



warp and weft

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January, 1970

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A Word from the Editor:

Yes, another month has flown by, and here we are again, taking inventory of all things. This is one job that I dislike, as it means that all of the yarns have to be taken off the shelves, the shelves dusted and washed off, and the yarns counted, and extended so that we can figure out personal property tax and income taxes for the year. It is something that has to be done every year I'm sorry to say, and do I ever heave a sigh of relief when it is finished.

Actually, there is not much to report this month, as we've tried to refrain from buying too many yarns this past month to try and keep down our inventory.

We did have a shipment of 5/1 slub linen in 10 colors come in from Switzerland, and also we had two new colors dyed to order for us in our 16/2 Ramie from Switzerland. It came in also. And we are trying out a new source of supply in the Phillipines, and we had a shipment of 150 lbs. of an aqua blue ramie come in. We had it spun to order in a size 7/2, 12/2, and 16/2 to see how the quality of this will compare with that from Switzerland and Japan. We were disappointed in the quality, as it did not seem as nice to us. However, the duty was a little less than usual because it is from the Phillipines, so we can sell it at a little less than the normal price.

We had a new shipment of the Swiss strings of beads come in about the day before Christmas, too late for us to attract some of those last minute Christmas shoppers.

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Also, believe it or not, at long last, our shipment of spun silk in 35 colors from Switzerland has been shipped to us and we hope to have it in a month or two at the latest.

We ordered this last May, and it had to be plied for us as it was all so fine, and this was finished and shipped in December. When we were in Switzerland in May, we ordered this with the provision that we would take if they would ply it for us. We had letters saying it was about 800 lbs., then 700 lbs., then 400 lbs., and so I was saving for it accordingly. We got the bill for 1,000 lbs., and you can imagine the scurrying around we had to do to find some ready cash to pay for this increased amount, as he had just planned for 400 lbs. instead of the 1,000.

Our Christmas for we three was a nice quiet one, as was New Year's, and we did close for the week between Christmas and New Year's, to take a much needed break.

Our daughter Janice has her first gymnastic meet today, and Robin is working at getting out invoices and cutting the samples for Warp and Weft, so you can see it is business as usual at the Robin & Russ Handweaving Shop.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review:

This month, I want to tell you about a book that I feel has been much overlooked by the weaving world, and which I myself think is outstanding. It was published in 1959, and I did not ever review it before. The title is THE TEXTILE ARTS, and it was written by Verla Birrell.

I think that the sub-title that Prof. Birrell has given to this book tells the story of much of its content. Her sub-title is A HANDBOOK OF FABRIC STRUCTURE AND DESIGN PROCESSES: ANCIENT AND MODERN WEAVING, BRAIDING, PRINTING, and OTHER TEXTILE TECHNIQUES.

This book is evidently written strictly for a school textbook, as it is the policy of most publishers to give you one half of the regular discount on textbooks, and it is so in this case.

There is so much content in this book that

I feel it would take two or three full columns for me to give a good review of the contents of this book. So rather than take that much space, I will try and give you some of the chapter headings and perhaps tell you a little of the content in each chapter.

Her introduction of Fabric Formation and Design is most interesting reading and is well worth your reading.

Next comes a history of weaving and she covers ancient, weaving during the middle ages and the renaissance, and then goes into detail about weaving in the United States since 1800.

Next comes the chapter on Textile Fibers and Yarns and their uses. She tells of the many different textile fibers, and discusses spinning and related processes, tells more about yarns and threads, and then starts into explaining the actual weaving patterns and processes and tells about the equipment used in weaving.

The third chapter tells about the different kinds of looms and how they are used such as free-warp looms, warp weighted looms, card and frame looms, bow looms, back-strap looms, continuous warp looms, and slot and eye looms and others.

The next chapter tells about belt looms and belt weaves such as inkle looms, card-heddle belt looms and card or tablet weaving, bow belt looms, and pick-up patterns for belt looms.

The next section or paragraph tells about rug looms and rug making techniques and it is thoroughly discussed about the different techniques possible in rug weaving.

She has a chapter on basic weaves, and patterns, and planning patterns and making drafts for weaving which is well done and easy to understand.

