



warp and weft

Vol XXI, No. 2

February, 1968

warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August) by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$4.50 per year.

Back Issues: 45c each plus 6c postage.

Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

Vol. XXI, No. 2

February, 1968

A Word from the Editor:

The holiday season is now long over, and to me, this is the busiest time of the year for the handweaver. It is the time of bad weather, and this keeps many inside, and as a result, much more weaving is done this time of the year than any other except perhaps just before Christmas.

Thus, we here in the Robin & Russ shop are about as busy as we can get. We try and try to answer all letters promptly, but sometimes it gets to be just impossible.

I might also mention that we closed for about a week over Christmas, and we asked the post office to hold our mail for us for this week. When we returned, we went and asked for our mail twice and each of us, Robin and I were given some, and we thought that it was all taken care of. Then, about January 12th, we went to pick up the mail, and to our amazement, the Post Office gave us about 150 more letters that had come in over this period of our absence, and so a stack of work resulted, and this we have not yet caught up from.

You know there are all kinds of pitfalls in business, and one of these was the binder company we ordered binders from, sending us 144 of them in the wrong size, and then refusing to do anything about their error after we had paid for them in advance. As a result, we have some 144 custom made binders that we hope to be able to sell at half price to recoup some of our loss. The Warp and Weft issues in these binders extend out about 1/4 to 3/8" from the front edge of the binder. Otherwise they fit fairly well, and will

Page 2

hold 2 years' issues. They were supposed to sell at \$3.50 each originally and were to hold 3 years' issues, but we hope some will use them at \$1.75 each, and they will find they hold only about 2 years' issues. HOWEVER, WE HAVE FOUND A NEW BINDER MANUFACTURER WHO HAS GIVEN US A HANDMADE SAMPLE OF THE CORRECT SIZE, AND THESE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 3 to 4 weeks and they will hold 3 years' issues of Warp and Weft. These are to sell at \$3.50 plus about 20c postage, and will also have a plastic insert on the backbone where you can mark what 3 years' issues you have in that particular binder.

Another two examples of the problems in importing threads in such a business as ours are these two examples. We purchased some luminex metallic from England and after a long while, it came in, and we had no duty on 8 lbs. of this very expensive metallic. We had no shipping charges either for some reason. It seemed quite popular, so we ordered 16 pounds more of it, and it came in, and this time, duty on it and this included shipping charges; the duty came to \$80.00 for the 16 lbs. Robin said that when she came to work about 1/2 hour after I got here, that I was in a state of shock that day, and stayed in it the whole day.

Maybe the reason for this state of shock was another letter in the same mail that said the 400 lbs. of Irish linen that came in in late November had us charged with the wrong customs, and that we owed another \$74.00 duty over what we had already paid. You can understand the state of shock now.

Well, enough of this month's tale of woe, and back to the sample, which we think is quite nice.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review:

This month we want to tell you about a book we enjoy, and which I think most weavers will also enjoy. It is the book WEAVING IS FOR ANYONE, by Jean Wilson.

About 3 months ago, we had the pleasure of hearing a program by Jean Wilson about this book she had written, and we saw so many of the different samples and ideas that she has illustrated or told about in her book.

This book is primarily written to show that anyone can weave — even if they do not have a regular floor loom.

Mrs. Wilson shows many different techniques that the individual person can do on their own loom that they make themselves.

The first section of the book is devoted to the language of weavers and is really for a new weaver to help one comprehend the new terms that a new weaver will hear and wonder about.

The section devoted to looms is most interesting, as she tells about cardboard looms, cardboard crescent looms, circle looms, frame looms made of picture frames and stretcher frames, shaped board looms, oriental knot looms, box looms, vertical tapestry looms, backstrap looms, bag looms, round looms for tubular weaving, and looms from other places, and other times in the history of man.

The book is just full of pictures and illustrations, and will encourage many a beginner to make their own loom, and proceed with their own special type of weaving.

