus 10 c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

# The Weaver's Marketplace

**warp and weft**

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET  
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

## DECORATOR DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY

Hickman's new 1967 folio is now available. Complete instructions for 22 unique drapery and upholstery fabrics, illustrated with hand woven swatches for each project. Colorful, and practical weaves, all on 4 harnesses.

Price is \$6.95, postpaid

Elmer W. Hickman, R.D. 2, Emlenton, Pa. 16373

## 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.

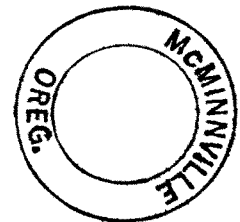
**Hand Weavers' Work Basket**  
Box 399, R. R. 1 West Chicago, Illinois

## 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 CATALOG and PRICE LIST.*

The Handweaver's Headquarters  
**Lily Mills Company**  
Dept. HWWW Shelby, N. C.



	Five Widths
Compact	16" - 22" - 30" - 40" - 50"
Folding	Made of Cherry
<b>NORWOOD LOOMS</b>	<b>The Norwood Loom Co.</b> P. O. Box 272 Baldwin, Michigan

