

# warp and weft

Vol. XXII, No. 4

April, 1969

## warp and weft

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### A Word from the Editor:

May is drawing nearer, and we three Groffs are eagerly looking forward to the three weeks trip to Switzerland in May, and to visiting some factories, some individual weaving studios, and we hope finding some threads that we can import into the U. S. for resale to weavers.

Yes, May 7th is the date we leave, and we return May 28th. So, we will probably just close our shop during this period. We will probably have one or two of the girls who work part-time for us, work for two or three hours each afternoon, and have them open the mail, and try and ship out as many orders as they can.

We are surprized at the interest and the many best wishes that are received by those ordering threads or renewing their subscriptions, and they all hope that we will have a good trip.

I think that Janice is the least excited of the three of us, even though she will be out of school for three weeks. I think she has counted the days of school left, and is now starting on some work she will have to do in advance or upon our return, to make up for the three weeks of school she will miss.

We have been so pleased with our venture into the 2/18's worsted yarn business, and making the fabri-type worsted yarns. We have 19 beautiful colors in this yarn available, and if our plans work out, we will have about 35 different colors available. This yarn is very similar to the 2/18's Fabri that used to be available, and I have a sample on the loom that I'm enjoying weaving. It is quite strong,  
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and I would say it has just a little tighter twist than the Fabri did, making it appear somewhat finer, but it has good elasticity, very nice colors, and is quite similar in quality to the Fabri yarns that used to be available.

One problem that we are still working on is where to store all the yarn. When you get 2,000 cones of 1/2 lb. each (actually about 8½ to 9 oz. each) in, it is a job to bag these in plastic bags, and then to store it properly, so that it will stay neat and clean. Janice and the three college and high school students have been busy taking care of this task, but it will take another week or two to complete.

And we are so surprized at the response to the book we reviewed last month. It was entitled "SPIN YOUR OWN WOOL, AND DYE IT AND WEAVE IT." We had 36 copies on hand, and believe it or not, all 36 were sold about two weeks after Warp and Weft was mailed. We have ordered another 100 copies of it, and have received orders for about 15 to 20 more copies. It was reasonable in price, and the directions given are clear, concise and in easy to read language.

We had some other new threads come in from the dyers during this past month also. One of these is a silk and linen combination thread in eight different colors. It is primarily a weft thread, but the colors are striking, and so we are making up some 1500 sample sheets showing this.

Well, it is now time to try and assemble this issue for the printer now, so we will close and look forward to visiting with you early next month.

### This Month's Book Review:

A very interesting book has just been printed that I think you will enjoy hearing about. It is entitled "LINEN HEIRLOOMS," and was written by Constance D. N. Gallagher.

Anyone who is interested in early American Weaving will enjoy this book, as it tells of a collection of 62 pieces of early American Linen weaving, and it gives the tie-up, threading, and treadling of 56 of these pieces so that you can duplicate them if you wish to do so.

The collection of the 62 pieces is fully explained, with as much history of each piece being given as is possible.

What is most interesting, is the story of the lives of the weavers of these times, with fragments of letters they wrote being reproduced for you to read and enjoy. This also tells about the beginning of the power weaving industry in the United States by some of the early pioneers in this field.

The first portion of the book tells of the background, reproduction, and care of linens. Then comes an explanation of the types of weaves that were used in these early days, with drawings to explain them. The early weaves used and explained are plain weave, twills, spot bronson, M's & O's, overshot weaves, huck and its variations.

An interesting section on the care of fine linens should be of interest to all handweavers.

Finally, the last portion of the book goes into detail, and explains and illustrates some 56 patterns, and gives an illustration of most of these, and also the complete tie-up, threading, and treadling.

Most of the fabrics in this book have been donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and are a part of their permanent textile collection. They are displayed at various times, and are supposed to be available for study for the serious weaver who wants to learn more about them.

One section is devoted to the early American looms, and another portion tells of the itinerant weavers, and those who set-up shops in the various towns and lived there. An illustration of an early American home and weaving shop is given and is most interesting.

I'm sure that you, the serious weaver, will enjoy this book very much.

**TITLE:** LINEN HEIRLOOMS  
**PUBLISHER:** Charles T. Branford Co.,  
Newton Centre, Mass.

**COST:** \$12.50 plus 24c postage.  
**AVAILABLE:** From Robin & Russ Handweavers, or from the publisher if desired.

## This Month's Cover Photograph:

Because of the great stimulus that has become apparent in HAND SPINNING lately, we thought that you might be interested in seeing some of the unusual spinning wheels that can be seen in England at the Bankfield Museum in Halifax and in the West Yorkshire Folk Museum, in Halifax, England.

