



# warp and weft

Vol. XXVI, No. 7

September, 1973

## warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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### A Word from the Editor

My trip to England, Scotland, Switzerland and Sweden this year, or I should say this past month was in many ways a very rewarding one, in some ways very discouraging, and yet well worthwhile.

First of all, I did find some bargains in yarns, but not nearly anywhere as many, as I was able to find last year. I was able to locate a small lot of some 200 lbs. of a nice silk, at double the cost of what it was last year. This is still below the regular selling price though, as silk has almost doubled in cost this past year also. And, I did find a good lot of about 1,000 lbs. of a single ply, homespun type yarn, in heather blends, which I think will be very pleasing.

However, on the discouraging side is the tremendous cost of all raw materials now. I found that silk, wool, linen, and combinations of this had all increased as much as 100% or more since last year. Let me give you an example. We were selling our 39 colors of 2/18's worsted at \$6.80 per lb. Our last shipment, we had to raise the price to \$8.00 per lb., and now we have 1600 lbs. of this due in here any day, and it will now cost us about \$8.00 per lb. delivered here. So, we have decided to compromise and sell these at \$9.60 a lb., and this is about 20% mark-up, and then with what we have left, we hope it to be an average cost, and we will try and coast along on this for about a year, and hope that the cost goes down, so when we re-order, we can get it at a more realistic price.

One of the good things to report is the fact that I took several books with me to see about getting them reprinted, and we think

that we will be able to have about 4 or 5 out of the seven reprinted in fairly small quantities and yet not be too costly. So, there is always some good to be found, along with the bad.

And have travel expenses increased. With our two devaluations of the American dollar (20%) and with 10% per year inflation in Switzerland and Sweden in the living costs, you can see that the travel costs in Europe are now about 35% to 40% more than last year. Really, we in America do not know how good we do have it, even with all current problems. I honestly feel that in everyday living expenses, that we get more for our dollar here in America, than in any other country. And you know, after you are away for 40 days, it is a nice feeling to come home.

And the experience of attending the 10 days of summer school at Winchester, England was well worth the trip. It is one of the most inspiring things when you see 100 or more weavers get together and work hard for a 10 day period. In this workshop, I did quite a bit of sampling of leno weaves, and we hope to bring you one of these during the coming year. When at school, classes opened at 8:30 in the morning. You could come and start earlier if you wished. And for about 7 of the 10 days, the classes continued on until 9:30 at night, if you did wish to work after dinner. And I did one sample of a rug, that I hope also to share with you sometime during this coming year.

Let me give you one more example of what happened with devaluation of the American dollar. We stock the 6/4 dark grey or raw linen rug warp from Switzerland. Last year, they had a large quantity of raw material, and the company asked if they could spin it all up, and if I would guarantee to take it all over a period of time. They did this, and I took 500 lbs. last year, and agreed to take the remaining 500 lbs. this year. I paid \$2.40 per lb. last year, plus the shipping, duty, and broker fees, and shipping here in the states. I wanted to purchase the remaining 500 lbs., and I did order it. However, this year, it cost us \$3.00 per lb., because of the devaluation, and actually, the Swiss company is not making more money on it, but getting the same value in Swiss Francs

as they did last year. It is because of the devaluation of our dollar that we have this price increase. And actually, we were lucky to have agreed to take all of the linen, because if they had had to spin it again this year, the raw material would have cost 50% more, and it would have ended up costing about \$4.00 per lb. So you can see the problems of importing threads.

And yet, it has been a good thing for us, and we have found many items over the years that we could not get here in the states. However, I think that we have been spoiled by the prices in the past, and will now have to pay more for everything.

Will tell you more later about the school in England, when we feature the sample planned there.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

### **This Month's Book Review:**

This month I want to tell you about an extra nice book that I located in England this summer. Actually I located it in Scotland, and it is entitled, "OUR SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS." and it was written by E. S. Harrison.

What is exceptional about this book is the fact that there are 106 half page or full page color plates of the different district checks described in the book. So, with this book as a guide, you can duplicate these checks with ease.

The pictures are excellent, large close-ups, and show the thread count in the warp and weft very well. And besides the excellent photographs, there is a description underneath each of the pictures, giving the name, a little where the check is found, a description of the colors used, and more details, such as number of threads of each color, the weight of the finished fabric and other related details. The description length varies with each of the district checks, and I think that you will enjoy this.

Then there is an excellent section with a description of the checks, which includes some of the history, the reason for their being made as they are, and details as to threads used etc.

