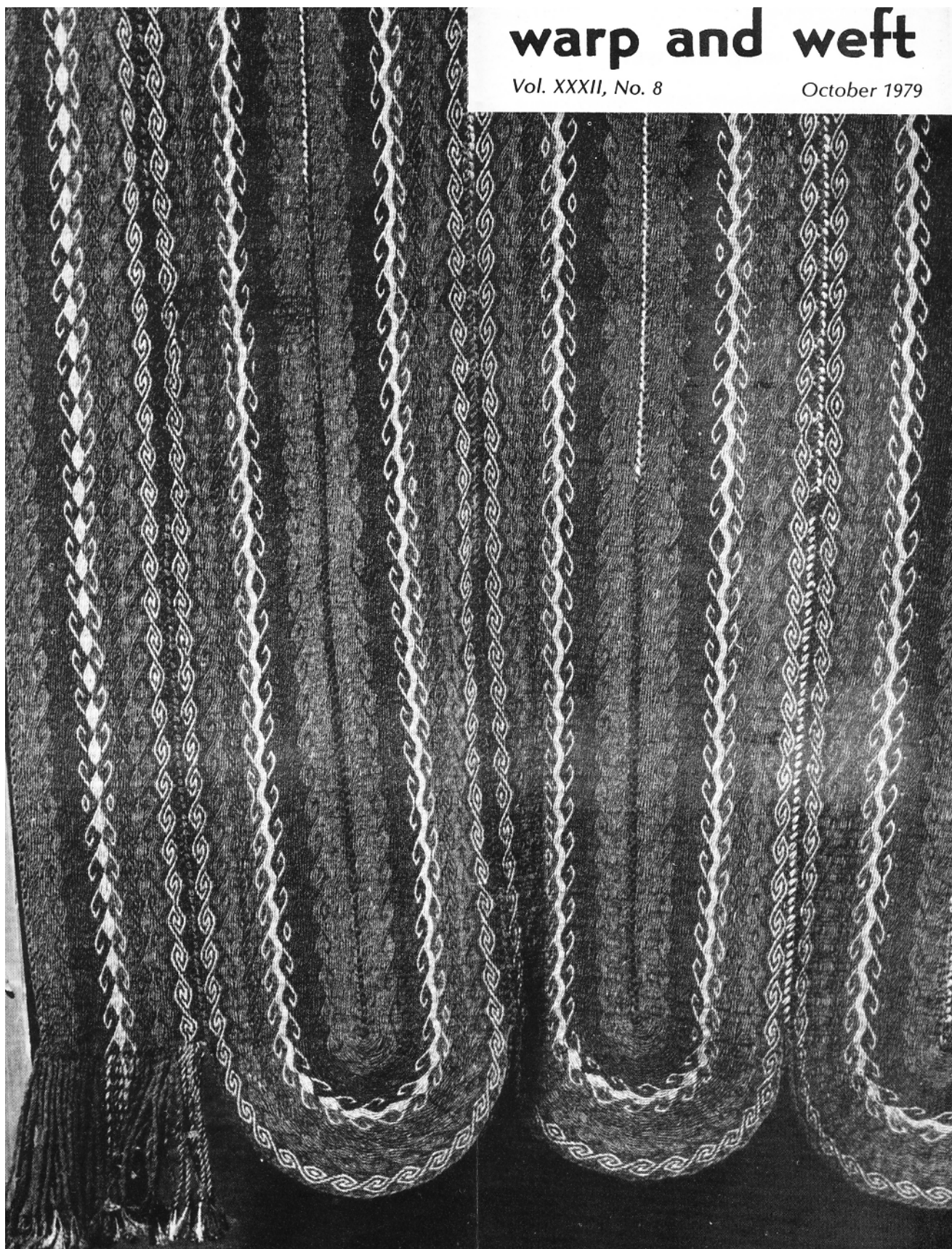


warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

The October issue is a little late, due to my business trip to England, and then on to Bangkok, Siam; to Hong Kong, and then to Japan.

And here I am writing it just a day before I leave on another yarn buying trip, up and down the eastern part of the U.S.A.

I want to tell you about my trip, and particularly about the handweaving I found in Siam and in Japan.

