

warp and weft

Vol. XXIII, No. 6

June, 1970

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Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

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Also, we hope to have some new exciting pictures to use as cover photographs in future issues. I am taking a camera, a tape recorder, plus a suitcase full of clothes, so I'll be tired just lugging all of this on the trip.

I have so many plans for this trip that I'm beginning to wonder if it will be possible for me to do even half of what I'd like to do. Oh well, time will tell.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

A Word from the Editor:

Exciting days are ahead for your editor, as in just a few days, he will head for Switzerland, England, and Ireland. We will try and visit as many weaving studios as we can, and also particularly, we are looking for sources of brushed mohair yarns, loop mohair yarns, for a standard line of colors of Irish or Scottish or English tweeds, and for unusual threads, like our slub wool which resembles the Mexican handspun yarns, etc. We will also look for out of print books to see if we can locate any of these, and of course, during all of this weaving activity, the sight-seeing will be loads of fun.

We have tentatively planned to ride the trains in England and Ireland, and in Switzerland, we hope to rent a car and visit some of the places we have not visited before. We hope to visit the places where the beautiful Swiss laces and other types of embroidered fabrics are made.

Then, your editor hopes to go to school for one month upon his return, and try to plan a whole year's fabrics for *Warp and Weft*, a year in advance. This is the plan at present, and we do hope that all of this becomes a reality.

Most of you realize that because of many factors, our trip with a group of weavers did not materialize, so we have had to change many of the plans for this trip.

While we are away, Robin will keep most of the shop activities busy, and also we will have two high school students who will both work full time wrapping packages, making up sample sheets, and doing a multitude of other things.

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This Month's Cover Photograph:

This month's cover was a wall hanging which was displayed at both the Las Vegas Conference, and also at the Southern California Handweavers Conference in Disneyland.

I believe this piece was woven by one of the instructors, or by the weaving instructor at a small college in Northern Utah.

This piece was made entirely of Sisal, the sort of wrapping cord or twine that is often used in hardware stores and the like. Sometimes it is called "Binder Twine," and actually comes from a cactus plant which is grown in Mexico for this purpose.

I might mention that this weaving instructor had about four or five outstanding pieces and I think they were all wall hangings. One piece she had was a wall hanging with about 20 to 30 small squares which she had all combined in one hanging. Each of these squares which really was all one piece, were woven with a different shade of natural handspun wool. There were about 30 different colors, and it was a most outstanding piece. If we can get a picture of any of her hangings we will do so, and try to share them with you.

DON'T FORGET TO PLAN TO VISIT WITH THE PORTLAND HANDWEAVERS IN 1971 at the Pacific Northwest Weavers Conference. The conference will be held for three days at the Hilton Hotel on the days of April 30, May 1 and 2 in 1971. All visitors are welcome. There will be an evening fashion show and dinner, there will be visits to several different weaving studios, and many other things to

keep you busy on a weaving weekend. The theme of this conference in 1971, will be "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WEAVING," and we hope that you will be the guest of the Portland Handweavers for that weekend.

This Month's Book Review:

This month we want to bring to your attention a book which many of you have never seen or heard. Its title is: PRIMITIVE SCANDINAVIAN TEXTILES IN KNOTLESS NETTING, and it was written by Odd Nordland.

This text has been translated into English, or perhaps it was written in English as the author did teach in America also, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Odd Nordland points out that this technique of making fabrics was an important one in prehistoric days, as was the making of pottery and other implements of stone or clay.

He mentions that at the present, this technique of knotless netting is on the wane, and it was his desire to preserve this technique and teach it that led him partly to the writing of this book.

He gives details on the techniques involved in this knotless netting, and he has step by step pictures, and also quite a few diagrams of the techniques which were used.

Textiles of this type have been found throughout the world from the deserts of Arizona, to the graves in Sinkiang provinces, from Australia, and throughout Northern Europe.

He tells of the materials that were used in the ancient times, and gives details of the techniques used.

He explains the simple loop, the loop twist coiling systems, etc. He tells what these various materials were used for, and has worked out a detailed map of Scandinavia showing where these different techniques are found, and where he thought some of the techniques originated.

