



warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor:

Yikes, another month has flown by, and here I am again, trying to tell of the activities of the past month.

First of all, a concentrated effort was made by your editor, taking pictures, revising copy, and then typing out 56 pages for the printers to photograph, so AT LONG LAST, OUR NEW CATALOGUE IS AT THE PRINTERS, and will be available in perhaps two or three weeks.

And because of two forthcoming weaving conventions, your editor also wrote three issues of Drafts and Designs, our multiple harness bulletin, and got three projects started for samples to be used in Warp and Weft.

Besides this, trying to keep pace with the mail, and the making of two new sample sheets, and ordering new stock and items for special orders, it was a fairly quiet month, even though a busy one.

We did have a large shipment of 6/4 natural grey Swiss linen come in, as well as some of the heavy slub linen in 2½/1 lea in natural and white. If ever our shelves in the shop bulged with yarns, now is the time, as we have now received all of our orders of last summer, except for one, and this one we do not have any idea where it is.

The one shipment that has not arrived as yet, is one that contains some of the most interesting threads in it. In it, is some camel-hair yarn, some natural black alpaca yarn, some interesting gold and silver metallic, and a nice novelty yarn of rayon from Phoenix, the producer of novelty yarns in Ireland. Hope that we have this soon for you to see, and so we can try them out ourselves, and perhaps make a sample out of these, for you to see.

This month, we also have another article from Paula Simmons, on shearing sheep, and
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so we are using one of her pictures for the cover, and also here following, is her article on the shearing.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

Ross Simmons is shown shearing one of the black sheep that he and his wife, Paula Simmons, raise themselves. They have been breeding to obtain a black fleece for quite a few years, and you can see how dark the fleece is on this one. We had a picture of a darker one being sheared also, but everyone said to use this cover photograph, as it looked as though the sheep was enjoying the shearing (tender loving care) very much. Of course, you know from past issues, that Paula spins most of the wool from their flock herself, and sometimes weaves it, or knits it, or uses it for embroidery or stitchery.

Shearing, by Paula Simmons

When spinners keep a few sheep for their wool, they expect to get better wool, and with it, a certain feeling of independence. When shearing time comes, if they are not able to shear their own, they find that they are really not so independent. They have to plead with a shearer to come out for a small number of sheep. It is not worth his while, financially, and the owners can in no way, control the quality of his work. His speed and carelessness can destroy much of the wool beauty that they have been working to attain.

It is understandable that the shearer must get the work done quickly, get paid, and move on to the next job; just as a commercial sheep raiser must have his sheep sheared quickly, as reasonably as possible, and get the wool off to the market.

BUT, the spinner has as the main objective to get good wool for spinning, and only secondly of removing the wool from the sheep. This problem can best be solved, it would seem, by eliminating the need for a hired shearer.

As a do it yourself project, shearing need not be done hurriedly, and can be timed to fit into a weekend. If you have ewes with small lambs, it will cause less confusion of lambs crying (they don't recognize mama after she is sheared) if you shear only one ewe each day, instead of all on one day. If you rely on a paid shearer, they would all have to be done at once.

To do it yourself, you will need tools. There are two choices: hand shears which are blades or electric shears or clippers. Electric shears cost about \$65.00, while good Sheffield steel hand shears cost around \$5.00 or \$6.00. You can do an equally good (or bad) job with either, depending on your patience and persistence, and eventually, skill. Removal of the wool is basically a matter of following the contours of the sheep.

Pamphlets from Agricultural Extension Service, or state Agricultural college, and books on shearing, will show the basic "shearing positions" which are intended to keep the sheep helpless, without any leverage to scramble to its feet, and in each position, you are able to shear a portion of the animal. I've always thought that these holds greatly resembled wrestling holds.

In addition to the standard strokes shown with clippers, and the conventional positions with blades, there is a "Welsh" style shearing that is an easier idea for beginners to approach, where the sheep has its legs tied and is on a low platform or across the shearer's lap if it is a small breed of sheep. One other possibility is what is referred to as "ladies style" — that is, the sheep tied up and standing. With a gentle sheep, it is possible to do a fairly decent job of wool removal from most parts of the animal. This wool can be sorted and bagged before you put the sheep down to shear the belly wool, much of which will be discarded as low quality.