The next portion of the book is devoted to the non-woven weaving and single element processes such as braiding and meshwork, looping techniques, knot work, lace, and trimmings.

Then she has a chapter on general directions for doing embroidery and gives many of the embroidery stitches and tells of the different types of embroidery.

The third part of the book is dealing with the ornamentation of fabrics that is not done in the weaving. She has a good section on color, on dyes and their sources and properties, and then goes into detail on many different dyeing problems such as mordants, dye formulas, tie-and-dye, batik, etc.

She has another chapter on textile painting processes such as hand painting and stencil painting.

The last chapter deals with textile stamping and printing processes and covers blockprinting, silkscreen, power printing, and fabric finishes.

There are hundreds of excellent photographs in this book and the descriptions and line drawings are excellent.

I feel that this is not a good review of this book, but it does tell of some of the content. I can recommend it very highly though, and feel sure that you will find it worth while. This is not a pattern book, but it is a work on the different phases of weaving and the decorating of textiles and is, I feel, outstanding as a textbook.

TITLE: THE TEXTILE ARTS

AUTHOR: Verla Birrell

PUBLISHER: Harper and Row, Publishers

PRICE: \$12.50 plus 24c postage.

AVAILABLE: Robin and Russ Handweavers will stock this, and it is available from the publishers if desired.

This Month's Cover Photograph:

We thought you might like this detail photograph of a portion only of a wall hanging from one of the Northern California Handweavers Conferences. You can see that it took much time and patience to weave this particular wall hanging. What made this photograph intriguing to me was the proportion that is seen in this close-up portion. You can see the proportion of 1 to 3 and 1 to 5 both in this same piece which tends to make it much more interesting than if it were all equally proportioned the same.

Also, this one is a challenge. See if you can figure out how it was woven. I can look at it and have decided how I would do it, but I wonder if I am right. I think that the heavy dark thread has been finger manipulated in order to do this, and has to have been either loose from the other warp threads or else woven in short lengths. See if you can figure how it was done. Yes, it really is a challenge. If it has been woven as I think it was, then it is a type of weft leno and weft Danish medallion. Am I right? Let me know what you think.

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

NOTE: About the Treadling Sequence:

You will note that when we had the tweed wool in the weft, we had one thread in one shed; and the next time we had two threads in the same shed; and the next time, we had three threads in the same shed; and the next time, we had four threads in the same shed; the next time we had three threads in the same shed; and the next time to end the pattern, we had two threads in the same shed. This sequence requires that you use the shuttle with the tweed yarn once in one shed; two times in the same shed; three times in the same shed; four times in the same shed; three times in the same shed, and two times in the same shed.

In order to do this, we should like to suggest that you do it as follows.

On each selvage edge, we suggest that you have two threads of say 10/3 cotton, which you have through the harnesses, but not through the heddles in the harnesses. You also have it through the reed, and have it hanging from the back of the loom with a weight to keep it tight all the time. Then, when you have to throw the same tweed yarn more than once in the same shed, throw the shuttle through the shed, and go around these two threads and then throw it back in the same shed. I'd suggest that you beat the fabric each time that you throw the shuttle. If you are sure each time that you go around these two threads with just the tweed yarn, you will be able to use just two shuttles, one for the tweed and one for the grey slub yarn.

Of course, you could use five shuttles if you want, and have one thread on one bobbin of tweed, two threads on one bobbin of tweed, three threads on one bobbin of the tweed, four threads on one bobbin of the tweed, and the fifth shuttle would be for the grey slub wool.

COST OF THE THREADS USED IN THIS FABRIC:

The silver grey slub wool which is made to resemble a Mexican handspun yarn has about 1,000 yards per lb., and it is priced at \$3.20 per lb. We also have this same yarn in a copper brown, in a dark brown, and in an olive avocado green color.

The 1-1/8 run New Zealand wool tweed yarn has 1800 yards per lb. We have about 15 different colors in limited amounts in this same tweed yarn. This yarn is also \$3.20 per lb.

COST OF THIS FABRIC:

We had a ten yard warp, 42" wide, and in this warp it took 3 lbs. 2 oz. of the tweed yarn, and 3 lbs. of the grey slub yarn for the warp. Thus, our warp cost total was \$19.60 or \$1.96 per yard for a 42" width.