There are explanations of different tapestry knots and techniques, and complete step by step procedures in making these various knots and using them in your weaving.

The section on weaving from nature is most inspirational, giving ideas of designing from nature, weaving with natural materials, using weft threads from nature, and how to prepare and use weft materials and dried materials from nature. You will be delighted with the pictures in this section.

There is a good section on what to weave, a section on small woven projects, and finally, the last section deals with nine simple projects that a person can do by making their own simple looms.

Also, almost every type of simple, easy to construct loom is included in the directions given in this book.

This is an ideal book for an individual or group without any previous weaving experience.

The author is an experienced teacher of weaving, and has had 25 years of experience

at weaving herself, so it is written in terms that are simple and easy for all to understand.

I can heartily recommend this book as an outstanding one on the subject matter that she covers, and it will prove to be an inspiration to many.

TITLE: WEAVING IS FOR ANYONE
AUTHOR: Jean Wilson
PUBLISHER: Reinhold Publishing Corp.
PRICE: \$8.50 plus 20c postage
AVAILABLE: Direct from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers if desired.

This Month's Cover Photograph:

As our sample this month is woven of Irish Linen, I thought you might like to see a picture of THE BARBOUR LINEN MILLS, taken in Ireland, where the linen used in this sample came from.

A friend (Andy Anderson) and I had a chance to visit this linen mill, which I believe is now considered the 2nd largest linen mill in the world. We spent one whole afternoon there from 11:00 in the morning to about 7:00 in the evening going through the many, many buildings of this mill and seeing the many, many different aspects of linen production, and the variety of products that such a mill produces.

This was a most inspiring experience for me, and we did purchase as a result of this visit, some 1400 lbs. of Barbour linens, and you will see them used in our weaving projects from time to time. It is our hope that we will be able to import from this and the other 2 linen mills that we visited the unusual in threads, that you might enjoy the results of our visit with us.

This was a tremendous mill, with building after building, and it was so much fun to see the complete steps of production of linen from the flax, to hackling, to roving, to spinning, dyeing, and then the 1001 different types of threads that are produced for many specific uses. This does not tell you of all that we saw, but perhaps vicariously, it will let you share a little of the pleasure that we experienced that afternoon in May of 1967.

LEMON AND GRAY

An interesting 4 harness canvas weave which is excellent for placemats, table linens, and related materials.

THREADING DRAFT:

4				X X		X X		X X		X X		X X
3		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2	O	O	O	O		O		O		O		O
1	A	A		A	A							

TIE-UP DRAFT

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

KEY TO THREADS

IN THREADING DRAFT:

X – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
 O – 18/2 Bleached White Irish Linen
 A – 20/2 Citron Lemon Merc. Ramie

WARP:

There are 3 threads used in the warp in this project. They are:

X – 18/2 Natural Grey Irish Linen
 O – 18/2 White Irish Linen
 A – 20/2 Citron Lemon Ramie

WEFT:

The same three threads that were used in the warp, were also used in the weft.

REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, but we had a special sleying of the reed, and will list it here for your guidance. You will note in the threading draft that sometimes there are 4 threads of 18/2 natural grey linen together in the draft. These 4 threads are always threaded in one dent. The O's in the draft are the 18/2 bleached Irish linen and they are threaded one per dent. The A's in the threading draft are the 20/2 Citron Lemon ramie threads, and they are threaded 2 per dent in one dent. We will give you here the threading or sleying of the reed for one complete repeat of the pattern, starting from the right and reading to the left in the threading draft.

1st dent – 4 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 2nd dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 3rd dent – 4 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 4th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen

Page 4

SAMPLE:



5th dent – 4 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 6th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 7th dent – 4 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 8th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 9th dent – 4 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 10th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 11th dent – 2 in one dent, 20/2 Lemon Ramie
 12th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 13th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Grey Linen
 14th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen
 15th dent – 2 in one dent, 20/2 Lemon Ramie
 16th dent – 1 in one dent, 18/2 Blea. Linen

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT OF THE SLEYING, REPEAT OVER AND OVER FOR FULL WIDTH OF YOUR PROJECT.