There are some advantages to shearing your sheep, other than just having them sheared when you want.

One valuable bonus is gaining familiarity with each individual animal. You are able to check its teeth, feet, udder, and general health. Sheep always look so pastoral and content out eating grass, that some owners have no occasion to handle them, and may be shocked at the condition of their feet, which may need trimming more than once a year.

In the actual shearing, you can eliminate second-cuts* by allowing plenty of time and care. If, as a very beginner, you do make second-cuts, they will definitely shake out of the fleece easier if done right then, than if the shearer had done them, and rolled and tied the fleece, or stuffed it all into a bag for you, thus matting all the little snips into the fleece.

Be sure and shake out the fleece before bagging. If you shake each handful separately, even the little seeds shake out easier at this stage, before compressing and storing the wool. You can sort and grade the fleece then too. Discard the belly wool and junk and manure tags, so you don't have to sort them out later.

The hoofs should be trimmed at this time, but be careful not to get the trimmings into the wool. Shear on a blanket or tarp, or on a clean floor, to keep the fleece clean, and shake it off after shearing one, and before starting another, so hoof trimmings, tags, etc., will not contaminate the next fleece.

You should worm the sheep after shearing, and check for ticks. If any evidence of ticks or tick eggs, use tick powder now, and again 10 days later, to get the hatched eggs. Sheep ticks are not true ticks, but they are called ticks. In large herds, it is more efficient to dip the sheep, but for a small number, spraying them or powdering them is the practical way.

* Notes

"Second-cuts" are short clippings or snippings of wool, caused by shearing twice over the same place, overlapping your blade "stroke," or not cutting quite close enough the first time, and then tidying up by snipping off more wool. Any time you snip off a little extra, grab it and toss it aside. Do not leave these snips in the fleece, to be washed and carded into the wool. This causes uncontrolled lumps in the yarn.

"Worming boluses:" For a list of safe and effective sheep worming preparations, and sources of supply, Warp and Weft readers may send a stamped envelope and 50¢ for copies of my two sheep raising articles from Handweaver and Craftsman magazine. This also gives a source of sheep shears. You would send this direct to Paula Simmons, Suquamish, Washington.

Geoffrey Bowen's book "Wool Away," is more interesting than inspirational, for his whole reputation hinges on championship speed. It does not seem that spinners will attach importance to speed of shearing, when a little extra time taken at this early stage will result in better wool for home use, and really save time in all its processing.

DANCING WAVES

An interesting four harness basket weave variation, with crispy threads, a design for suiting and coat materials.

THREADING DRAFT:

4		B B		B B
3		T T		T T
2	S S		S S	
1	L L		L L	

KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP

L — 2/18's Worsted No. 4, Lt. Turquoise
 S — Spring Green Wool Nub Yarn
 T — Deep Turquoise Wool Nub Yarn
 B — Turquoise Blue Wool Nub Yarn

WARP

Four threads were used in the warp. One was the 2/18's English Worsted in the Light Turquoise, color No. 4. The other three threads are a wool nub yarn that we stock, which has a little mohair in it. The wool nub yarn all has a black core or binder thread. The colors used were:

S — Spring Green Wool Nub Yarn
 T — Deep Turquoise Wool Nub Yarn
 B — Turquoise Blue Wool Nub Yarn
 L — 2/18's Worsted, Light Turquoise

WEFT

In the weft, we actually had five different threads. There were three threads of the wool nub yarn all wound together as the pattern thread, and two threads wound together on one bobbin as the tabby thread.

Light aqua wool nub, turquoise blue wool nub, and deep turquoise wool nub; all three were wound together on one bobbin as the pattern thread.

Then, the 2/18's worsted, color No. 4, Light Turquoise and the Spring Green wool nub were wound together, and used as the tabby thread.

