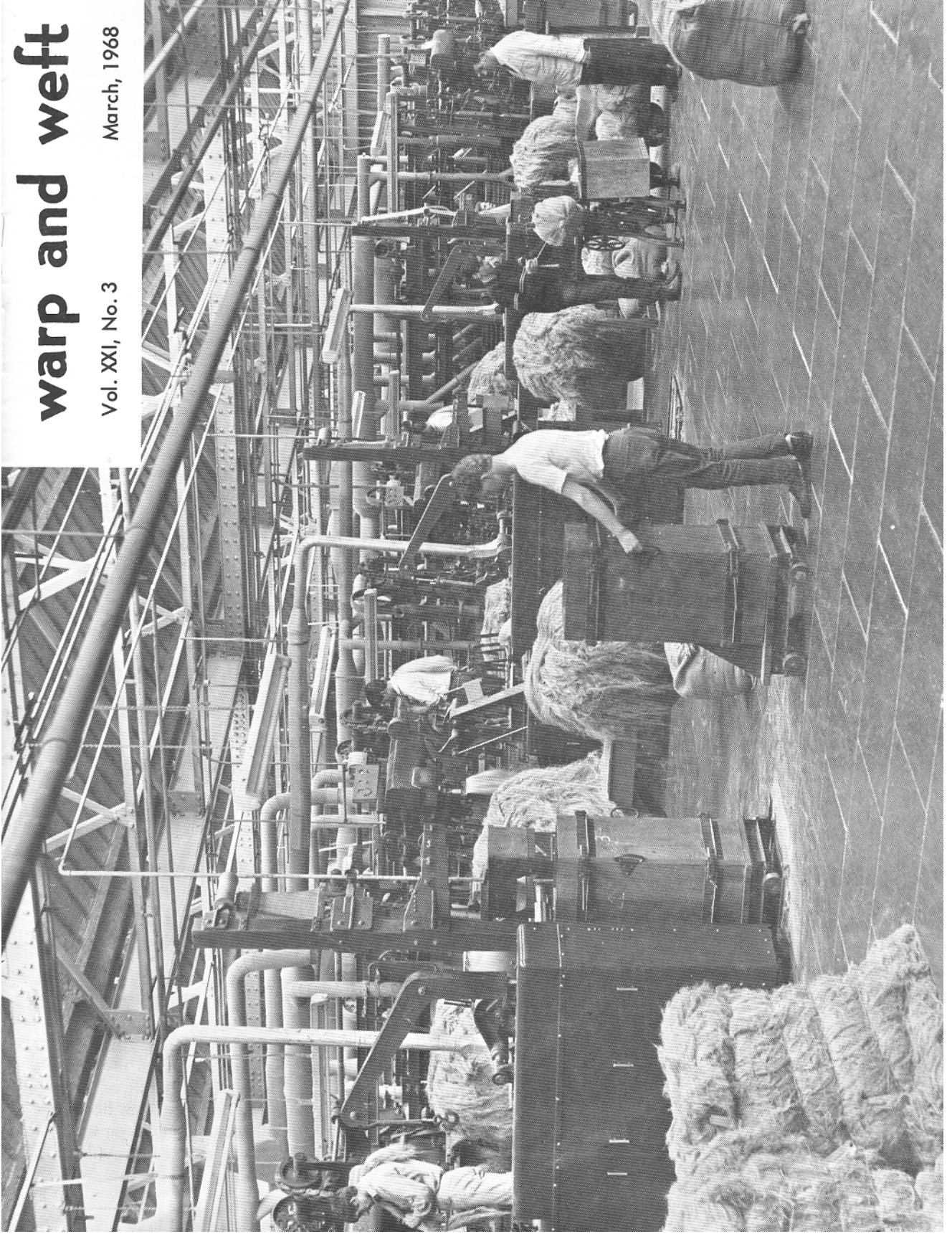


warp and weft

Vol. XXI, No. 3

March, 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

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March, 1968

A Word from the Editor:

Another busy month has gone by, and because it was busy, the days fly so fast, you wonder where they have gone.

You know how proud parents can be of their off-spring, and we must share with you the fact that Janice brought home a report card in her 10th grade class of 6 A's and 2 B's. This, of course, is very pleasing to Robin and I, but Janice just seems to shrug it off. What is amazing to us, is the length of the school day for some of the youngsters. Janice has her first class at 7:40 in the morning, and she gets home at 6:00 in the evening. It is a long day. She went out for the girl's gymnastic team and made it, and they practice from 3:30 to 6:00 each day. However, when this is over, she is usually worn out so is usually in bed by about 8:30. Then early in the morning, usually about 4:30, she gets up and does her homework before school.