From our 10 yard warp, we had 8½ yards of finished fabric. In this 8½ yards of weft, we used 2 lbs. 10 oz. of the New Zealand Tweed, and we used 2 lbs. 13 oz. of the Silver Grey Slub Wool. Thus our weft cost for 8½ yards of 41" wide finished fabric was \$17.40, or this comes to \$2.05 per yard.

Now, remember again that we had a 10 yard warp, but from this warp, we got only 8½ yards of finished weft. Thus, to get a true cost of this fabric, we would re-figure and get a better warp cost. In 8½ yards of finished fabric, the warp cost (including loom waste) was \$19.60 so the new warp cost is \$2.30.
WARP COST per yard, 41" finished ... \$2.30
WEFT COST per yard, 41" finished ... \$2.05

FABRIC COST PER YARD..... \$4.35

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

This is actually a fairly easy to weave fabric, with no major problems except the two, three, four, three, and two and one shots of the same tweed yarn in the proper sequence, which I tried to explain earlier.

I do think that the first method of doing these multiple shots in the same shed is the best way of doing it.

The simplest way of weaving this fabric into a Poncho is the one that is illustrated in the Tidball monograph, Contemporary Costume, Strictly Handwoven. I'm referring to the one by Rosaland Berlin which is illustrated on page 15, and is explained further on page 16. It takes a 40" x 50" piece of material to make this poncho, and, of course, you can either leave fringe on both ends or add it on both ends.

I would suggest that you weave one like this
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one first, and then perhaps to on a little further, and weave a fitted one, similar to either the Nell Scott poncho on pages 6 or 7; or you could make it like the Nell Scott Coat as explained on pages 10 and 11 of this monograph. All in all, this would be a different project for you to do, and would not cost too much, and should be easy and fairly fast to weave. After you weave one like these two, then you could expand your thinking and work out many different loom fitted ponchos or fabrics.

Visit the Western Nova Scotia Handcraft Exhibit and Sale in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in July

If your vacation takes you to Canada this year, why not plan to visit the Handcraft Exhibit and Sale at the District Community Centre, in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia this summer. This exhibit and sale will be July 17th and 18th, and is sponsored by the Fort Anne Weavers Guild. There will be demonstrations going on of many different crafts, and everyone is invited.

The Bi-Annual Conference of the Southern California Handweavers

will be held in March this year at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California on the dates of March 14th and 15th. If you will be in the area, do plan to attend. Registration is \$7.00, and includes admission both days plus Saturday Speakers, and also the Luncheon and Fashion Show. If you can attend, send your registration fee to Mary Weissel, P. O. Box 393, West Covina, California 91790.

The Northern California Handweavers Will Hold their Eighteenth Annual Convergence April 24th and 25th

This conference will be held at the Monterey Fairgrounds, Monterey, Calif. on the days of April 25th and 26th, 1970. Registration is

\$5.00 for this conference, and if you will be in the area, or planning a vacation in April, try and attend. The only address we have at present is that of the commercial exhibit chairman, but if you want to register, I'm sure that she will forward your registration fee to the right person. Send your \$5.00 registration fee to Claire Pfeiffer, 1740 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek, Calif. 94595.

Visit Switzerland and Ireland on a Handweaving Tour with the Editor of Warp and Weft.

Plans are being made now for a tour to Switzerland and Ireland and to finish up the trip have a week's weaving workshop next summer, after school is out. The trip will probably start in the middle of June and will be either five or six weeks long. Tour leader will be Russell E. Groff, Editor of Warp and Weft. If you would like a brochure with prices and other facts, be sure to drop a line to Robin & Russ Handweavers, and they will see that a brochure on the trip is sent to you. We will visit some of the places that you will see featured in future issues of Warp and Weft. These places were just visited last May, to try and help make arrangements for next year's tour.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED IN THE WEAVING TOUR OF June, 1970, a tentative itinerary and cost has been worked out and has been mailed to most of those who inquired. However, three or four of you did not send your return address, so if you have not received one of these, drop us a line, so we will be sure to send you one.