On the upper left, with the tall distaff is an old English Flax Wheel. I wonder how many of you have heard the term, "the distaff side of the family," which refers to the women of the family. This comes directly from the distaff of the spinning wheel, as it was considered woman's work to do the spinning, and the distaff was then used by the women in the family.

On the upper right is an Irish Flax Wheel, somewhat smaller and more compact than the English model.

On the lower left is an English "Great Wheel," which we also hear called the walking wheel, as the spinner walks away from the wheel to spin, and then back to the wheel to wind the thread on the bobbin.

On the lower right hand side is an English Table Spinning Wheel, which is one that you very rarely ever see. I can't tell from the picture if this table wheel has a crank to turn the wheel, or if it was just turned by hand.

You might be interested in visiting the Bankfield Museum in England, as they have a large, large portion of the Museum devoted to a typical weaver's cottage, and then they have all of the different types of equipment used in bygone days by the weaver and spinner. I know that I didn't get to see this, but if I get to England again as I hope to, that this will be one of my scheduled stops.

We will show you a few more of the unusual spinning wheels in a future issue.



17. 1 thread in the seventh dent
18. skip the eighteenth dent
19. 3 threads in the nineteenth dent
20. skip the twentieth dent
21. 1 thread in the twenty-first dent
22. skip the twenty-second dent
23. 2 threads in the twenty-third dent
24. 2 threads in the twenty-fourth dent
25. 2 threads in the twenty-fifth dent.

This is the sleying for 1/2 of the pattern or for the 35 threads of the 20/2 bleached slubby linen. You will repeat this same sleying for the next 35 threads using the 50/3 bleached smooth linen, and then repeat this whole sleying unit over and over. In 50 dents, you will have sleyed 70 threads. Thus, you have 1.4 threads per dent for an average on this set-up, or approximately 21 threads per inch.

#### **TREADLING SEQUENCE:**

1. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
2. Treadle No. 1 – 18/2 natural linen
3. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
4. Treadle No. 1 – 18/2 natural linen
5. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
6. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
7. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
8. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
9. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 natural linen
10. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
11. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 natural linen
12. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
13. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
13. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
14. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
15. Treadle No. 5 – 1/2 natural linen
16. Treadle No. 1 – 18/2 natural linen
17. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
18. Treadle No. 1 – 18/2 natural linen
19. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
20. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
21. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
22. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
23. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 natural linen
24. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
25. Treadle No. 3 – 18/2 natural linen
26. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
27. Treadle No. 5 – 18/2 natural linen
28. Treadle No. 6 – 18/2 natural linen
29. Treadle No. 5 – 2½ lea linen slub
30. Treadle No. 1 – 2½ lea linen slub
31. Treadle No. 5 – 2½ lea linen slub

32. Treadle No. 1 – 2½ lea linen slub
33. Treadle No. 5 – 2½ lea linen slub
34. Treadle No. 6 – 2½ lea linen slub
35. Treadle No. 5 – 2½ lea linen slub
36. Treadle No. 6 – 2½ lea linen slub
37. Treadle No. 3 – 2½ lea linen slub
38. Treadle No. 6 – 2½ lea linen slub
39. Treadle No. 3 – 2½ lea linen slub
40. Treadle No. 6 – 2½ lea linen slub
41. Treadle No. 5 – 2½ lea linen slub
42. Treadle No. 6 – 2½ lea linen slub

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN

REPEAT.

Repeat over and over as desired. Note that the first 14 treadles given give you the actual treadling sequence. However, you repeat these 14 threads three times, and two of these are with the 18/2 and the third time is with the 2½ lea, natural slub linen from Switzerland.

#### **MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:**

First of all, it is important that you use a firm, even, double beat on this fabric, beating with the shed open, changing to the next treadle and beating it again. Remember 2 firm even beats for each shot of weft.

Because of the contrasting size and the unusual sleying of the sample in the reed, the main problem in this weaving is one of tension. Particularly those threads that are sleyed with skipped dents in between. This will also happen with the 20/2 slubby linen, but because it is slightly slubby, it will not give as much in tension problems as does the fine thread. So, you should be prepared with two lease sticks, and one of these slip under the linens in the fine weight that loosen, and the other slip a lease stick under the heavier threads that loosen. Slide these back over the back beam, down to the bottom of the warp beam, and put a weight on both ends of each of the lease sticks. You might have to tie a weight onto the center of the two lease sticks, depending upon how firm these sticks are. If good and stiff, you might not need a weight in the middle of these. However, if they are flexible to any extent, you should have weights on both ends and the center.