And the best part of all is yet to come. This book was printed to sell for 5 Guineas in Scot-

land, which is 5 lbs. and 5 schillings. The total cost in U. S. dollars according to their cost is \$13.50, in Scotland. But our price is less.

HOWEVER, DUE TO A LARGE PURCHASE OF THESE BOOKS, We were able to purchase some 500 of them at a reduced price, and so we are able to offer them now at a price of \$8.95 per copy plus postage and insurance. (\$9.50 total)

This is a hard bound book, which was published by the National Association of Scottish Woollen Manufacturers, for the use of the different manufacturers in their businesses. This book was published in 1968, and they are all in perfect condition.

You'll really enjoy this one.

This is the first book to be devoted to the private cloth designs known as "District Checks," and it is this name which distinguishes them from tartans. The author is the leading authority on these tartans, and are an important part of the Scottish Heritage.

Mr. Harrison the Author, says that all of the illustrations are meticulously accurate and that many of them were taken from cloth samples woven under his own supervision.

TITLE: OUR SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS

AUTHOR: Mr. E. S. Harrison

PUBLISHER: The National Association of Scottish Woollen Manufacturers.

PRICE: \$8.95 plus pp and ins.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers.

### **A Companion Booklet to This Book**

While running her hand-weaving studio in Pasadena, California some years ago, Mary E. Snyder became interested in the Scottish district checks, and she compiled a booklet, entitled "SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS." She also worked with Mr. E. S. Harrison, and eventually wove, and compiled the complete details for the weaver for 91 checks with complete directions, the setts, and details about the yarns used. This is strictly mimeographed with no pictures, but the necessary details for the handweaver are all here. These sell for \$2.00 plus postage. I think it is an excellent work to go with the hard-bound books with the beautiful color photographs.

Title: Scottish District Checks

Author: Mary E. Snyder

Cost: \$2.00 plus postage

Available: Robin & Russ Handweavers



- 17. Treadle A, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 18. Treadle 1, golden brown chenille
- 19. Treadle B, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 20. Treadle 1, golden brown chenille
- 21. Treadle 1, golden brow
- 21. Treadle A, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 22. Treadle 1, golden brown chenille
- 23. Treadle B, 20/2 Old Gold cotton
- 24. Treadle 1, golden brown chenille
- 25. Treadle A, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 26. Treadle 2, beige chenille
- 27. Treadle B, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 28. Treadle 2, beige chenille
- 29. Treadle A, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 30. Treadle 2, beige chenille
- 31. Treadle B, 20/2 Old Gold Cotton
- 32. Treadle 2, beige chenille

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT. Treadle over and over as desired.

**COST OF THE THREADS USED:**

Our warp and tabby thread of 20/2 Egyptian cotton is \$7.00 per lb., comes on 1/2 lb. tubes, and is on spools of 4200 yards each. It has 8400 yards per lb.

And the rayon chenille in the 4 colors is quite a good price at \$4.00 per lb. It has about 1,000 yards per lb., and is called 8 cut rayon chenille. We do have about 10 different colors of it on hand.

It is very hard to come by the chenille, and we cannot find anyone who has a standard line of it, so we just purchase the odd lots as they become available. Oh yes, the chenille is mostly on cones of about 14 to 18 oz. per cone, and we do have 3 colors of it in skeins of about 6 to 8 oz. per skein.

**COST OF FABRIC:**

We had a 12 yard warp, 40" wide on the loom, and it took 1 lb. 7 oz. of the 20/2 aztec egyptian cotton for the warp. Thus the total warp cost was \$10.06 for the 12 yard warp or the cost per yard was 84¢ per yard.

In the weft, we had 10½ yards or about a couple inches less than 10½ yards. It took approximately 1 lb. 11 oz. of each of the 4 colors of chenille for the 10½ yards of weft. Thus, it took 6 obs. 12 oz. of chenille at \$4.00 per lb., or \$27.00 for the 10½ yards of weft. And for the tabby, we used 15 oz. of the size

20/2 Old Gold Egyptian Cotton. Thus the total weft cost was \$33.56 or the cost per yard was \$3.20 per yard for the weft.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" WIDE \_\_\_\_ .84

WEFT COST PER YARD, 39" WIDE \_\_\_\_ 3.20

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TOTAL COST PER YARD \_\_\_\_\_ \$4.04

**MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:**

We made three different samples before we tried 24 threads per inch, and we finally decided that 24 per inch showed the chenille to it's best advantage. Thirty threads per inch was a little too close, although we will show you a later fabric with heavier threads in the warp, and it is also sett at 24 per inch.

