



warp and weft

VOL. XXVII, No. 4

April, 1974

warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August) by
Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams
Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$6.00 per year.
Back Issues 65¢ each plus 10¢ postage.
Editor: Russell E. Groff

Vol. XXVII, No. 4

April, 1974

A Word from the Editor

Our workshop with Peter Collingwood has just been completed, and I must say that I feel we have had two outstanding workshops in our studio this year.

The workshop with Else Regensteiner earlier this year, with her many different techniques that she used in creating wall hangings was most inspiring, and was well liked by all. Mrs. Regensteiner used quite a variety of techniques in her four harness weaves for the wall hangings, and while all will not like her choice of colors, it was a most stimulating workshop. The final results which were discussed and criticized at the end of the workshop were very pleasing, and I think everyone was able to get a great deal for themselves from the variety of techniques offered, the choices of colors, and particularly the variety of ideas and suggestions she offered for wall hangings.

Our Peter Collingwood workshop was much different, and yet just as stimulating. He has a much different approach to rug weaving than that which we know of in America, and he taught about six different techniques. What was most pleasing was that everyone seemed to be able to master these techniques and to make samples that they could take home and use as a guide for future rug weaving.

And still we have scheduled another workshop in August on color and design on four harness looms, which should also be just as stimulating. Our instructor for this will be Miss Sallie O'Sullivan from Dublin, Ireland. Miss O'Sullivan, has won many outstanding awards for her weaving this past five years, and we are most fortunate to be having her.

And, besides these, our May and June issues of Warp and Weft are yet to come. We have an exciting open weave for you for the May issue, and the June issue will be either a silk drapery sample or a piece of wool yardage.

And since I last wrote this column for Warp and Weft, I was able to attend the Midwest Weavers Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota, and I found it to be so stimulating and inspiring. I am now honestly of the belief that the weaving I like best, which is being done in the U.S.A. now, is being done in the mid-west. I could go on and on about this conference, but will just say that it was one of the best organized and full of weaving and workshops, that one will ever find. In fact, one of the complaints that I heard while at this conference was that the weavers have such a full schedule that they do not have time to visit the commercial exhibits to purchase yarns.

Needless to say, you all know that we are behind, but, I honestly do think that better days are ahead, and we will be on schedule before long.

One of our problems has been that of a complete turnover of our staff in the shop. One of the young women, Cindy Oldham, is getting married, and another one, Kathy Milbradt, has moved to Nevada. So, it takes time to have new help learn all of the intricacies and problems with such a mail order business as ours.

And, I'm pleased to say, that as of August 1, 1974, we hope to have come to work for us, another full time employee, Mrs. Lynn Cederblom, who, I hope, will take over many of my duties and leave me with more time for weaving and designing and experimenting.

With this loss of experienced workers, we were lucky to have one of our former employees come to us and apply for a summer job while home from college.

And Janice, my daughter, has been working hard and vigorously at the shop, and has been a great help. Unfortunately, she had an accident and was bucked off her horse last week, and is recuperating from quite a bad fall and eight stitches in her forehead.

Well, enough chatter from me, and back to our sample.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

This is a fabric that I liked very much which was displayed at the Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference last year. This was a bedspread, and if I do remember correctly, this weft was all carded wool tops. I think that some of these were dyed colors along with different natural whites and greys, and natural browns. To tell the truth, I think it was in colors instead of all shades of naturals, but am not positive. This was on display in one of the side rooms and was one of the displays by members of the guild from Vancouver.

This Month's Book Review

Hurrah, we are pleased to tell you that at last, the new, SWEDISH SWATCHES, RED SERIES, by Malin Selander, is now available. This is an exciting booklet and one of the reasons is that the color of red is always exciting.

There are 19 very generous sample swatches in this book. The smallest sample is about 4" x 4", and most of them are even larger, and one is almost a full page sample.

The patterns range from two harnesses to eight harnesses, with most of them being the four harness weaves. I noticed one six harness, three of the eight harness, and the rest were all four harnesses, except one two harness weave.

The uses of the various samples also intrigues me. She has suggestions for wall coverings, lamp shades, sheer and open drapes, jacket material in a rep weave, double weaves for evening wear, and others.