As you weave, these loose threads will get longer and longer, and will eventually hang to the floor. Then you will have to stop, cut off what fabric you have woven, and tie-up

the warp again to pull these loose ends tight again.

I sometimes hesitate to use a sample like this, where you can have tension problems in the warp, but so many of them are so striking that you just have to do this and try and tell about the problems you have with the weaving.

Also, note that in our treadling, we had one portion of the 18/2 linen in the natural grey which we repeated two times, and then we had one repeat of the 2½ lea slub grey. We feel that if you are doing draperies yourself, that you will like it if you will repeat the unit for the 18/2 grey three times instead of two and then do the one unit of 2½ lea natural grey. This seems to look like a better proportion, but we revised our treadling somewhat so that we could cut a sample to advantage, and so that they would all appear the same, in our samples. They have to be all the same size and weight for mailing purposes, so we revised our treadling to fit the sample that you receive.

**COST OF THE THREADS USED:**

In our warp, we had a 20/2 bleached, slubby linen, which was 3,000 yards per lb. We have it on sale at a special price of \$3.20 per lb., on 1/2 lb. tubes.

The other warp thread was a bleached 50/3 linen from Barbour linen company. It has 5,000 yards per lb., and comes on approximately 1 lb. tubes, and it too, we have at less

than the usual price. It normally sells for \$6.50 per lb. and we have it on sale while it lasts at \$3.20 per lb.

In the weft, we have two different threads. One is an 18/2 natural grey linen from the Barbour Linen Mill in Ireland, and it comes on approximately one pound tubes, th 2700 yards per pound, and it is \$4.00 per lb.

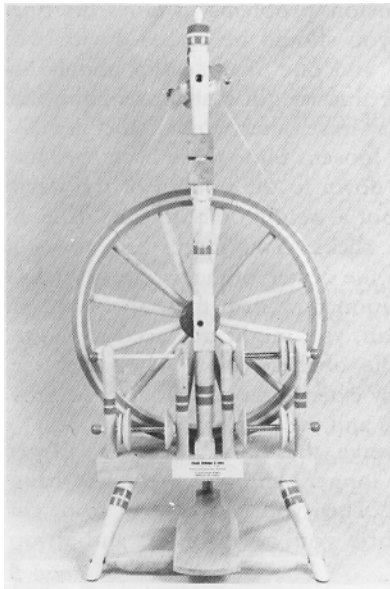
The 2½ lea slub linen was one we imported from Switzerland. It has about 750 yards per pound, comes on tubes of about 1 lb. 2 oz. each, and it sells for \$3.20 per lb.

In the 10 yard warp, 42" wide, we used slightly less than 1 lb. of the 50/3 linen at \$3.20 per lb. We used 1 lb. 12 oz. of the 20/2 bleached slubby linen at \$3.20 per lb. Thus the total warp cost, for a 10 yard warp, 42" wide was \$8.80. Breaking this down in cost per yard, it comes to 88c per yard.

The weft cost a little more. We used 1 lb. 12 oz. of the 18/2 natural Irish linen at \$4.00 per lb. or a cost of \$7.00.

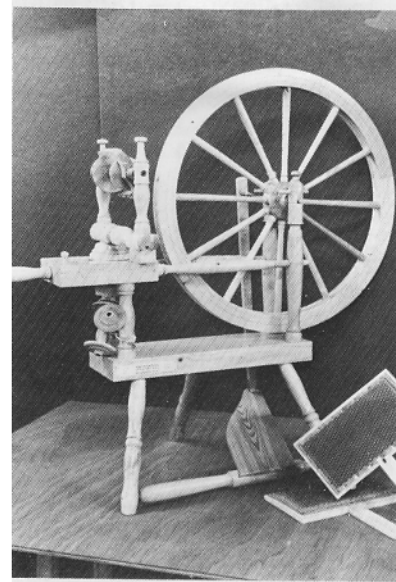
The other weft thread was the 2½ lea, slub linen from Switzerland. We used 2 lbs. 13 oz., of this at a cost of \$3.20 per lb., or \$9.00, or a total cost for the weft of \$16.00 for nine yards of fabric. Thus, the weft cost comes to \$1.77 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD.....	.88
WEFT COST PER YARD.....	<u>\$1.77</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD.....	\$2.65



*Spinning Wheels Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers.*

There has been so much interest in spinning wheels, that we thought you might like to see two of the wheels which we are importing. The one on the lower left is the castle-type wheel which comes from Norway. And the one on the lower right is the conventional type spinning wheel which is imported from England. These are both selling for \$95.00 plus shipping. The castle-type seems to be the more popular of the two, but they both are excellent wheels, and the conventional one is also a beauty.