Let me quote what another professor wrote about this book. This is the quote of Professor Sigurd Erixon. "This is an exhaustive account of knotless netting, a primitive form of textile which, in modern times is used chiefly in the fashioning of strainers, mittens, and stockings, but which the author endeavors to show to be a very old technique. He seems to have included all of the known Scandinavian material in his survey, not only Norwegian, but also Swedish and Danish. This in itself is an achievement that bears witness to well-balanced and versatile study. The author has carried out his investigation on factual, functional, and linguistic lines, and has supplemented his results with liberal illustrations and diagrams. He has also paid attention to material outside Scandinavia. In his attempt to date the appearance of the technique in Scandinavia and its earliest speaking there, he has resorted to archaeological finds and to material available from Southern Europe and the Far East of antiquity. His inquiry leads Nordland to believe that knotless netting came to Scandinavia with the boat-axe culture. Whether this conclusion is acceptable or not, his work must be recognized as an ethnological achievement of outstanding interest."

Perhaps you yourself might like to learn a little more about knotless netting, and if so, you might like to read this book and study it.

TITLE: Primitive Scandinavian Textiles in Knotless Netting.

AUTHOR: Odd Nordland

PUBLISHER: Oslo University Press

PRICE: \$4.95 plus 18c postage

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers

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.

The Macalpine Tartan:

Here is another of the striking Tartans, the Malcalpine Tartan. Some say that there is a modern tartan, and others say that it is an ancient one dating back to 800 A.D.

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.

THREADING DRAFT:

4	B	B	W	B	B	B	G	G	G	G	G	G	B	B	B	Y	B	B
3	B	B	W	B	B	B	G	G	G	G	G	G	B	B	B	Y	B	B
2	B	B	B	B	G	G	G	G	B	G	G	G	B	B	B	B	B	G
1	B	B	B	B	G	G	G	G	B	G	G	G	B	B	B	B	B	G

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

- B — 2/18's Black Worsted
- W — 2/18's Bleached White Worsted
- Y — 2/18's Daffodil Yellow Worsted
- G — 2/18's Chantilly Green Worsted

WARP THREADS USED:

The warp threads are the 2/18's English worsteds, which we had made to resemble the old Fabri from Bernats. It is available in 39 colors, and the colors we used in this tartan are as follows:

- B — 2/18's Black Worsted
- G — 2/18's Chantilly Green Worsted
- Y — 2/18's Daffodil Yellow
- W — 2/18's Bleached White

WEFT THREADS USED:

The same colors in the English 2/18's worsted are used in the weft, the same as they were used in the warp.

REED USED:

A 15 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 30 threads per inch.

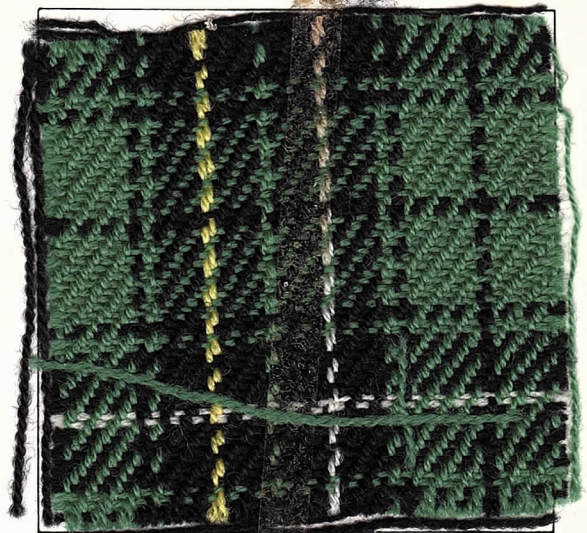
WIDTH IN REED:

Our warp was set up 41" wide on the loom, and after it was woven, it was 38½" wide when off tension. It would have been narrower if we had not used a stretcher or temple.

LENGTH OF WARP:

We liked this color combination and the

SAMPLE:



authentic "tartan" so much, that we put a 14 yard warp on the loom, so that we would have enough left for a dress, or for ties, or for some other fabric.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

Please note that all of the authentic tartans are woven on a twill set-up with a diagonal throughout the fabric. It is a straight twill treadling. Also, the treadling is as drawn in, or exactly the same sequence of colors as is used in the threading draft. There are 72 threads in one pattern repeat, and in one complete treadling sequence.

1. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
2. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
3. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted

4. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
5. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
6. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
7. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
8. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
9. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
10. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
11. Treadle No. 3 — Daffodil Yellow
12. Treadle No. 4 — Daffodil Yellow
13. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
14. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
15. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
16. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
17. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
18. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
19. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
20. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
21. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
22. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
23. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
24. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
25. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
26. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
27. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
28. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
29. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
30. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
31. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
32. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
33. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
34. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
35. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
36. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
37. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
38. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
39. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
40. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
41. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
42. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
43. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
44. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
45. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
46. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
47. Treadle No. 3 — Chantilly Green
48. Treadle No. 4 — Chantilly Green
49. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
50. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
51. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
52. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
53. Treadle No. 1 — Chantilly Green
54. Treadle No. 2 — Chantilly Green
55. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
56. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
57. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
58. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted

59. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
60. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
61. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
62. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
63. Treadle No. 3 — White, Bleached
64. Treadle No. 4 — White, Bleached
65. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
66. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
67. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
68. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted
69. Treadle No. 1 — Black Worsted
70. Treadle No. 2 — Black Worsted
71. Treadle No. 3 — Black Worsted
72. Treadle No. 4 — Black Worsted

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT IS 72 THREADS. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

One of the first things that I must tell you is that you must either use a series of four cotton threads for a selvage on each edge, or else you should use a temple or stretcher. This yarn has the same type of elasticity as did the old fabri, and so it will narrow down in the weaving quite a bit, unless you use some means to eliminate part of this.

Secondly, we used a light double beat, and we did this to make sure none of the worsted warp threads would cling together. We beat once lightly, changed to the next shed and beat lightly again before we threw the shuttle for the second time.

I was delighted with this thread, and wove the first five yards without a broken selvage thread, and with no stretcher or temple, and no cotton selvage thread. Then, all of a sudden I began to have a few frayed selvage threads. I then went to the use of a stretcher, and had no troubles with selvage after starting this.

Without a selvage or without a stretcher, the fabric wove down from 41" to 38½" width. Then, when I started using the stretcher or temple, I found that it wove about 40" wide, with the use of this stretcher.

Also, with this yarn, there were relatively few knots in the warp, and most of the time, these would weave in without coming apart. However, it would have been much more practical, if I were going to use this material for a costume, if I had cut out the knots and put in

a substitute thread, until the thread that we had cut was long enough to put back in the warp without tying a knot. However, since it is being cut up into swatches for warp and weft, whenever possible, I did weave the knots in, that were in the warp.

MORE ABOUT THE MACALPINE TARTAN

First of all, notice that this is a little unusual tartan in that it is an Asymmetrical design. This tartan is the same as the Hunting MacLean, except that alternate white lines are made yellow. This tartan is a predominantly green one, and this is unusual, as the other tartans of Siol Alpin are red.

There was disagreement in some of the tartan books, as two of them felt that this was a modern tartan, and the other book I consulted thought that this tartan could be traced to King Alpin, who was king of the Scots, and was murdered by the Picts in 834 A.D.

This clan is now landless, and the family of the chief has not been traced as have so many others.

MacAlpine is not the name of any single clan, but rather a name covering a number of different clans, and there is no crest or motto for this tartan. The Gaelic name for this tartan is MacAilpein. It is said that in the group claiming this tartan are the MacGregors, Grants, MacKinnons, Macquarries, Macnabs, Macduffies and MacAulays.

The origin of this name is from the name for the "Son of Alpine." The plant badge for this tartan is the pine. And there is a war cry for this tartan. In the Gaelic, it is Cuimhnic bas Ailpein, and when this is translated, it means, "Remember the death of Alpine." This is from the year 834 when the Scots were defeated by the Picts in 834, and it is thought that the Picts then murdered the king, so that the Scottish clan would be broken up further by the death of their king.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED:

First of all, this fabric is made of the English worsteds we import. It is 2/18's worsted, with about 4800 yards per pound. The yarn is very strong, and has been moth-proofed, and is quite elastic, and fairly easy to handle.

There are now 39 colors available in this yarn, and it is \$6.80 per lb., the same price that the old Bernat's Fabri used to sell for.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We used 3½ lbs. of 2/18's worsted in 14 yards of 41" wide material. The total warp cost was \$23.80, so the warp cost per yard was \$1.70

We used slightly less of this yarn in the weft in our 12¾ yards, and the weft cost per yard comes to \$1.66.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.70
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$1.66
<hr/>	
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.36

THE BOOK CORNER:

This month we will tell you about some of books that used to be available, and are actually now available again.

Rug Weaving for Everyone, by Tod and Del Deo was out of print for a year or two, and is now available again at \$3.95 per copy.

For several years, Byways in Handweaving, by Mary M. Atwater was out of print, but about a year or two ago, it was republished, and is available now at \$7.95 per copy.

Lichens for Vegetable Dyeing, is a book that is out of print. However, we have been able to find another 12 copies, and it is available at \$4.50 per copy.