And, to say the least, her blending of colors is most outstanding. I think that in her three folios (Yellow Series) (Blue Series) and now in this one in the Red Series, it is almost worth the price of the booklet to see her blendings of colors. And besides her beautiful color blendings, you will like her blending of techniques in with the many colors she uses.

An exciting folio, perhaps you might like a copy of "SWEDISH SWATCHES, RED SERIES."

TITLE: SWEDISH SWATCHES, RED SERIES
AUTHOR: Malin Selander
BOOK: Swatch book, with 19 samples
COST: \$15.95 plus postage
AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers

A Second Book Review

I was quite eager to have this second book review this month, as there have been so many requests for the book that I wanted to tell you about.

The book that has been in so much demand is "TEXTILES OF ANCIENT PERU, AND THEIR TECHNIQUES," by Raoul D'Harcourt. This was edited by Grace G. Denny and Carolyn M. Osborne.

Before I go any further, I want to tell you the good news, that this book is now available in two different editions. One is the new paperback edition, which sells for \$8.95, and the other is the hardbound edition which sells for \$20.00, the same price at which it sold five years ago.

This is one of the most interesting books on textile techniques that anyone can find anywhere.

The first section of the book tells of the textile materials, yarns, dyes, and looms used in Ancient Peru. Then, there is a very complete section on many different types of plain weave fabrics, and there are many of these.

Then there is a section on fabrics in various other types of weaves, with explanations, drawings, and pictures of all of these.

There is a section on fabrics with decorative warp and decorative weft yarns, and explanations of these fabrics.

The next section of the book deals with double cloth fabrics, tubular weaving and the like, and after that comes a very interesting section on gauze weaves.

The open work fabrics are especially interesting. Also a section is devoted to wrapped warps, fabrics made of twisted warp or weft yarns, and finally a section on dyed and tie-dyed fabrics.

But this is just the beginning, as then comes directions on non-woven fabrics such as plait-

(Continued on Page 6)

Source of Idea for This Sample

As I've mentioned before, I've been using the Norwegian book, "HANDBOK I VEVING," by Caroline Halvorsen for many years. This is one of the patterns from this book.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

Above, I mentioned that this is an easy fabric to weave, and yet, here I will retract this statement somewhat. I will say that it would be very easy to weave if you were using two weights of cotton, but it is harder with this linen that we have used. The reason for this is that the colored 10/2 linens from Scotland, are dry-spun linens, and as a result, are slightly fuzzy. After you wash and press this, the fuzz does disappear to a great extent, but as it is fuzzy, it does create a problem of clinging to other threads. I would say that if you were weaving mats, or other similar, narrow fabrics, it should not be much of a problem, but on the wide 40" width that we used it was. SO — it is important that you follow some definite rules.

1. Always beat with your shed open.
2. Throw your shuttle and beat, and then change to the next shed, open the shed, and and beat again firmly.
3. Look at your shed, and see that no threads are clinging before you throw your next shot of weft.

Another problem that you will have to counter with is a tension problem. As some of the heavier threads in the 10/2 linen float more than others, you have two different tensions in the heavy linen. The straw gold linen threads and the summer green linen threads float more than do the bossy brown and spring green linen. So, to keep a continual tight tension, you pick up all of the straw gold and summer green linen threads behind the harnesses, and slip in a lease stick, and slide this lease stick back, over the back beam and down to the warp beam, and put some weight on both the ends and middle of this lease stick.

Then, again behind the harnesses, you pick up all the spring green linen and the bossy brown linen, slide a lease stick under them, and bring them back over the back beam and down to the warp beam and weight it, just as you did the other one. The lease stick with

the straw gold and the summer green linen will eventually hang down lower than the lease stick with the brown and light green. The reason for this, if you will examine the sample is that the straw gold and summer green float more than do the other two colors. As a result, there is less take up, and this results in a lessening of the tension, unless you use the lease sticks and weights as I suggested.

You will probably find that a stretcher or temple will eliminate any problems of the 10/1 linen single ply, fuzzing on the edges of the selvage and breaking. So, you can see that there are problems in the weaving of this fabric, and yet, I do still feel that it is an easy fabric to weave.

I also wanted to mention that our sample this month has been washed and pressed. It was washed in the shortest cycle in our electric washing machine, extracted, and allowed to drip dry, and then it was steam pressed. If you do wash it, you will find it has a much softer hand than if you use it directly off the loom.