Because of this unusual sleying, we find that we have 33 threads in one pattern repeat which is 16 dents or 1-1/3" wide in the

reed. This comes out to a total of 24³/₄ threads per inch for this fabric.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

We will give you one complete treadling repeat, and you repeat it over and over.

1. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
2. Treadle No. 4 – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
3. Treadle No. 4 – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
4. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
5. Treadle No. 2 – 18/2 White Irish Linen

REPEAT THESE FIRST FIVE THREADS A TOTAL OF FIVE TIMES UNTIL YOU HAVE 25 THREADS.

26. Treadle No. 1 – 20/2 Lemon Merc. Ram.
27. Treadle No. 1 – 20/2 Lemon Merc. Ram.
28. Treadle No. 2 – 18/2 White Irish Linen
29. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 Grey Irish Linen
30. Treadle No. 2 – 18/2 White Irish Linen
31. Treadle No. 1 – 20/2 Lemon Merc. Ram.
32. Treadle No. 1 – 20/2 Lemon Merc. Ram.
33. Treadle No. 2 – 18/2 White Irish Linen

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE 33 THREADS IN ONE COMPLETE TREADLING REPEAT.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

One question that I'm sure that everyone is going to ask is how do you have 2 repeats of the same thread on Treadle No. 4 or Treadle No. 1. There are two ways that you can handle this. The most common and easy way is to have a separate shuttle with two threads wound together on one bobbin as one thread. This does involve the handling of 2 more shuttles, and it would make 5 shuttles that you use in all in the weft. The other method is to use a single thread on your shuttle, throw the shuttle for the first of the two threads, and then bring the shuttle either up and over one or two selvage threads on the top of your open shed, bring the shuttle back down into the open shed between the 2nd and 3rd thread in the top part of the open shed, and then throw it across for the 2nd shot of weft.

On this material, I'd suggest you use a firm, even double beat, as you do want to make it firm, and durable. The lace effect will not be ruined by the firm, even, double beat. The slewing of the reed helps keep this lace effect in the fabric.

Our sample is not washed, and it will flatten out and close up just a little when it is washed and pressed, but you will never entirely lose the open lace effect.

This, once again, is another variation of a canvas weave, and it is one of your editor's favorites for use as table linens.

I also think that if you use the right weight threads, that this could be woven in a wool, and make an exciting bedspread material.

I feel that the possibilities of this particular weave are almost unlimited, and you should try it yourself and see some of the possibilities.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

Two of the threads used in this fabric are some of the linens that I found on my trip to Ireland and England this summer. The 18/2 linen is available in what I call a NATURAL GREY, and a bleached white. This NATURAL GREY is not a dyed color, but is dependant upon the quality of the linen used and upon the process that was used to rett the linen. If you boil this natural grey linen, it will gradually turn whiter and whiter until it is a sort of cream.

I might also mention that this 18/2 IRISH LINEN is a GILL-SPUN LINEN. This is a process of spinning where the fine linen fibers are combed over and over through fine hackles, eliminating the short fibers of thread, and then the long fibers are spun into a thread. There are three major ways of spinning in linens. They are wet-spun linens, dry-spun linens, and the third process is known as gill-spun linens. In many cases, this third process is considered by many to be a superior process to the other two.

The 18/2 NATURAL GREY LINEN, has 2700 yards per pound, comes on approximately 1 lb. tubes, and is \$4.00 per lb. The bleached white linen in 18/2 has the same 2700 yards per lb., and is \$4.50 per lb.