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.

THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET

are agents for the Macomber, Norwood, and Lerlerc Looms in the Chicago area. Visit them and see what is available. The Handweavers Workbasket, Box 399, Route 1, West Chicago, Illinois 60185.

CONTEMPORARY COSTUME, STRICTLY HANDWOVEN

is a most interesting monograph on popular modern loom fitted fabrics and you will enjoy it. Price is \$5.00 plus 18c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

7" OVAL AND 7" CIRCLES OF BAMBOO FOR BAG HANDLES.

We have both of these, the oval and the circles in stock. Price is 90c each or \$1.75 per pair. Very popular for all types of handbags. Natural Color in bamboo. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

18 COLORS IN DOUBLE QUICK COTTON FOR CARD* WEAVING, INKLE WEAVING, MACRAME AND FINGER WEAVING.

And this fairly heavy cable twist cotton comes in 125 yard skeins, and is priced at 45c per skein. Ideal for these uses as listed above. Free sample sheet of this upon request. It is fairly heavy, and looks to be about the size of perle 3 cotton, but with much tighter twist, and thus would be more durable. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LUMINEX METALLIC BOUCLE.

This fairly fine metallic boucle is in stock now in 11 colors, and it is non-tarnishable and washable, and can be used for either warp or weft. It comes on 500 yards per tube, and is \$1.35 per tube. Shiny and glossy, this beautiful metallic is imported from England. Colors are: Church Purple, Orange Sherbet, Radiant Blue, Aztec Gold, Hi-Fashion Turquoise, Tonopah Silver, Christmas Red, Shimmering Chartreuse, Wild Copper and Almost a Kelly Green. 11 colors in stock. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TWO NEW COLORS IN 16/2 RAMIE FROM SWITZERLAND.

These colors are old gold, and aqua teal. Both have 2400 yards per lb., and come on 4 oz. tubes of 600 yards at \$1.25 each, or on about 1 lb. tubes at \$5.00 per lb. Makes 18 colors in all now available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FROSTONE, 10/3 COTTON, IN 30 COLORS.

We now have all 30 colors in stock of this 10/3 cotton. It has 600 yards per tube, and is 95c per tube. Excellent for either warp or weft. It is 3 ply, so is very strong. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LOPI — Icelandic Wool in 10 colors plus 6 natural colors

or 16 colors in all. It comes in skeins of 3.6 oz. each, and is mothproofed. Price is \$1.90 per skein. Excellent in afghans, ponchos, lap robes, etc. New colors are Emerald, Medium Tan, Chocolate Brown, Orange, Fuchsia, Carritine Red, Teal Blue, Light Navy, Green Cascade — like Nile, and Golden Yellow. All these and the 6 natural shades are beautiful yarns. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/16's HEATHER WORSTED FROM ENGLAND

We have 11 different colors in this beautiful heather worsted from England now in stock in the shop. An excellent weight for sport coats, tailored suits, and skirts. It has 440 yards per lb., can be used for warp or weft, and comes on approximately 2 lb. cones. Price is \$5.60 per lb., and minimum order is 1/2 lb. of a color. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FOUR NEW EXCITING COTTON LACE COLORS

Tangerine, Fuchsia, Chartreuse and Radiant Blue are the four new colors, and they are exciting ones. Comes on 1/2 lb. tubes at \$2.75 per tube. It has about 950 yards per 1/2 lb. tube. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SLOT AND EYE WARPING PADDLES

These are excellent warping paddles of hard wood, and has 8 slots and 8 eyes, and will take 16 threads in all. Price is \$3.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ALL PURPOSE SHUTTLE IN BLACK WALNUT

Beautiful wood in these, and they will take either a 7" bobbin or two of the 3 1/2" bobbins. They are 13" overall length, and are 1-5/8" wide, and 1 1/4" high. Easy to change bobbins in these also and they are an open bottom shuttle. Price is \$6.00 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 SIZES IN NETTING OR PICK-UP SHUTTLES

These are made of plastic and come in 5", 6", 7", 8" and 10" lengths. Price is 60c each, or a set of 5 different ones for \$2.50. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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