

warp and weft

Vol. XXXIV, No. 2

February, 1981

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Vol. XXXIV, No. 2 February, 1981

A Word from the Editor

So far, I've been able to keep my word. I wrote the January bulletin yesterday and took it to the printers, and today I'm writing the February issue. I will finish it either today or tomorrow morning and take it to the printer, and then I will start writing the March issue. But then, we have to start frantically weaving again the samples of both bulletins for the April, May, and June issues. It does seem as though we will have more time to do this, though, so as I stated yesterday, progress is being made. I'm delighted, and just hope we can keep on schedule once we do catch up.

Also, details for our two 1-week summer workshops. We will have Jean Scorgie teach these two 1-week workshops, and one will be in July, from July 13 through July 17, and then again in August, August 17 through August 21. The subject of these two 1-week workshops will be DESIGNING HANDWOVEN CLOTHING. Jean is an outstanding weaver, designer, and teacher; and we are delighted to have her for these classes. Already, people are signing up for the workshops, and we are just today going to write out an advertising brochure for them. Price will be \$125.00 per week, and from the results I have seen from Jean's other classes, I'm sure that anyone who participates will gain a lot from these.

I have just arranged for reduced motel rates for the workshops, and if you wish to share with someone else, your cost will be

even less; and there is a nice restaurant in conjunction with the motel.

Each class will be limited to 15 students per class.

If any of you are interested, let us know, and we will send a brochure. Or if you want to sign up, we will be pleased to have you sign up and attend. We will be pleased to make motel reservations for you, and if you want to share with someone, we will try to arrange this also. You will see more details on this workshop listed probably on page 6 in this issue of Warp and Weft. If you have any questions, write or call, and we will try to be of help.

I seem to have run out of words for this column, and here I hope to write another one tomorrow.

As most of you know, in order to stay afloat in our business, we have had to do something I tried to avoid as long as possible. However, we have had to add \$1.00 per package handling charge to our orders for the reason that the labor has gone up, the cost of tape and paper has doubled, and we were falling behind about \$250 to \$300 per month on our cost ascertainment of this job. I hated to have to do this, but it was either do this or quit the mail orders, and this is the main portion of our business. We tried to keep this as low as possible, and we have still resisted putting on the minimum order fee that so many companies now seem to require.

I know that on our Egyptian cotton, for instance, we could order any amount and get a wholesale price. Then they raised the minimum order to 10 lbs., and then to 25 lbs., and now it has gone to a 50-lb. minimum. So, we have to make quite a sizeable investment to keep our 20/2 SS, and 10/2 CP cotton in stock. I protested this, and the manufacturer and supplier told us that it is no longer worth their while to sell at wholesale unless the minimum order is 50 lbs.

Well, you can see some of the problems we face in this current trend of rising prices

and this period of inflation. We do hope that this serious inflation does come to a halt, or many things the handweaver likes to use and needs will be priced off the market.

I'm personally still surprised that we sell as many of some items as we do.

Russell E. Groff, Editor



This Month's Cover Photograph

Here is one of the many uses of your handweaving. You can frame it or mount it on a nice mat and use it as decoration in different rooms. This piece was displayed at the 1978 Northern California Conference in San Jose, California.

There are many different Scandinavian art techniques which are used in weaving, like Duk-A-Gang, different types of inlay, etc.

This particular piece was woven by Joella Triebisch, and I believe that she was a student at Modesto Junior College when she did this piece.

This Month's Book Review

A new book on dyeing with plants and lichens from the Northeastern U.S.A. and Canada has come out, and we did want to tell you about it. This book is entitled CRAFT OF THE DYER: COLOR FROM PLANTS AND LICHENS OF THE NORTHEAST, and it was written by Karen Leigh Casselman. This book seems to have been written for Canada primarily, although most of these items will also be found in New England.

In the front of this book are found 12 full-color pages of yarns dyed with the many items described in this book. There is also an excellent picture of some of the lichens.

In this text, the author has described 150 plants and lichens which can be used to make textile dyes. These are listed alphabetically, and a complete description of each is given. She states that many of these plants and lichens are found throughout North America, and from Manitoba to as far south as Virginia.