REED USED

A 10 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

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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
						A
						B

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
 O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

TREADLING SEQUENCE

While this is a basket weave threading, we used a treadling almost as if it were an over-shot weave. There was a tabby shot after each pattern shot, and the same three colors were used in the pattern thread, and the same two

SAMPLE:



threads were used in the tabby shots throughout the fabric.

TREADLING SEQUENCE

1. Treadle No. 1 — 3 wool nubs.
2. Treadle No. A — nub and 2/18's
3. Treadle No. 2 — 3 wool nubs
4. Treadle No. B — nub and 2/18's
5. Treadle No. 3 — 3 wool nubs.
6. Treadle No. A — nub and 2/18's
7. Treadle No. 4 — 3 wool nubs
8. Treadle No. B — nub and 2/18's

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT.

Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC

This fabric was not a hard one to weave in any way. The wool nub yarn worked well in the warp with the 2/18's, and there wasn't one broken warp thread in 10 yards of warp.

There is a slight tendency for the fabric to pull in more than usual, so if you want to take care of this, you can use a temple or stretcher to help it weave out at a wider width.

A firm, even double beat was used, and it was beat with the shed open, changed to the next shed and opened this shed, and beat again.

Actually, the fabric is quite crisp, and if there were any criticisms, mine would be that I feel it might have been beaten a little too hard. However, it should prove to be a durable and good wearing fabric for coat or suit material. I think the feel of crispness would be in its favor if used in suiting or coat material.

The wool nub yarns seemed to wind together well on the bobbins, and not make loops and cause problems in this way, so really, it was a trouble-free project, easy and pleasing to weave.

COST OF THE THREADS USED IN THIS FABRIC

We have nine colors which we had dyed to order for us in the wool nub yarn. It has approximately 2400 yards per lb., and is \$4.80 per lb. We had 75 lbs. of each color dyed in these nine colors. It comes on cones of about 1 lb. 2 oz. each. We can wind off 4 oz. tubes of this if desired at \$1.25 each.

COST OF THE FABRIC

In the warp, 10 yards long, 40³/₄" wide, it took 2040 yards of each of the four threads. This is 7 oz. of 2/18's and a total of 2¹/₂ lbs. of the three colors of the wool nub yarn. Thus the total warp cost was approximately \$15.00, or the cost per yard was \$1.50.

In the weft, it took 1 lb. 6 oz. of each of the four wool nub yarns, and 10 oz. of the light turquoise 2/18's. So, the total weft cost was \$25.85, or the cost per yard from the nine yards of finished fabric was \$2.87.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.50
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$2.87
FABRIC COST PER YARD, 40"	\$4.37

SHEARING by Paula Simmons

Continued from Page 3

Agriculture Extension pamphlet "Preparing Wool for Market," shows sheep handling and shearing, as well as information on marketing, although that part would not concern the spinner who is keeping her wool.

Paula Simmons, *Handspinner*

This Month's Book Review:

One of the I.C.A. weaving books on tapestry has just been translated into English and republished here in the U.S.A. It is the book entitled "FLEMISH WEAVING, A Guide to Tapestry Technique," by Gertrud Ingers.

This is the name given to a type of tapestry which was introduced into Sweden in the 16th century, and this is an outstanding book for instructions in how to weave small tapestry pieces, as well as large ones, in this method or technique. The first portion of the book deals with the history of this weaving technique in Scandinavia, and makes for most interesting reading. Next comes the section on equipment used in this type of weaving with excellent illustrations, drawings, etc. of the types of looms used for this method of weaving. Mostly frame looms or small upright tapestry looms, this section also gives directions for the weaving processes used. Then you will find a section of about 30 color plates of some pieces woven in this technique. Then, the author gives some directions for vegetable dyeing, and this section is also well illustrated.

Next comes a section on old and new designs and patterns, with quite a few illustrations of these materials being used in different items such as handbags, bookmarks, wall hangings, covers for books and notebooks, etc.

Then in the back of the book, on the back cover is a pocket, with some pull-out patterns that are given in the book, with directions for weaving these patterns, showing the areas where specific colors are used, etc. This would be an excellent way of learning this technique.