COST OF THE THREADS USED

We purchased a lot of about 150 lbs. of the 10/1 Belgian Bleached linen at a good price, and are able to offer it to you on 1/2 lb. tubes of 1500 yards per tube, at \$3.20 per lb.

The 10/2 colored linens from Scotland are \$5.60 per lb., and we do have 11 colors. However, we are getting low, and we have been warned by the linen company in Scotland that it will be a year to a year and a half before they can furnish us with more of the same linen, and that then, it will probably cost quite a bit more.

These colors are both sunfast and washfast on the linens, and this also makes them a little more expensive. However, on today's market, the price we have of \$5.60 per lb. is quite low.

We do feel that more and more, linen, like silk, will also become a luxury fiber, and will be harder and harder to come by.

Oh yes, the 10/1 Belgian bleached white linen is a line linen. It has 3,000 yards per lb., and is \$3.20 per lb.

The 10/2 colored Scottish linens have 1500 yards per lb., come on about one pound tubes, and are \$5.60 per lb.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

Our warp was 40" wide, and 14 yards in length. In this 14 yard warp, it took two lbs., 12 oz. of the 10/1 white linen, and it took 1 lb., 8 oz. of the straw gold, 4½ oz. of the 10/2 light spring green, 10 oz. of the darker summer green, and 12 oz. of the bossy brown. Thus, our total warp cost for the 14 yard warp was \$26.65, or the cost per yard was \$1.90 per yard, 40" wide.

In the finished fabric, we had 11 yards and 30" of fabric from the 14 yard warp. And in this yardage it took 2 lbs., 11 oz. of the 10/1 bleached Belgian linen for weft, or the total weft cost was \$8.60. The weft cost per yard was 75¢ per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	\$1.90
WEFT COST PER YARD75
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$2.65



The Corvallis Handweavers Guild had as a guild project to weave small tapestries of the various members of the guild. These were very well done, and were hanging in a row of about six tepes-tries. This is one that I liked, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed this exhibit in Vancouver, at the Pacific Northwest Handweavers Conference last year.

(Continued from Page 3)

ing or braiding, and different methods of these. There is still another section on netting and net work, one on felted fabrics, and the final sections of the book are on embroideries and trimmings, and ornamentation of fabrics.

There are 117 drawings, photographs, or diagrams in the book, and these are all quite clear and well done.

So, you can see that this book deals with many of the techniques and trends that you find in the textiles of today, which are being made by the outstanding textile designers.

TITLE: TEXTILES OF ANCIENT PERU AND THEIR TECHNIQUES

AUTHOR: Raoul D'Harcourt

PUBLISHER: University of Washington Press

COST: \$8.95 paperback, \$20.00 hardback, plus postage and insurance.

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publisher if desired, or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

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.

WANTED: WANTED: WANTED

A multi-harness loom, 45" or wider, in good condition. Wanted by A. Piper, 2026 17th Avenue, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116.

STRAW GLOW WHITE — A WHITE NYLON STRAW

Which is made to resemble raffia. This came to us from Japan, on one kilo tubes of approximately 2 lbs., 2 oz. each. It is a beautiful, white, glossy, continuous long length fiber like raffia, will dye beautifully, and is priced at \$3.20 per lb. Sold by the tube only of approximately 2 lbs. each. This straw will also dye beautifully. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

HEAVY, SINGLE PLY JUTE FOR MACRAME

This heavy, single ply jute is about 3/4" in diameter, and comes on about 10 lb. tubes. It is \$1.25 per lb. while it lasts, and comes in natural only. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW, ALL PURPOSE BOBBIN WINDER

We are stocking the new all-purpose bobbin winder by Columbine. It will take up to a 7/4" bobbin in length, and will take bobbins from 1" up to 7/4" in size. Well built, I think you will like this one. Price is \$46.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

A 16 PLY, NATURAL, SMOOTH TUSSAH SILK

This is an exceptionally strong, smooth silk with about 2500 yards per lb. It is in the natural tan, tussah color, and we found 50 lbs. of this. Comes on cones of about 1/2 lb. each in weight. Price is \$12.00 per lb. Excellent for warp or for weft. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

SWEDISH, SKI-TYPE RUG SHUTTLES

This is an excellent rug shuttle, and one we recommend highly. Just in, 50 of them from Sweden, and the price is now \$4.50 each. You'll like this type of rug shuttle over all others. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS, AND OUR SCOTTISH DISTRICT CHECKS