I just wonder if some of us adults could keep us such a pace if we had to. And in between times and on weekends, she finds time to ride her horse and work with her in training her for jumping and riding.

I shouldn't tell you this, but Warp and Weft is being written early Sunday morning, and Janice is also here putting in her 3 hours of weekend work at the shop.

Robin also has been busy this past month. We have had almost two weeks of beautiful sunshine in February, and she has been working outside in all of her spare time, trimming trees, edging, and getting the yard in shape; along with working 3 days a week at the shop, and her other home duties.

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We've had some interesting threads come into the shop this past month. One of these, many of you will like. It is a linen and rayon flake yarn in a boucle twist. Haven't checked the yardage per lb. yet, but will get at this soon. Also, we had 3 lots of beautiful silk come in. Two of these were a fine spun tussah silk in bleached white, and a smooth thread. I don't know whether many of you realize it or not, BUT SMOOTH SPUN SILKS ARE ALMOST OFF THE MARKET NOW HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. This is one of the most expensive threads to produce, so we feel extremely lucky when we get any smooth silk. Actually of these three silks just in, one of them was spun in Germany, another was spun in Italy, and the third was spun here in the U. S. When in England and Switzerland, we found that most smooth spun silks were up to almost \$14.00 per lb. wholesale, so you can see that it is most pleasing to be able to get a smooth fine silk that will sell for \$6.00 to \$8.00 per lb.

We also had a shipment of our natural and white unmercerized Ramie come in, along with some 10/2 mercerized ramie. It is a beautiful quality thread again.

Also, our seven spinning wheels that we ordered on our trip to England have finally arrived, and we must now uncrate them so that they can be displayed. So, you can see that all three of us kept busy this past month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph:

Last month, we had a photograph of Barbour Linen Mills, one of the largest in the world. This month, we want to feature a picture from inside the linen mill.

This picture shows the first step in production of linen thread, after the retted flax has been delivered to the linen mill. You can notice some of the bundles of retted flax still unopened, some just opened, and then you can see operators standing in front of what I call "Hackling" machines. I might not be right in this name, but here the linen fibers are put in the large machines and a type of carding is done to the linen, as it is pulled

and pulled through sets of fine metal wires, to separate the fibers of the linen. Also, note how clean and neat this linen mill appears, and also notice the blowers or tubes that lead from the hackling machines away. These are of course, used to pick up all of the lint, and fibers not removed in the retting, and the short lengths of fibers that are separated when the linen is hackled.

Actually, the flax is put in the hackling machine in a clamp to hold it. Then the machine rotates the linen in a sort of circle of 25 to 30 feet diameter, and while it is rotating, it is being combed again and again. Before it gets back where it started, the bunch of linen is seized by another clamp, and the first clamp releases, and then the portion of linen that was in the first clamp is combed so that the whole bunch of linen is combed or carded. From here it comes out and then is put in a type of blending machine, where the bunches of linen are blended together into a continuous length, and from here it is drawn out into a wide roving, and then is generally drawn out more and more into narrower rovings, and from this the roving is finally taken to the spinning machines where it is finally spun from a roving into a single ply thread. Then, another spinning machine, where it is two, three or four plied to fit the necessary need of that particular thread.

I know that my descriptions of the processes are not entirely correct as they would be described by the linen mill, but I've tried to describe it in my words, so you would understand what we saw.

This Month's Book Review:

The book we'd like to tell you about this month is entitled "FINISHING TOUCHES FOR THE HANDWEAVER," and was written by Virginia M. West.

The title of this book is a little misleading, as it does not tell how to finish yardages in preparation for their uses, but it tells you of different techniques that you can use to make your smaller projects like placemats and bags more distinctive than usual.

If you go to the trouble of weaving a project and doing a good job, the author suggests

that there are different ways you can "finish" these fabrics so they are distinctive and different than ordinary.

She gives you step by step procedures and has many diagrams and photographs to illustrate these procedures and techniques.

Her book is divided into six parts. Part one is devoted to ways to make some of the many different fringes it is possible to make. Directions for 6 or 7 different fringe techniques are given.