TITLE: FLEMISH WEAVING

AUTHOR: Gertrud Ingers

PUBLISHER: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

PRICE: \$7.95 plus pp and ins.

AVAILABLE: From the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

EIGHT (8) BOOKS EITHER PUBLISHED OR DISTRIBUTED BY ROBIN & RUSS

1. CARD WEAVING OR TABLET WEAVING:

By Russell E. Groff. Complete instructions for cardweaving, plus 53 illustrated patterns are given in this booklet. It has detailed directions for making the warps, setting up the cards, and weaving the narrow bands. Drafts for all 53 patterns are included. **\$3.50**

2. SECTIONAL WARPING MADE EASY.

Just now in the process of being reprinted, this manual has 25 photographs showing sectional warping in the step by step stages. Text in both words and pictures makes this method of warping very easy to understand, and answers most of your questions. **\$2.95**

3. WARP AND WEFT FROM TIBET.

By William A. King. This Tibetan method of rug and tapestry weaving is most interesting. Exactly as it is done in Tibet, the author and his parents spent many years in Tibet where they learned this technique. A good diagram is given on a small tapestry loom. **\$3.50**

4. BOBBIN LACE.

By Elsie Gubser. This gives complete instructions for bobbin lace, even telling how to make your own pillow and bobbins. Many drawings and photographs. 13 lessons on Torchon lace, one on tape lace, and one on Brussels lace. Also, 10 extra patterns explained by pictures. **\$5.00**

5. AN EYE FOR COLOR.

By Bernat Klein. Fascinating. Anyone interested in clothes, weaving, art, furnishings or creativity will love this book. Written by one of Scotland's most famous textile designers, this book tells of his inspirations, and how he transfers them into fabric. These are not tapestries, but woven fabrics inspired by the artist's own absorption with various subjects which he first paints (sometimes again and again) and finally expresses in fabrics with a variety of textures and colors that are breathtaking. There are 22 vivid color photographs. 136 pages, 8¼ x 9". **Price is \$9.95**

6. LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING.

By Eileen Bolton. This new edition is being printed for Robin & Russ Handweavers and will be shipped from Italy in March, and should be available in April, 1972. This book has 6 color plates, 5 of them of the various lichens, and the 6th is a page of fleece, dyed different colors with lichens. There are 6 major parts to this book. 1. The Lichen Dyes, 2. The Lichen Plant, 3. The Orchil-producing Lichens, 4. The Boiling Water Lichens and less plentiful lichens which give dyes, 5. The extracting of orchil dyes, and 6. Extracting the dyes, boiling water method. Excellent descriptions are given of the lichens, how to gather them, and a list of the lichens in America is also given. **\$4.95.**

7. A MANUAL OF HANDMADE BOBBIN LACE WORK.

By Margaret Maidment. Considered by many lace-makers to be one of the outstanding instruction books in the teaching of bobbin lace, this book was just republished by Robin & Russ Handweavers. It covers thoroughly many, many different areas of bobbin lace such as the materials needed, the general methods used, the various stitches, and then it teaches you about different famous laces such as Torchon Lace, Torchon Corners, Cluny, Beds-Maltese, Honiton Lace, Bucks Point Ground, and others. This hard-bound edition is protected with a clear plastic cover. **Price is \$12.50.**

8. THE ROMANCE OF THE LACE PILLOW.

By Thomas Wright. This is not an instruction book, but it is an outstanding history of the lace-making industry in England from about 1500 to 1850. Very, very absorbing, you will be delighted with the details in this book as to how the lace industry was started, why, and other related details. How the bobbins are made, where, and how the traditions about lace started, are all given in excellent detail in this book. Most interesting details are given, and it is a well illustrated book. **Price is \$11.50**

DEALERS INQUIRIES ON THESE BOOKS ARE INVITED

ORDER FROM: Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

6 HEATHER LARGE LOOP MOHAIRS

Beautiful mohair yarn spun in Ireland, this has 800 yards per lb., comes on 1/2 lb. tubes, and is \$4.00 per lb. Write for free sample sheets. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