She goes into the greatest detail, telling how to search for and recognize dye-stuffs in nature, and how you can collect them, grow them, and preserve them. On each of these plants, she describes the parts used, how to process these parts, what colors are obtained from it, how fast the colors are, and how to identify that particular object.

She also tells you how to use these items in dyeing, what equipment is needed, where to go and look for the particular plant, how to prepare it for dyeing, and gives other related details about the complete process. There are a couple of pages of terminology given, with each of these terms being defined.

She has a very thorough chapter on Mordants and what they are and how to use them.

This book seems to go into very thorough detail on all phases of the dyeing process, and I think it is quite thorough and well done.

I was disappointed that there were not any pictures other than the 12 full-color plates in the front of the book, but in many cases, you do not need more pictures. I liked her section on energy-saving procedures; and she even tells about becoming a "dye-stuff" gardener.

TITLE: CRAFT OF THE DYER: Color From Plants and Lichens from the Northeast

AUTHOR: Karen Leigh Casselman

COST: \$27.50 plus shipping and handling

PUBLISHER: The University of Toronto Press

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

SHADES OF BLUE:

An exciting technique, the swivel weave is excellent for a blending of different values and shades of the same color. Here is the one done in SHADES OF BLUE.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	○	○	○			○
3	○		○	○	○	
2	○	○		○		○
1		○	○	○	○	
	1	2	3	4	A	B
					5	6

Note: Tie-up is for jack-type looms.

THREADING DRAFT:

4			A	A	A	A	A			○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3			A	A	A	A	A			○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2	B	B	B	B	B			X	X	X						
1	B	B	B	B	B			X	X	X						

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

○—color #33, Yale Blue
 X—color #34, Navy Blue
 A—color #32, Jay Blue
 B—color #35, Charcoal Dust

WARP:

Our warp is the 6-strand cotton floss in four different colors, as indicated in the threading draft. The colors are as follows:

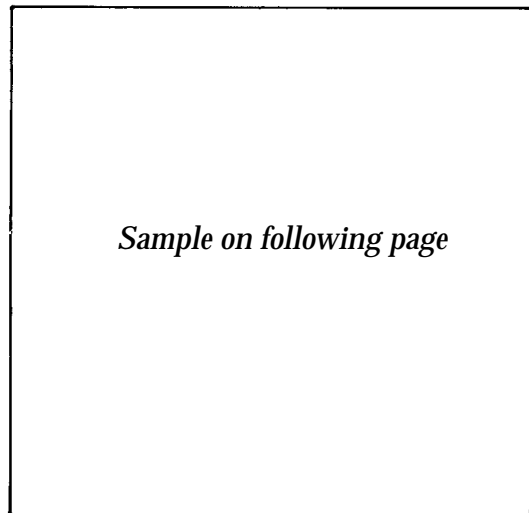
○—color #33, Yale Blue
 X—color #34, Navy Blue
 A—color #32, Jay Blue
 B—color #35, Charcoal Dust

WEFT:

Our weft thread is the same 6-strand cotton floss. In the weft, we have 5 different colors. Four of these are exactly the same as the warp, and the fifth color is a color #1, light turquoise.

○—color #33, Yale Blue
 X—color #34, Navy Blue
 A—color #32, Jay Blue
 B—color #35, Charcoal Dust
 T—color # 1, Light Turquoise

Sample



TREADLING SEQUENCE:

There are 64 shots in one complete pattern repeat. There are 4 different blocks of colors in the weft, so, in order not to have to list all 64 threads, I will list each block of 4 threads and say repeat this (so many) times. Here goes.

1st block to be repeated 6 times is:

#1 Treadle—#33, Yale Blue
 #2 Treadle—#34, Navy
 #3 Treadle—#33, Yale Blue
 #4 Treadle—#34, Navy

(continued next page)



2nd block to be repeated 3 times is:

- #1 treadle—#34, Navy
- #2 Treadle—#35, Charcoal Dust
- #3 Treadle—#34, Navy
- #4 Treadle—#35, Charcoal Dust

3rd block to be repeated 2 times is:

- #1 Treadle—#32, Jay Blue
- #2 Treadle—#1, Light Turquoise
- #3 Treadle—#32, Jay Blue
- #4 Treadle—#1, Light Turquoise

4th block to be repeated 5 times is:

- #1 Treadle—#35, Charcoal Dust
- #2 Treadle—#32, Jay Blue
- #3 Treadle—#35, Charcoal Dust
- #4 Treadle—#32, Jay Blue

First block, 6 times is 24 shots.