The second section is devoted to even more decorative fringes, and then the third section explains in detail how you can weave fringes on the loom in several different methods.

There is a section telling about bag handles, and how they are made, attached to your fabric, and how they are finished.

Still another section deals with the joining of widths of handwoven material for use in such items as bedspreads, and other wide fabric uses.

The last part of the book deals with some of the lace techniques one person can do. Some that are explained are Danish Medallion, Brooks Boucle, Spanish Lace, and Leno.

The photographs are quite good, and the instructions not hard to follow, so many will enjoy this type of book.

TITLE: FINISHING TOUCHES FOR THE HANDWEAVER.

AUTHOR: Virginia M. West.

PUBLISHER: The Charles T. Branford Co.

PRICE: \$5.00 plus 18c postage.

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publishers or from Robin & Russ if desired.

Northern California Handweavers Conference:

The 16th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers will be held May 18 and 19, 1968 at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, Calif. The conference theme is "SAFARI."

The Saturday program will feature Dr. Mary Elizabeth King, formerly with the Textile Museum, Washington, D. C. Her subject is

Continued on page 6

SANDY GREEN

The sample this month was planned for women's coat material. It is a 4 harness diamond pattern, which shows very faintly on the large piece of fabric.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

KEY TO THREADS

IN THREADING DRAFT:

X – TAIWAN TUSSAH SILK, 2 PLY

O – LINEN & RAYON FLAKE,

Natural and Natural

WARP:

There are two threads used in the warp. One is a natural colored TUSSAH SILK, 2 ply thread, which has 2900 yards per lb., and is called Taiwan Tussah.

The other warp thread is a linen and rayon flake yarn, which has about 2400 yards per lb., and as you see makes an excellent warp or weft thread.

WEFT:

There are two threads in the weft. One is the TUSSAH SILK DOUBLED, or 2 ends wound together to act as one thread.

The second weft thread is a heavy linen and rayon flake yarn which has 900 yards per lb. It is called FERN and NATURAL.

REED USED:

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

SOURCE OF IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE:

One of our friends, Mrs. Norma Leech of Portland, Oregon was using a combination of the tussah silk and linen and rayon flake. We liked it, and asked if we could use the idea

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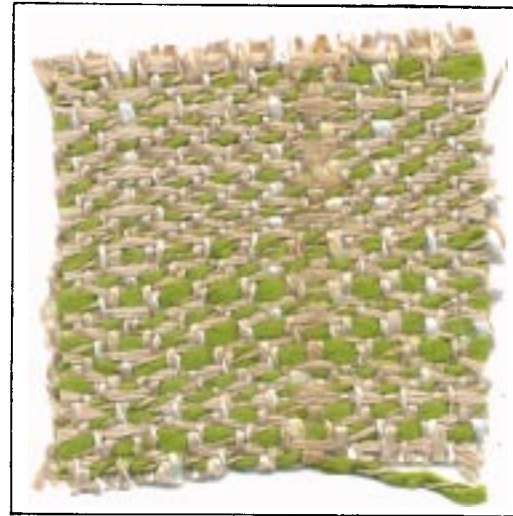
TIE-UP DRAFT

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

X—tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.

O—tie-up for Jack-type looms.

SAMPLE:



for a project in warp and weft. We must admit that we used an entirely different threading draft, and treadling sequence, but the first time we say her sample, we liked it very much.

There are 32 threads in one complete treadling sequence. Also, please note that the 1st and 32nd threads are both on the same treadle and both the same thread. This is also true of the 16th and 17th threads, both being on the same treadle, and both the same thread. This was not a mistake, but was a deliberate deviation or change from the normal.

Treadle No. 1 – Taiwan Tussah, doubled

Treadle No. 2 – Fern and Natural flake rayon

Treadle No. 3 – Taiwan Tussah, doubled
Treadle No. 4 – Fern and Natural flake yarn

Repeat these first four treadles 4 (four) times, until you have 16 threads, or 1/2 of the pattern repeat finished. Then:

Treadle No. 4 – Fern and Natural flake yarn
Treadle No. 3 – Taiwan Tussah, doubled
Treadle No. 2 – Fern and Natural flake yarn
Treadle No. 1 – Taiwan Tussah, doubled

Repeat these above four treadles 4 (four) times, until you have 16 threads or the 2nd half of the pattern completed. There are 32 threads in one complete pattern repeat. REPEAT OVER AND OVER.