It was an exciting trip in many ways, and it was a very tiring trip. I was supposed to go from Japan to Hawaii for 3 days, and then go to New Zealand and Australia. However, when I finally did arrive in Hawaii, I was so tired that I reconsidered and called home, and told Robin I was so tired that I thought I'd come home instead of going to New Zealand and Australia for another 2 to 3 weeks. And as I didn't have a firm date for a return, I felt it better to do just this.

In Siam, I found one place where they were hand-reeling the silk from the cocoon and from there putting it into skeins for future dyeing and plying. And, at the same place they were weaving on about 4 different looms, and one of them was most interesting in that it was IKAT or TIE-DYEING that they were weaving. It was quite slow, but most interesting. It was in this same place also, that your editor went for a ride on an elephant, and watched the Thai boxing, and also even went to a cockfight, which I did not enjoy.

And the tremendous amount of hand-weaving I found in Japan was to my way of thinking, the most stimulating and exciting portion of the whole trip.

In one place, I found the rural farmers hand-spinning hemp, and then weaving it on a fine 60/2 Ramie warp thread for use in traditional Japanese Obi's, part of their costumes.

In still another hand-weaving studio, I watched about 20 men weaving the most outstanding tapestry weaves with very, very intricate patterns, and with as many as 30 or 40 shuttles on a Jacquard loom which was also completely hand-operated. They were weaving the narrow OBI's for the traditional Japanese costumes, and these were on sale when finished for about \$1,500 to \$5,000 each for these hand-woven Obi's.

And the weaving process was so completely different and unexpected that I could have spent the day there. I saw them start with the original design, and from there transfer it onto graph paper, and from there, punch the patterns in the Jacquard cards, and from there to setting up the looms, and then to the actual weaving. In one display room, they had drawers and drawers of different patterns for the Obi Scarves.

And, after all of this work, they would weave about 12 Obi's, and then take and put the Jacquard pattern away, and save it from 5 to 12 years. Then, they would get them out and weave another 12.

By this time, your editor was having visions of leading a hand-weaving tour to Siam and to Japan rather than to New Zealand and Australia, and so I started to work on this also.

While in Kyoto, Japan, which seems to be a center of the textile industry, and also a center for almost all hand-crafts, I also had a chance to visit and watch two of the famous "FINGER-NAIL WEAVERS."

These two women each morning when they came to work would file about 12 notches in one fingernail on each hand,

and use the fingernail as a beater in weaving a tapestry woven Obi. I went back and watched one of these ladies the second day, and found that she had woven about 3" on an 18" wide Obi. And was the work ever intricate and beautiful, and she also was using anywhere from 40 to 60 of the little Japanese silk shuttles.

I also had a chance to go to two Japanese hand-weaving supply centers where they buy the looms, the shuttles and bobbins, and other accessories as bobbin winders, skein winders, tapestry beaters, and other accessories. In fact, the Japanese silk shuttles were so nice that I purchased 50 of them to resell as novelties in our shop.

Still another day, I had a chance to visit a Japanese textile school that we had featured on the cover of *Warp and Weft* about 3 to 4 years ago. There, also, I saw many different phases of weaving. One classroom I visited, the students were all dyeing the silk yarns they were going to be using in their weaving. There also, they were warping a loom for Ikat or Tie-Dyed Warp, and they were teaching many, many different types of patterns, and I was told that they have 10-day classes, 3-week classes, and 1- and 2-year classes also.

And then a visit to one of the most outstanding craft centers I've ever seen was part of my schedule; and there too, I saw the fingernail weaving, as well as ceramics, pottery, jewelry making, doll making, and a metal engraving craft, and others.

And, believe it or not, I was lucky in making a good business contact, and ordering about 2,000 lbs. of yarn in Japan. In this order, there is about 800 lbs. of silk coming, and the rest is a beautiful, mercerized, ramie thread.

I stayed 7 days in Japan, and really wished that I had another 7 days for learning more about Japan and handweaving in that country.

And then, last but not least, I went to visit what I thought was a book store which sold some of our books we have published. To

my amazement, it was a hand-weaving supply center, selling American books and looms and weaving supplies. While visiting with them, they invited me to a lecture that evening at the American Center in Kyoto, and when I arrived, I met the speaker, who was a customer of ours. It was Glen Kaufman, weaving instructor from the University of Georgia, who was giving a lecture on Navaho and Hopi weaving.