The 20/2 Mercerized Ramie in the citron lemon color has 3,000 yards per lb., and comes on 1 lb. tubes, and it is \$5.00 per lb. It is also available on 4 oz. tubes at \$1.25 per 4 oz. tube.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

On a 44½" wide fabric, it takes 2-1/3 lbs. of the 18/2 Natural Grey Linen, 1 lb. 1 oz. of the Bleached White Linen and 8 oz. of the 20/2 Merc. Lemon Ramie for 10 yards of warp. Thus, the total warp cost came to \$18.00 or the warp cost per yard for 10 yards was \$1.80 per yard.

In the weft, it took 4 oz. of Lemon Ramie, 11 oz. of the 18/2 Bleached White Linen, and 2 lbs. 10 oz. of the 18/2 Natural Grey Linen. We had 8½ yards of finished material, so the weft cost for the total 8½ yards came to \$15.00 or a cost of \$1.77 per yard.

WARP COST, 44½" WIDE \$1.80
WEFT COST, 8½ YARDS \$1.77

FABRIC COST PER YARD,
42½ WIDE \$3.57

An Increase In Subscription Price Of Warp and Weft

We have had a 22½ per cent increase in the cost of having Warp and Weft printed and also, the bulletin is being sent out via first class mail. As a result of this change, the mailing costs have gone up about 65 per cent and with the expected increase of first class that has been passed by congress, it will be up about 100 per cent or over what we had it as of January, 1967.

Because of this, we are going to give notice that effective February 1, 1968, Warp and Weft will be \$4.50 per year. We are keeping the increase in price to a minimum to just defray the increased costs that we have in getting it out to you.

A comparison of English and American Hand-Weaving

First of all, let me say that what I have to say here is by no means a criticism in any way, but it is just the difference that I found between our American Handweaving, and what I saw in the British Isles in May and June of 1967.

The first thing that I noticed on the trip was that as yet, England is not using as wide a variety of colors or textures as you see in American Handweaving. I think that this will

Page 6

change with the coming years, and that you will see more and more texture and color used in the British Isles.

In England, I found the weavers were uncommonly intrigued with the possibilities of Tie-and-Dye weaving. I saw perhaps only one or two pieces in that that I cared for, but it almost seems as though each English weaver feels he or she has to do some work in the tie-and-dye method of designing and weaving.

I found a great difference in looms and in equipment available in England. On the whole, English looms, shuttles and equipment are much more traditional than here in the USA. And, this is just what I think is the reason for this — TRADITION.

In America, there is a much greater search going on all the time by the weavers, to try and find short-cut, ways, methods, and better designed equipment that will help make the weaving faster, easier, and even a little more complicated. Many of the English looms are contra-marsch, and you find less and less of this in the U. S. because of the time and effort involved in changing from one pattern to another.

I was particularly impressed by the English rugs that I saw all over the British Isles. Their's are much firmer, more durable, and better woven than most of the rugs that you find U. S. weavers do. Because of their tradition, most of the English looms are heavier, and actually able to beat a firmer beat, and result in a more durable and heavier rug. I was excited by the designs in the rugs, and also by the colors. I feel that this is one field where their use of color flourishes, and I was so intrigued by this that I purchased three rugs, and will purchase more in the future.

I was impressed in the USE OF SILK that I found in the British Isles, and in this case, found that the high price of silk was not a deterrent to weaving with this fiber, as it seems to be in the United States.

I was also excited by the fineness of some of some of the weaving being done in the British Isles. I saw some fabrics with 200 and some with up to 300 threads per inch and these were mostly in silk. If any of this

is being done in the U.S.A., I have not seen any of it on display anywhere.

There seems to be a great interest in wall-hangings in the British Isles, and this interest is perhaps growing as fast or faster than any other phase of handweaving.

While I did not see much of it, except in one or two exhibitions, I found that a small group of outstanding weavers in the British Isles are using more and more color and texture, and that this was leading to more interest on the part of the average weaver.

I found that more table linens; placemats, table cloths, tray covers, etc. are in use and being woven more in England than the U.S.A. Here in the U.S., the interest seems to be grativating more to apparel fabrics, and upholstery and drapery fabrics, and there was not as much interest in this in England. And what clothing fabrics that were being woven are definitely not as colorful as you find here in the states.