Another minor problem with this type of fabric is that we found that with the 20/2 cotton at 24 per inch, the chenille tends to pull in more, just like a wool yarn, so we did use a temple or stretcher on the whole fabric. We found that we gained about "2" inches in the width by the use of this, without a single broken thread in the warp. It seems as though the wool pulls in about the same amount as the chenille does, so we normally do use a stretcher or temple when we are using either of these threads as the main weft thread. Of course, it also depends upon how close or tight your warp thread is, as to how much it will pull in on the selvage edges.

You want to use a firm, even, but not heavy beat, and I would even recommend that you beat, change the shed to the next shed, open, and beat again before throwing the next shuttle.

Really, the only problem in the weaving of this fabric is that of having 5 weft threads and 5 shuttles. However, if you set a bench beside your loom, or have a bench with a drawer that opens, you can systematically use the correct one, and have no problems in the weaving. However, if you are not systematic and organized in your weaving, you might have problems in remembering the color sequence.

**This Month's Cover Photograph**

I was particularly intrigued with this piece which I saw on display at Vancouver, Canada, at the Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference this past summer.

This piece was on display at Eaton's depart-

ment store, and was one of many pieces from an travelling exhibition of the Guild of Canadian Weavers. I do not know much about the detail of the threads in this fabric, but this does show so much what one can do with especially designed threads which can also be handspun, and it was for this reason that I wanted to show you this picture. Not only is the thread itself interesting (the white one), but the pattern arrangement is quite attractive, and the white thread is set off by a dark or black background, which also enhances the slubby threads.

Perhaps someone might write and give me more details about this photo and we will be able to share the details with you in a future issue.

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CO-PUBLISH A BOOK?**

We at Robin & Russ Handweavers, have an option on republishing an outstanding handweaving book, which is now out of print. It was a very good seller when in print, and should continue to be a good seller.

We have some problems, and the main one is financing the republication of this book, and so we wonder if anyone might be interested.

This book has 16 full page color plates, and many interesting patterns.

We have received the republishing rights from the publisher, and got them to agree to do the job for us, if we can work out the details.

We have arranged for the proper royalties with the author of the book, and have all the details worked out.

Going still further, we can publish as little as 3,000 copies, up to 6,000 copies. We can save about \$2.00 per copy by having 6,000 copies published.

The main problem is financing it, and we would like to try and find someone who might be interested in going in with us.

We can handle the marketing and the selling of this book after it is published, so other than furnishing us with the capital, the main portion of the work would be done by Robin & Russ Handweavers, once the book is published.

With all of these details, we hope to find

someone that might be interested, and have them contact us, so we can go into further details.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CO-PUBLISHER WITH US?** Please do let us hear from you, if you are interested.

#### **NEW THREADS ON ORDER FROM ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND SWITZERLAND, which will be coming in** during the next 12 months.

Here is a partial listing of some of the new items we will have when they do come in from abroad.

1. 100 lbs. of size 2/10's 100% pure natural, top quality camel hair. Excellent for warp or weft.
2. 100 lbs. of size 2/10's, 100% pure 1/2 bleached, CAMEL'S HAIR. Another top quality yarn which can be used for warp or weft.
3. 1,000 lbs. of 9 cut and 11 cut HOME-SPUN TYPE YARN. We ordered 50 lbs. each of 20 different colors.
4. 200 lbs. of a 2 ply NATURAL, TUSSAH SILK. This should have about 2400 yards per lb. when it does come in.
5. 100 lbs. each of 5 different nub wool yarns, used by Pringle Sweater Company in Scotland in the knitting of their sweaters. This is yarn with 2 colors blended and twisted together. Also, our 2 camel hair yarns were those formerly used by pringles in weaving skirt lengths and knitting sweaters.
6. 500 lbs. of natural grey raw 6/4 Swiss Linen.
7. 150 lbs. of a size 12/3 dyed dark blue linen for rug warp.
8. A new book on bobbin lace, with 10 complete easy to do lessons, as formerly taught to the girl guides in England.
9. A reprint or two small pamphlets combined into one edition on Spinning. One is entitled "HAND SPINNING IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN," and the other one is entitled "HAND WOOL COMBING."
10. POSSIBLE reprints of 5 other weaving books that are now out of print.
11. One lot of about 1,000 lbs. of assorted alpaca, camel hair, and other yarns, mostly single ply yarns, primarily for weft threads.