The next morning, I had to head for home, but you can see it was a most productive trip; and yes, I'm going to try to arrange a hand-weaving tour of Japan next year, rather than New Zealand and Australia. It should be most exciting and stimulating, and I'm looking forward to a return visit to Japan.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

I'm intrigued with this month's cover photograph, as it shows you another use for card-woven fabrics. This is entitled, "A CARD-WOVEN SERPENTINE RUG," and was woven by Martha Stanley of the Santa Cruz Handweavers Guild. It was displayed at the 1979 Northern California Handweavers Conference, and attracted a lot of attention while on display. It is woven of all wool yarn, and it was very attractive as I remember it.

This Month's Book Review

An approach that seems to appeal to many weavers is covered in this book. It is entitled *EMBROIDERING WITH THE LOOM, or CREATIVE COMBINATIONS OF WEAVING AND STITCHERY*, by Penelope B. Drooker.

There is a close relationship between weaving and needlework, and this is one of the few books I've seen which encourages fiber workers to combine these two techniques.

This book is written to be a guide, to show how you can integrate many weaving

(continued on page 5)

SWEDISH DELIGHT

This is a second drapery project which I have worked out, with the remnants of the warp we had on one loom for our workshop with Malin Selander this summer. I liked her mixture of warp threads so well, I experimented and experimented, and came up with this delightful drapery fabric which allows the light in, but does not allow one to see in.

THREADING DRAFT:

4	CC	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
3	CC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	CC	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
1	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	CC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

KEY TO THREADS AND COLORS IN THE WARP:

X—16/2 Ramie, Eggshell Natural
 O—10/2 Linen, natural rough
 A—20/2 Linen, Swiss, raw grey
 B—18/2 Linen, Irish, unboiled nat.
 C—16/2 Ramie, Dutch Chocolate

WARP THREADS USED:

There are 5 different threads used in the warp, and it is this blending of Malin Selander's that I liked so well, and it was this that lead to this sample.

X—16/2 Ramie, Eggshell Natural
 O—10/2 Linen, natural dry spun rough from Scotland
 A—20/2 Linen, Raw Grey from Switzerland
 B—18/2 Linen, Irish, unboiled, natural
 C—16/2 Ramie, Dutch Chocolate

WEFT THREADS USED:

There are 4 different threads used in the weft. Of these four, two of them were also used in the warp, and two new threads were introduced into the weft.

C—16/2 Ramie, Dutch Chocolate is one of the weft threads
 B—18/2 Linen, Irish, unboiled, natural linen from Barbour linens

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.

Sample



D—Jute and rayon blended yarn. This jute and rayon blended yarn is very nice, and makes the fabric exciting
 F—16/2 Ramie, Fog Grey, is one of the accent threads used in the weft.

REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, and all threads were sleyed one end per dent—except the Dutch Chocolate ramie, which was threaded 2 ends per dent.

TREADLING SEQUENCE

Note that there are 50 shots of weft in one complete pattern repeat. I'm going to divide this sequence into 8 groups, and each group is a different weft thread.

Treadle:

1. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, with Dutch Chocolate ramie.
2. Treadle 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, with the 18/2 unboiled Barbour Linen.
3. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, with Dutch Chocolate ramie.
4. Treadle 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, with the Jute & Rayon combination yarn.
5. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, with Dutch Chocolate ramie.
6. Treadle 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, with Fog Grey ramie.
7. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, with Dutch Chocolate ramie.
8. Treadle 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, with the Jute & Rayon combination.

End of one complete pattern. Do repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

I think this is a beautiful fabric that will go with all natural woods, and with almost anything that is an earth color.

And, I like the fabric because you can see out through it, it lets light in, and yet, you cannot see in through it from the outside.

It was very easy to weave, and we had no problems in the weaving.

As it is basically linen and ramie, we do suggest that you use a firm, even, double beat. Beat with the shed open, change to the next shed and beat again, and then throw the shuttle. Then beat, change to the next shed, beat, and then throw the shuttle, etc.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

There are seven different threads used in this fabric. I'll tell about them.

X—16/2 Ramie, Eggshell Natural is \$10.00 per lb., has 2400 yards per lb., and is available on 2½ lb. cones or 4 oz. tubes.

O—10/2 Linen, Natural, rough, dry spun, is

from Scotland, has 1500 yards per pound, comes on about 1 lb. tubes, and is \$6.40 per lb.