What was more important to me than anything, was that I felt there was lots of enthusiasm for handweaving and that the interest in the British Isles is growing, and will continue to grow for years to come.

REMEMBER - THIS IS AN ATTEMPT AT A COMPARISON AND NOTHING ELSE.

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:

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

LUMINEX, METALLIC BOUCLE.

We have a new stock of this exciting metallic boucle now in, and have just received another new color, a blue and green combination in this metallic boucle. This comes in six colors now, on 500 yard tubes, and it is \$1.35 per 500 yard tube. The colors are CHRISTMAS RED, GLAMOUR GOLD, SHINY SILVER, HIGH FASHION TURQUOISE, CHURCH PURPLE, AND NOW FASHION PLATE BLUE GREEN. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

20/2 UNMERCERIZED RAMIE IN NATURAL AND BLEACHED WHITE.

This is a beautiful quality ramie with 3,000 yards per lb. available on 1 lb. cones. Price is \$3.80 per lb. for the natural and \$4.00 per lb. for the bleached white. Easy to handle and a pleasure to weave with at 20, 24, or 30 per inch. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10/2 NATURAL MERCERIZED RAMIE.

A beautiful ramie yarn, with 1500 yards per lb. on 1 lb. cones. Has a high sheen because it has been mercerized. Price is \$4.00 per lb. Excellent for warp in placemats at 15 to 20 per inch, and can be used in table linens, upholstery, and many, many other uses. \$4.00 per 1 lb. cone. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DRAFTS AND DESIGNS:

A multiple harness bulletin with patterns of 5 and 8 harnesses. Extra large sample swatch. Subscription is \$4.00 per year. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128.

19 YARD WARPING BOARD.

We are having these excellent, solid warping boards made for us. Made of hard wood (Oak or Maple), and they are held together at the 4 corners by lap joints and easy to put in screws. These screws go into metal grooves, so are much easier to handle than if screwing into wood. Price is \$17.50 plus postage, and these can be mailed via parcel post. Also, we have developed a stand for these, so that you can raise or lower these warping boards to the most desired height, and these stands are easy to fasten to your warping board. Stands are \$7.50 each.

WARPING BOARD, 19 yards \$17.50
Stand for Adjustable Height \$7.50
ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

MAKE YOUR OWN ELECTRIC BOBBIN WINDER

We have in stock some excellent little 1/15 H.P. motors with a fan built in them to keep them cool. We have used some of these ourselves for 8 to 10 years, and will guarantee these for a year. Price is \$7.50 plus postage for this motor. Also, in stock are the other two essentials for making your own bobbin winder. We have a good rheostat, which sells for \$3.95 and a tapered shaft to be fastened to your motor which is \$2.50.

1. 1/15 H. P. Motor \$8.00
2. Foot Rheostat \$5.75
3. Tapered Shaft \$2.50

All available for immediate shipment. Postage is extra. You can save about \$10.00 if you make your own bobbin winder. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

7/1 BLEACHED THIRSTY LINEN

This is an excellent bleached white linen for use as weft in towels. Very, very absorbent and this is imported from Scotland. It has 2100 yards per pound, and is reasonable in price at \$2.40 per lb. It comes on tubes of about 1½ lbs. each. Use as weft on a 20/2 bleached white linen or ramie. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

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.

15" SAMPLE LOOMS

Available in 4, 8, 12, 16 harnesses

Uses 9" wire heddles, good shed,
very easy to weave upon.

FREE BROCHURE UPON REQUEST

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS
533 North Adams St., McMinnaville, Ore. 97128

Have you tried a NORWOOD loom YET? They are compact, easy to operate, jack-type, folding models, made of cherry wood, available in 22", 30", 40", 50" widths in 4 and 8 harness model looms. For further information write to the NORWOOD LOOM Company, P. O. Box 272 BALDWIN, MICH. for a free list.