These two belong together, so I'm listing them together. Our Scottish District Checks has 106 full color plates which are excellent on these checks, and while it normally sells for \$13.50 in Scotland, we purchased a large quantity and have them on sale at \$8.95. And then, the paper back, "Scottish District Checks," has 95 of these 106 plates, with the thread count for each, and details about the set-up, the threads used, the weaving, etc. This used to be \$2.00, but the author has just raised this paperback to \$2.50. Well worth having, you'll like this combination, I'm sure. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

A NILE RAYON, SLUBBY, SLUB

If you love textured yarns, you'll like this slubby, slub yarn. It is quite heavy, and has slubs upon slubs. It is a Nile green, almost a light chartreuse, with occasional flecks of a light yellow blended in the slubs. Probably has about 600 to 800 yards per lb. It comes on tubes about 1 lb., 6 oz. in weight, and the price is \$3.50 per lb. ALSO, we have the same yarn in a LIGHT ORANGE COLOR, with the faint touches of yellow flecks. Both are \$3.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

STRETCH YARN IN WHITE

We have about 100 lbs. of a fine, white 2 ply stretch yarn, probably nylon with spandex. You'll be surprised with this, and might like to experiment. Also have one or two colors available in this yarn. Price is \$3.20 per lb. If interested, please write for samples. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

10/6 LINEN RUG WARP

Imported from Belgium, this 10/6 natural linen rug warp has 500 yards per lb. It came to us on 1/2 kilo tubes (1 lb. 1 oz. each), and the price is \$7.00 per lb. It is a 6 ply linen, and seems to be very nice quality linen. And strong — you'll not be able to break this one. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

8 CUT RAYON CHENILLE IN ABOUT 6 COLORS

Just received, but not even opened yet, is this 8 cut rayon chenille. We have about six colors, with 30 lbs. of each color. One is a dusty rose, another is a cream green, and we still haven't opened the other four colors yet. If interested, write for samples. Price will be \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TEXTILES OF ANCIENT PERU AND THEIR TECHNIQUES

By Raoul D'Harcourt. This book has been out of print for several years, and there was a great call for copies of it. It is an outstanding book, and is available in a paperback edition at \$8.95, or in the regular edition as it used to be, at \$20.00 per copy for hard-bound edition. Postage is extra. In stock right now, in both editions. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SWEDISH SWATCHES, RED AND BLUE SERIES

We now have both of these folios in stock, and the latest out, the Red Series by Malin Selander is \$15.95 plus postage. The Blue Series is \$12.95 plus postage, and both are exciting folios with sample swatches and directions for the weaving of same. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

46 COLORS OF ENGLISH 2 PLY RUG WOOL

Much like the ryayarn we used to be able to purchase in England. This yarn has approximately 700 yards per lb., comes on 4 oz. tubes, and is \$2.00 per 4 oz. tube. A beautiful quality yarn, with outstanding colors. Free sample sheet upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

w a r p a n d w e f t

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

THE OREGON TRAIL LOOM

46", 4 harness, jack-type with one of the lightest treadle actions available on any loom.

Beautifully made, with many refinements not found on other looms.

Advertising brochures now being prepared and will be sent upon request.

Will also be available in 36" width.

Comes with sectional warp beam as standard equipment, or plain beam if desired.

NOW BEING MANUFACTURED BY

ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS

533 N. Adams St.

McMinnville, Ore. 97128

HANDWEAVING

YARNS and SUPPLIES

A wide variety of distinctive yarns, developed especially for handweaving is available for prompt shipment in quantities to suit your needs.

Write today for FREE CATALOG and PRICE LIST

The Handweaver's Headquarters

Lily Mills Company

Dept. HWWW Shelby, N. C.

Compact
Folding
**NORWOOD
LOOMS**

Five Widths
16" — 22" — 30" — 40" — 50"
Made of Cherry

**The Norwood Loom Co.
P. O. Box 272
Baldwin, Michigan**

Functional Overshot by Grace D. Blum

A basic source for modern designs. Contains concise directions for weaving almost any overshot threading, in 24 different methods and 32 woven swatches.

\$16.50 per copy. Mailed prepaid when check accompanies order.

Hand Weavers' Work Basket

440 Crestview Road
Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387