#### 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.

#### FOR SALE: NEW ZEALAND SPINNING SURVEY.

Contains 13 actual fleece samples with information on character, performances and suitability of each. \$1.00 per copy. Order from: HAND-WEAVERS GUILD, P. O. Box 5873, Auckland, New Zealand.

#### FOR SALE: 24" wide PIONEER LOOM, 8 harnesses, in good condition. Some scratches. Complete with heddles, several shuttles, and warping attachments. \$100.00 including delivery. CT2, G. M. Moshnin, Box 49 NSGD, FPO Seattle, Washington, 98767.

#### THREE COLORS in 2 PLY ENGLISH FLAKE WOOL.

A beautiful yarn, we had this spun and dyed to order in 3 colors, celery green, burma gold, and spring orange. The 3 colors blend together well. It has about 1200 yards per lb., on 8 to 11 oz. tubes, and is \$6.80 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### SEVEN NEW SOLID COLOR BRUSHED MOHAIRS.

And, it is available on about 4 oz. cones. It is \$12.00 per lb., or 75¢ per oz., and this is all mohair that was raised, and spun and dyed here in the U.S.A. Attractive colors, and we will send free samples upon request.

#### A BEAUTIFUL BOOK, "OUR SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS."

It has 106 beautiful color plates of these district checks which are so clear that you can count the number of threads of each color. The color sequence is given in most of these. We obtained a reduced price on these by buying a large quantity. They sell for \$13.50 in Scotland, and by purchasing a quantity of 500 of them, we received a reduced price, and are able to sell them for \$8.95 plus postage.

#### A COMPANION PAPERBACK

To the hardbound book listed above is "SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS," compiled by Mary E. Snyder. This is a paperback, with 67 checks that Mary Snyder and her students and friends wove. Has the thread count of each color of thread, and related information. It is just two dollars, and well worth while. No color plates, but all pages are mimeographed. \$2.00 plus postage. An outstanding set of 2 publications that belongs in most weaving libraries. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 10 COLORS OF 8 CUT RAYON CHENILLE

We have these 10 colors in stock now, and it has about 1,000 yards per lb. Price is \$4.00 per lb., and oh, what you can do with these. You should see the crackle weave I've started for a sample for the October issue of Warp & Weft. Price again, \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### 10 COLORS IN RICH, HEAVY WOOL BOUCLE ALL THE WAY FROM SCOTLAND

This is an outstanding wool boucle, and while it does not have many yards per lb., it does come in scrumptious colors. And, it is on small tubes of 8 to 12 ounces, so you do not have to buy an extra large cone. Price is \$6.80 per lb., and we will send you free samples upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533, N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 4 COLORS OF 20/2 MERCERIZED COTTON FROM ENGLAND

And it is on sale at \$3.20 per lb., over \$2.00 less than most companies sell it for, and over \$4.00 less than one company sells it for. There are 4 colors, dark forest green, Nile green, and a light Nile green, and a spring orange. It comes on cones of about 12 to 16 ounces. Just 4 colors left. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### THE ART OF WEAVING

By Else Regensteiner. In stock for immediate shipment, this excellent book has been in great demand lately, and we have quite a few in stock. \$13.50 plus pp. & ins. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### EXOTIC WOOD DOUBLE FORK TAPESTRY BEATERS

We have these now in such choice woods as purple heart, lignam vitae, African black-wood, English hare-wood, and several others. Most beautifully made, and a joy to touch and hold. Price is from \$5.50 to \$8.00, depending upon what wood it is, and how rare the wood is. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 12 BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF WOOL BOUCLE FROM SCOTLAND

We had 25 lbs. each of these 12 colors dyed to order for us, and it is a heavy, scrumptuous wool boucle on tubes of about 10 to 14 oz. in weight. Price is \$6.80 per lb. while it lasts, and write and get a free sample swatch of these 12 colors. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 2½ lea SLUBBY LINEN IN SUNFAST AND WASHFAST COLORS

11 colors, plus natural and white on hand. Natural is \$4.00 per lb., bleached white is \$4.80 and the sunfast and washfast colors are \$5.60 per lb. Sample sheets of these colors are being made up now, and if you'd like one sample sheet of these, send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will send you one. This linen has 750 yards per lb., the natural and white are slubbier than the colors and these two come from Switzerland. The colors come from Scotland. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### 4 SHADES OF NATURAL GREY ALPACA

This beautifully, soft, worsted spun Alpaca is a 6 ply, and is excellent for warp or weft. We also have a camel color, and a bright red, and a maize color. \$6.80 per lb., on tubes of about 12 to 16 oz. each. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

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