NOTE ABOUT THE THREADING DRAFT:

Please note that the first and last thread of the pattern are on No. 1 harness, and that the same thread is used for both of these. This is not a mistake, but was deliberate. Also note that the 16th and 17th threads also are both on harness number four and both are the same thread. This also was deliberate.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

When you end your treadling repeat and start your pattern over again, you have two threads both on the same treadle. So, if using just two shuttles in your weaving, you have to throw the first shot of the shuttle and then bring your shuttle over the top 2 or three threads of your upper part of your shed, back into the shed and throw the shuttle again. Otherwise, if you do not do this, the thread would come right back out. Also note that this same sequence is also necessary on the 16th and 17th threads in your treadling sequence.

One other thing that might be a little bit of a problem to some weavers is the fact that we doubled the Tussah Silk on the bobbin and used it as one weft thread. Many persons have problems trying to double a thread, but you do want to do it carefully, so you will have no loops or more of one thread than the other on the same bobbin, and thus perhaps cause a minor defect in the weaving. If you will wind the two threads together on one bobbin using a little tension on both of the threads, this should eliminate this problem.

I would suggest a firm, medium, even, double beat; beating with the shed open, changing to the next shed and beating lightly again, before you throw the shuttle for the next shot.

I also noticed that the sample does seem a little stiff when taken off the loom, but rinsing out and washing and then allowing to drip dry and steam pressing, seems to soften up the fabric quite nicely, so that it has a good soft "hand" or feel. This sample in the issue this month has been finished in this manner.

The silk in the weft is easy to handle, but the linen and rayon flake in the heavy weight is a little stiff, and you want to make sure that you do not get any doubled threads or any loops when weaving.

This really is a very easy sample to weave. Some persons might have trouble keeping track of the treadling, particularly as the pattern does not show up much when weaving, but my suggestion to make this easy is to always finishing a complete pattern before you leave the loom.

I wanted also to comment on the fact that we had a 10 yard warp, and we were able to weave only 8-1/3 yards of fabric from this length warp. Thus, the take-up of the warp threads is a little more than on most fabrics, so when planning a project, you have to plan for this take-up accordingly.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS IN THIS SAMPLE:

The linen and rayon flake thread is available in the fine weight only in the natural and natural. The heavy linen and rayon flake with 900 yards per lb., is available in 10 colors. It is the rayon flake that is wrapped with a natural linen.

I might mention that these two threads are ones that we have spun to order for us, and that we have stocked them for about 3 to 4 years now, and both weights are the same price at \$4.00 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool.

The tussah silk is one that we were fortunate enough to find a large lot of, and so we purchased about 400 lbs. of it. It is a 2

ply thread, and can be used for warp by itself, or it can be used with other threads in the warp and weft. This is the natural color of this particular tussah silk. It has 2900 yards per lb., and is priced at \$4.80 per lb.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We had a warp ten yards long, and 40" wide. In the warp, it took 1 lb. 3 oz. of the tussah silk and 1 lb. 9 oz. of the linen and rayon flake. Thus, the total warp cost for 10 yards was \$11.95 or \$1.20 per yard.

In the weft, for 8-1/3 yards of finished fabric, it took 2 lbs. 4 oz. of the tussah silk, and 3 lbs. 11 oz. of the natural linen and rayon flake. Thus the total weft cost for 8-1/3 yards was \$25.55 or the cost for weft per yard was \$3.07.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.20
WEFT COST PER YARD.....	\$3.07
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$4.27

Northern California Handweavers Conference:

(Continued from Page 3)

"Archaeological Textiles of the New World — What we can learn from them and about them."

\$6.50 registration fee covers luncheon, program, fashion show and conference activities. To register, contact Mrs. Eda Maynard, 561 Woodbine Drive, San Rafael, California 94903, before May 3rd, 1968.

More of the British Isles:

A Visit with Mrs. M. A. Norris and her Husband, who makes Weaving Equipment.

One Saturday morning, Andy Anderson and I headed to Sutton Valence, from London, England, to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Norris.

Mrs. Norris has a business somewhat similar to ours, selling threads, weaving supplies, and accessories, and this was the reason for our visit.

We left London (taking a double-decker bus to the train station) on a fast train headed for Maidstone, England. In Maidstone, we walked through a very busy and most interesting and pleasant town, to the other side of the town, where we caught a bus to Sutton Valence. After about 3 hours of travel, we arrived at the home of Mrs. Norris.