16/2 NATURAL BOILED IRISH LINEN

A beautiful quality linen, on 1 lb. tubes. It has 2400 yards per lb., and is \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. Just 100 lbs. came in, in this shipment. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

THE PRIMARY STRUCTURE OF FABRICS

By Irene Emery is now available. This outstanding textile book is \$20.00 plus postage and insurance. Considered by many to be one of the most outstanding books of its type. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVING INKLE BANDS

By Harriet Tidball. Once again available, after being out of print for about six months to a year. The price is the same, \$4.00 plus 16¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 PLY AND 7 PLY NATURAL LINEN IN HANKS

These weigh 1/2 lb. each, and seem to be very popular for macrame. Price is \$2.00 per hank. Very hard to obtain at present, and luckily, we found a lot of about 50 lbs., and thus our ad. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY WOOL BOUCLE IN UNIQUE COLORS

Just in from England, this heavy wool boucle comes in 12 scrumptuous colors. Limited amounts of all cones or colors. It comes on 10 to 12 oz. tubes, and is \$4.00 per lb. Free sample upon request, but not on a regular sample sheet, as we cannot always duplicate the colors. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

KRISPY KRUNCHY, SLUB LINEN & RAYON

This natural linen and rayon combination is a slubby yarn, and very interesting. It is 43% linen and 57% rayon, and comes on tubes of about 1 lb. 2 oz. to 1 lb. 4 oz. each. A good buy at \$3.20 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

1 1/2 LEA BOILED WHITE LINEN

On 2 lb. tubes, this linen has 450 yards per lb., and is strong enough for Macrame or for regular weaving. When next we import some of this from Scotland, it will sell at about \$3.20 per lb. We have only 60 of the 2 lb. tubes left. Sold only by the 2 lb. tube at \$1.60 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HAND SPINDLES

English unfinished ones are \$1.50 and American finished ones which are a little heavier are \$2.00 each. Postage extra on all orders. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BYWAYS IN HANDWEAVING

by Mary Meigs Atwater is in stock now. Has been hard to obtain. \$7.95 plus postage is the price. This seems to be the only book in print now, with some information on Inkle weaving, and with some details on card-weaving, finger weaving, and other related off loom techniques. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 NATURAL SHADES OF 3 PLY RYGJA, WOOL YARN FROM NORWAY.

About the weight of a 2 ply knitting yarn, this yarn is excellent for knitting or weaving. It is available in natural dark grey, medium grey, light tannish beige, dark brown, and natural white. It is water repellent, as long as natural oil is retained in the fibre. \$1.90 per skein of 100 grams. About 350 to 375 yards per skein. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ENGLISH MOSS, A 2 PLY ENGLISH WOOL TWEED

This one is light green or mossy green in appearance with brown and green and yellow flecks. Has about 1000 yards per lb. Can be used for warp or weft. \$4.00 per lb. on about 2 lb. cones, or \$2.25 per 1/2 lb. tube if we wind it off. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

14 ENGLISH WOOL TWEED YARNS

This single ply tweed yarn has about 1700 yards per lb. It has some colors with lots of colored flecks, and some colors with just a few colored flecks. All in oil, and can be used for warp or weft. Sample sheets will be available upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ALPACA, SHETLAND WOOL AND ORLON

In a 3 ply finger weight yarn. Can be used for knitting as well as weaving. 4 colors available. All of these are heathers and would make nice light weight pullover sweaters, sport coats, etc. \$4.00 per lb. Limited amounts of these available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

CARDER WOOL TOPS IN 15 NEW COLORS

Some of these are a heather blend in grey, gold, and green, as well as solid colors and natural. Used for unspun wool rugs, for wall hangings, and for accent in weaving as well as for hand-spinning. Price is \$4.00 per lb., plus shipping. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPINNING OIL

Developed by Paula Simmons for troublesome wool, and to make spinning easier, you might like this oil. Price is \$1.25 per bottle, plus shipping. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