A—20/2 Linen, from Switzerland in a raw grey color, has 3,000 yards per pound, and comes on tubes of about 1 lb. 2 oz. each. Our current stock has been selling for \$9.80 per lb., but a new stock is on order, and we know it will be higher, and about \$12.00 per lb.

B—18/2 Linen, Irish, unboiled, Natural linen from Barbour Linen Company, and it is \$8.80 per lb., has 2700 yards per pound, and comes on about 1 lb. 1 oz. tubes.

C—16/2 Ramie, Dutch Chocolate, also has 2400 yards per lb., is \$10.00 per lb., and comes on either 2½ lb. cones, or 4 oz. tubes of 600 yards each.

D—Jute and Rayon blend yarn. This is a most reasonable yarn at \$4.00 per lb., and it has approximately 2,000 yards per lb. It came to us on 6 lb. tubes, but we can wind off ½ lb. spools for our customers.

F—16/2 Ramie, Fog Grey, also has 2400 yards per lb., is \$10.00 per lb., and comes on 2½ lb. cones or 4 oz. tubes.

Book Review

(continued from page 3)

and needlework techniques to achieve most unique fabrics, and also to try to save you time and effort in doing this.

There are three major divisions in the book, with some sub-division of each of these 3 divisions.

The first section covers aspects of embroidery over especially woven background fabrics, and elaborates very much on this.

The second section deals with embroidery over unwoven warp or weft threads, and gives you many ideas as to stitches, how to manipulate the warp and weft threads, and lists the different techniques that are possible.

And then the last section deals with woven float threads as the basis for many different embroidery stitches.

There are many, many photographs which gives one ideas for combining these many techniques. There are 8 pages of color plates showing the uses of these ideas in clothing, in decorative fabrics such as wall hangings, pillows, rugs, etc.

The author emphasizes that any weaver with a good basic knowledge of weaving can utilize these techniques to make unusual and outstanding clothing and many other fabrics.

The author, Penelope Drooker, teaches both hand-weaving and embroidery, and specializes in unusual applications and combinations of familiar techniques.

Perhaps you'll like this book, and might like to further your knowledge of how to bring these two crafts together into one finished project.

TITLE: EMBROIDERING WITH THE LOOM, Creative Combinations of Weaving and Stitchery.

AUTHOR: Penelope B. Drooker

PUBLISHER: Van Nostrand Reinhold Pub.

COST: \$14.95 plus postage

AVAILABLE: From either the publisher or Robin & Russ Handweavers.

A Handweaving Tour to Siam and Japan

In August of 1980, your editor hopes to lead a handweaving tour to Siam and to Japan, with a stop-over in Honolulu on the way home.

It is hoped that we will be able to arrange to visit some of the silk weavers in Siam, or Thailand, as it is now called. We will then probably stop over in Hong Kong for perhaps three days after we leave Thailand. There is almost no weaving here, but for sight-seeing and shopping, it has almost no other equal anywhere in the world.

After our visit to Hong Kong, we will probably fly to Tokyo, Japan, and from there travel by bus to Kyoto, the center of

the textile industry of Japan. We will try to use Kyoto as a base and perhaps stay in the same town for about 10 days with bus trips out to various other weaving centers, and for sight-seeing purposes.

It is tentatively planned to visit Mt. Fujiyama, to visit a textile school outside of Kyoto, and if it can be arranged, we will try to visit one of the rural farmer's homes, where both hand-spinning and hand-weaving take place.

Another highlight will be a visit to the Kyoto Handcraft Center, where you can see about 10 different handcrafts in production, and see a multitude of beautiful results.

I have been promised that we can also have a tour of a linen and ramie weaving mill, where they weave the damask linen or ramie table cloths. And also, arrangements are to be made to visit a Japanese home so that you can see what their home is like.

And, besides this, there will be many other attractions, such as a visit to about two different Obi hand-weavers, and possibly a visit to a shuttle manufacturer, and a varied assortment of other textile activities.

And it is hoped that we can also plan some sight-seeing tours, and this we hope to do particularly on the weekends. There will also be some days of rest, where you can go on your own sight-seeing and exploring tours and enjoy seeing what life is like in another culture different from ours.

Perhaps you might like to visit the street of antiques in Kyoto, take a ride on the bullet train which travels at 135 miles per hour, explore the byways of Kyoto and Osaka and perhaps Tokyo.

This will replace the tour that I had tentatively planned to New Zealand and to Australia.