It was almost lunch time when we arrived, so we sat down to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Norris, and while doing this, she served us wonderfully tasting ham sandwiches made of homemade bread. We talked weaving for an hour, and then Mr. Norris took Andy and I on a tour of his workshop, and garden, and another pleasant hour was passed this way. We were so impressed with the ingenuity of Mr. Norris in the equipment he had devised to make his looms, and warping equipment, etc. Also, his garden was beginning to take shape, and the trees in the yard of this English country house were most inspiring.

Mrs. Norris used to publish a weaving bulletin in England. I don't know whether she still does, but think that it is still available. I believe it was published every two months, if I remember correctly.

What impressed me so much was the friendliness of the English people, and the Norrises were no exception. She tried to find out about our weaving in the states, made suggestions as to the places of business I should visit, and asked what type of threads I was interested in, and said that if we could come back later, she would try and get some samples of the threads similar to the ones we were interested in. Mrs. Norris is a yarn dealer and supplier of accessories for many of the weavers in England and she told us that when her husband saw that she was not able to get the equipment that she wanted, that he went ahead and with her suggestions, he designed some weaving equipment for her, and has been making and selling this equipment for a good many years.

This was such a pleasant visit that Andy and I will remember it for a long, long time, and needless to say, before I came home, I did visit her again and purchased some threads that she had been able to find for me.

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.

HEATHER GRAY ALPACA, SILK AND MOHAIR.

This is a 4 ply thread that has about 3500 yards per lb., and can be used for warp and weft. It is a sort of silvery dark grey heather combination. Price is \$4.00 per lb., or \$1.00 per 4 oz. spool. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10/3 SPUN SILK IN NATURAL.

This is a 3 ply spun silk in a sort of soft twist. It has about 2650 yards per lb., and can be used for warp or weft. Has a good amount of sheen. Price is \$6.00 per lb., and available on about 1 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

36/2 BLEACHED TUSSAH SILK.

This is a bleached, smooth, tussah silk, with quite a high sheen. Has about 9600 yards per lb., and would be excellent warp, at 30, 32, 36, or 40 threads per inch. Price is \$7.00 per lb., and this beautiful silk was spun in West Germany. On about 1 lb. 2 to 1 lb. 4 oz. cones. \$7.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

GRETTA GOLD LOOP MOHAIR.

This is a fairly fine loop mohair with about 2200 yards per lb. It is actually a yellow-gold color, and can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$3.50 per lb. while it lasts. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

34/2 BLEACHED, SMOOTH, SPUN TUSSAH SILK:

Another beautiful silk with 8600 yards per lb. Spun in Italy. Use for warp at 30 to 40 per inch. Less sheen than other spun silks, but nice quality. Price is \$7.00 per lb. on 1/4 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A LINEN SPECIAL, 50/3 IRISH LINEN

An outstanding buy is this 50/3 Irish linen made by Barbours. It is available in NATURAL and BLEACHED WHITE. Price is just about 1/2 the normal price, and it is on sale now at \$3.20 per lb. This size usually sells for about \$6.50 per lb., so you can see what a good buy it is. Excellent warp at 30, 36, 40, 45, or 50 threads per inch. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

18/6 NATURAL IRISH LINEN.

This is a superior quality 6 ply linen rug warp with 900 yards per lb. Same size as the 9/3 that was so popular. Available on 1 lb. tubes, price is \$3.60 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SWEDISH UMBRELLA SWIFTS:

This is the very popular skein winder that we import from Sweden. Adjustable for different sized skeins. Price is \$6.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

A WONDERFUL DELUXE LOOM LIGHT

This is a new model lamp or light that does not fasten to your loom. It is designed so that you can set it at any corner of your loom, and it will set in close because of V leg construction. The light is adjustable to any position you desire, and it actually sets at an angle over your work. Packed in boxes ready for shipping via parcel post. Readily adjustable to whatever height you desire. Can be also used as a sun lamp. AN IDEAL LOOM LIGHT. price is \$14.75 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

5" PLASTIC RINGS IN BLACK, WHITE, SHELL

These are a nicer quality than ever, with no seams or joined parts to pull apart. Price is 75c each, plus postage. Two of these make excellent bag handles. Have 5" diameter, and are made in one piece so they will not crack or pull apart. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
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 McMinnville, OREGON 97128

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