## 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.

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### THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET

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### ELECTRIC "SPEED" LOOM.

Winder, cobs, spools, spindle, cloth cutter, pattern punch, spool rack. The whole works, \$250. or make offer. Material cotton roving and warp, wholesale price. Arthur Goodger, Route 1, Box 1349, Roseburg, Oregon 97470.

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### 6 COLORS IN FINE LOOP MOHAIR

This mohair comes on approximately 1 lb. cones, has about 2250 (supposed to be 2350) yards per lb. Colors are beautiful in bright fuchsia, blue turquoise, flamme orange, golden tan, and aqua green and light avocado. Price is \$4.00 per lb., Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### A NATURAL, HEAVIER, TWO PLY RUG YARN

This is a beautiful quality wool we are importing from England. It is supposed to have 275 yards per lb., but I've checked twice, and find about 375 yards per lb. It is like our finer Ryagarn rug wool which we import in 41 colors. This natural will dye beautifully, and has a twist so that when it is clipped it resists unraveling, so it is ideal for rya and flossa rugs. \$4.80 per lb. on about 1 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### AN EXTRA LONG REED HOOK

We had these made to order for us, 4" longer than usual with a V cut opening. Ideal on multiple harness looms where you have a longer reach through the harnesses and heddles, and also excellent for those who like to draw-in through the heddle and sley the reed at the same time. Wooden handle, 13" length. Price is \$1.75 each. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### A NEW S TYPE SLEY HOOK FOR SLEYING THE REED

These are made of brass and are about 2 or 3 times larger than the small Swedish plastic sley hook. They have a large S type shape, are easy to hold, and I feel, make it much faster to sley the reed. Have been experimenting with one of these, and I liked it so well, that we took a chance and had 500 made to order for us. Price is \$1.00 each, plus pp. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### AN EXCELLENT NEW SKI- TYPE RUG SHUTTLE

We saw these being used wo much in England that we finally found the company in Sweden that makes these. Not as bulky as the regular type shuttle, these have large capacity, and are not as high as the rug shuttle we normally have. Both ends are tapered up like ski-tips, so they slide through the shed very easily. Price is \$2.25 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 19 COLORS IN 2/18's FABRI- TYPE YARNS

This 2/18's worsted has about 5,000 yards per pound, comes in 8½ oz. to 9 oz. cones, and is \$6.80 per lb. Excellent for warp at 20, 24, 30 per inch. 19 interesting colors. Imported from England. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### MACRAME,

by Virginia Harvey is in stock once again. It has been out of print for several months, and have just received a new stock. Price is \$8.50 plus 24c pp. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 8 COLORS IN A 50% SILK, 50% LINEN THREAD.

These are beautiful colors and this thread comes on about 1 lb. cones. It is \$3.20 per pound, and has about 5,000 yards per lb. We have 50 lbs. of each of the eight colors available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### AN EXCITING NEW BOOK THE ART OF TAANIKO WEAVING

This is the story and complete directions of the weaving by the Maori's, a native tribe of New Zealand. Well described in pictures and words, the complete process is shown, and it is well illustrated. Price is \$3.95 plus postage of 18c. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### IMPORTED RUG WOOL

A beautiful quality Ryagarn, English Rug Wool which is available in 41 colors. It is mothproof, comes in Kilo packages of 2 lbs. 2 oz. each, or if available in smaller amounts in skeins of about 3½ oz. each. Price is reasonable at \$4.80 per lb. for this superior quality rug wool. 550 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 12/3 NATURAL RAMIE

A nice quality Ramie yarn at a reasonable price. This 12/3 Ramie is available in both NATURAL AND BLEACH WHITE. It has 1200 yards per lb., and is excellent for table mats, linens, etc., at 15 per inch. Imported from the Philippines this Ramie is quite strong. Price is \$3.20 per lb. for the natural and \$3.60 per lb. for the bleached on 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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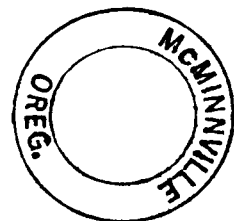
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