If you think that you might be interested, please send your name in to Robin & Russ Handweavers, and we will be sure to send you a brochure as soon as they are printed.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$6.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

40/2 NATURAL WHITE RAMIE

We have left a limited amount of this nice ramie, at \$8.00 per lb., on about 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes. It has 6,000 yards per lb., is excellent weft, and I've used it for warp. It is not perfectly smooth, but is slightly textured. An excellent buy at this price. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW BOBBIN LACE BOOK entitled BOBBIN LACE BRAID, by Gillian Dye.

It seems quite interesting. Has 85 monochrome photographs, 7 color photographs, 112 diagrams, and 76 prickings. Price is \$16.95 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BASIC DOUBLE WEAVE THEORY

An excellent little booklet written by Sara Farrar and published by Robin & Russ Handweavers. This spiral bound booklet is an excellent guide to many types of double weave, and it is so clearly explained that you should have no problems with any of the techniques explained. It gives step by step instructions for 4, 6, and 8 harness double weaves, and includes Layered Fabrics, such as 2 layer, 3 and 4 layers, extra wide fabrics, or double, and triple and quadruple width on 4, 6, and 8 harnesses; teaches one to do tubes, or two tubes, or loom controlled tubes; has a section on 4, 6, and 8 harness pockets. Gives you directions for double weave with free design, and double weave pick-up for single thread and double thread pick-up. Exciting, and not too expensive, it is \$4.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

PAINTED WARPS

Another booklet just re-published by Robin & Russ, this one was written by Hazel Farrow, and discusses many different aspects of painting your warp threads to complete designs. A new and stimulating technique which you should enjoy. Price is \$4.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

200 MULTIPLE HARNESS PATTERNS

At the printers now, and due in in the second week of December, this book by your editor will feature 200 patterns of 5 to 12 harness weaves, with 95% of them being 5 to 8 harnesses. There is a photo of each fabric, plus all the necessary details such as warp and weft used, reed, threading and treadling, and all necessary details. The paper-back edition will be \$9.95 and the hardbound edition will be \$14.95. This is 20 years of our patterns in our bulletin Drafts and Designs that we are publishing. Orders now being taken. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2½ LEA, SLUBBY LINEN FROM SWITZERLAND

Yes, we have 13 colors in this most interesting yarn. This is from the only firm we can find anywhere that makes a true slub linen. This is 2½ lea size, has 750 yards per lb., and it is \$9.60 per lb. Makes the most beautiful mats, table-cloths, etc. And we paid extra for the best dyes available, and the colors are exciting. If interested, write for a free sample sheet, as we are making these up now. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6/2 COLORED LINENS FROM SWITZERLAND

We have these in 11 colors, and it too is dyed with the best dyes available. This has 900 yards per lb., and is good warp at 8 or 10 per inch. Works nicely with the 2½ lea slub linen listed above. Excellent for table linens, for patio and outdoor use, and probably good for macrame. It is on about 1 lb. 1 oz. tubes, and the price is \$9.60 lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE TECHNIQUE OF TORCHON LACE

by Pam Nottingham is enroute to us from England. We will be distributors for this book. It will retail at \$16.95 and should be here by late September at the latest. Looks like an excellent book from the preview of the copy I saw. Postage or shipping will be extra. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NATURAL 100% COTTON FLAKE BOUCLE YARN

This should dye beautifully, and work well in the natural also. It has about 750 yards per lb., and can be used in the warp as well as the weft. Should make nice, soft fabrics. Came to us on about 2 lb. 4 oz. cones, and the price is \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. We liked this one so well that when we were offered 500 lbs. of it, we took it all. Free sample upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE, PINK COTTON BOUCLE WITH A RAYON BINDER

This fine cotton boucle has a multitude of uses. It has 4,000 yards per lb., and it is available on 2½ lb. cones, or ½ lb. tubes that we wind off. Excellent for warp or weft. Just pink, and no other colors now. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FLUFFY & SOFT, LINEN & RAYON BLEND

A most interesting yarn. It has a sort of beige background, with fluffy flecks of linen. Yardage is 4800 yards per lb., and should be excellent for drapery and upholstery. It came on 3 lb. 8 oz. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. About 1000 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

12 FOLD, BLEACHED WHITE LINEN

This is 12 ends wound together to make one thread, and it is an excellent weft thread. Can be handled for warp if carefully done. Has 1600 yards per lb., and is available on ½ lb. tubes. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