We thought that you might be interested to know that MACRAME, by Virginia Harvey, is one of the many books published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, but even more interesting is the fact that it has gone through three or four editions in two years, and is the second best seller from this large publishing company. It is \$8.50.

One of the earliest books entitled A BOOK OF HAND-WOVEN COVERLETS by E. C. Hall, was originally published in 1912. It was out of print for many years, and is primarily a picture and story book of the early colonial coverlets. Price is \$8.75, and I notice that this reprint, was printed in Japan.

We have also back in print after a couple of years of being out of print, copies of THE RECIPE BOOK, by Mary M. Atwater. It is \$8.00 per copy.

We have been told that several other weaving books which are out of print are to be reprinted soon, but have not had any definite word as to what these book are.

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 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF KNOTS AND FANCY ROPE WORK

by Graumont and Hensel is a must for the avid MACRAME ENTHUSIAST. Jammed full of knots and instructions, this is really an encyclopedia, and is well worth the purchase price. It is in its fourth edition now. Price is \$12.95 plus 30¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

9", 10" and 12" CORRECTIVE HEDDLES

are available. These are clip on or snap on heddles that save a lot of effort if you make an error in your threading. Price is \$1.65 per dozen, plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St. McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEDDLE TRANSFER RODS

are also a great timesaver for transferring heddles from one harness to another, and for storage of extra heddles when you are not using them all on your loom. Price is \$1.25 per pair plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

MINIATURE LAPEL SHUTTLE PINS.

These lapel pins are well made of exotic woods and are all hand made. About 2" in length, each of these has an actual bobbin with weft on same. Use this for gifts for your weaver friends. Price is \$2.25 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

2 PLY GLOSSY NYLON THREAD

On 1/2 lb. tubes. This is a nice quality thread which has 1200 yards per pound. Very strong, and can be used for warp or weft. Available on 1/2 lb. tubes of 600 yards each, the price is \$2.40 per lb., or \$1.20 per 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon. Oh yes, this is available in natural only.

A SET OF FIVE NETTING OR PICK-UP SHUTTLES

These are 60¢ each, and come in five different lengths. If you'd like a set of five different sizes, 5", 6", 7", 8" and 10" sizes, they are \$2.50 per set. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

EXOTIC SWISS NECKLACES MADE OF BEAUTIFUL AND EXOTIC WOODS.

These beautiful necklaces are made of woods which the Swiss import mostly from Africa. Beautifully made, I have visited the shop in Switzerland and watched these being made. Price is \$4.95 per string, plus 20¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BINDERS FOR WARP AND WEFT

These will hold three years issues of Warp and Weft, and are well made. Have a space so you can mark the volume numbers on the backbone. Name is printed on both backbone and on the front cover. Price is \$3.50 each, plus postage. Also, we have some binders, which are just a little small for one edge of Warp and Weft, but which will hold two years issues. Price on these is \$1.75 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

16 COLORS OF LOPI, ICELANDIC WOOL

in a heavy weight. It has about 480 yards per lb. Price is \$1.90 per skein, and there are six natural colors, and 10 dyed colors. Also available are two knitting instruction books featuring about 10 very exciting sweaters knitted of this same yarn. Free sample of this yarn (all 16 colors) upon request. The knitting pattern books are \$1.00 plus 10¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

4 DIFFERENT SPINNING WHEELS.

Three of these are imported from Norway, Sweden, and from Canada, and the fourth is a beautiful one made in Oregon. All four wheels are on display at the Robin & Russ shop, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY SINGLE PLY RAYON SLUB WITH LINEN INJECT.

This also has some brown rayon injects in with the linen. It has about 750 yards per lb. Available on 1/2 lb. tubes at \$1.60 each plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE PICTURE BOOK BRITISH SHEEP BREEDS, THEIR WOOL AND ITS USES

is an outstanding picture book of the various breeds of sheep raised in the British Isles. It has color plates and outstanding black and white pictures of the various sheep, tells what kind of wool comes from each sheep, the type and quality of wool that each has, and gives many interesting details. Price is \$3.75 plus postage of 12¢. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TEXTILES OF ANCIENT PERU AND THEIR TECHNIQUES.

We have been told that this book will be out of print soon, and it is an outstanding book. When out of print in an earlier French edition, copies of it sold for from \$50.00 to \$75.00. This is full of details of Peruvian textiles and is easy to understand. Price \$25.00 plus 36¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
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