Second block, 3 times is 12 shots.

Third block, 2 times is 8 shots.

Fourth block, 5 times is 20 shots.

Total of the 4 blocks is 64 shots.

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT. Do repeat over and over as desired.

REED USED:

A 10-dent reed was used, and it was double-sleyed, 2 ends per dent or 20 threads per inch.

FACTS ABOUT THE THREADS USED:

Our warp, and all of the weft threads, are the 6-strand cotton floss, which we purchased a large quantity of and which we are able to sell at greatly reduced prices. We actually have some 35 colors on hand, and we did purchase about 50 lbs. each of 25 colors and about 25 lbs. each of the other 10 colors. It is now selling on the open market at \$19.75 per lb., and we are able to sell this current stock we have at \$8.00 per lb. while it lasts. About 20 of the colors are available on 1/2-lb. tubes, or on the large

3-lb. cones. And the rest of the colors come on approximately 1/2-lb. skeins. So, the minimum order of any of the colors is 1/2 lb. of a color. This 6-strand cotton floss has about 2080 yards per pound, and is good warp or weft. We do have sample sheets of these colors now available.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

A swivel weave is a fascinating weave and sort of a pleasure to see how it grows, and changes color, etc. And the various blocks seem to form a ribbed fabric, which is quite attractive. What I particularly enjoy is the colors that you achieve when you cross colors with various values and tints of the same color, and the different sizes and colors of blocks you can achieve. We are doing another sample of this weave, in completely different colors, and will have it to share with you in a future issue.

Many weavers do not know what a swivel weave is. Zielinski, in his book, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HAND-WEAVING*, says it is a weaving technique which gives an inlay effect. In our sample, for instance, the weft weaves in one block, skips the next block, weaves in the third block, skips the fourth, etc. And your 2nd weft thread will do just the opposite. It will skip the first block, weave in the second, skip the third block, and weave in the fourth, etc. Thus, you can make the blocks solid colors if you wish, or blend two colors in different blocks if you wish; so it is sort of stimulating and exciting to weave. This weave results in long float threads on the back of the fabric. If they are left on the fabric, they sort of pull the threads together and give you a ribbed effect. However, you can cut off the float threads on the back, and it will lie flatter and not give you such a pronounced rib effect as you see in our sample. Zielinski gives three different sample drafts for swivel weave in his encyclopedia. The more I weave, the more I find out you can do, even on just the four-harness loom.

(continued next page)

TWO

One-week weaving workshops this summer at the studio of
Robin and Russ Handweavers

INSTRUCTOR: JEAN SCORGIE

DATES: 1st week — July 13 through July 17
2nd week — August 17 through August 21

SUBJECT: DESIGNING HANDWOVEN CLOTHING

COST: \$125.00 per person for each week attended.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Students design a handwoven garment or ensemble to be woven after the workshop. Designing begins with an exploration of shapes and details used in historic and ethnic garments. After choosing a design to work with, students make and fit a muslin. A discussion of yarns, weave structures, and other textile techniques which can be combined with weaving to help refine the look. Students weave a sample of their fabric to check set, compatibility of yarn choices, and suitability of the fabric to their designs. Pick-up techniques, finishing details, and other textile techniques used will also be sampled. Finally, warping calculations, shrinkage, layout of the garment pieces on the warp, finishing of the fabric, and construction of the garment will be discussed; and a date will be set for the completion of the garments. If you do progress fast enough, you are welcome to weave your garment on the looms here.

HOUSING:

Arrangements for special rates have been made at the Safari Motel in McMinnville; and if you'd like, we can arrange for you to double up with people and cut your cost in half. Also, there is a nice restaurant at the Safari Motel, and it is just one mile from the weaving shop. We will make your reservations if you'd like us to.

LIMIT: 15 per class.

MOBILE HOME ACCOMMODATIONS: There are a few spaces available in town.

DEPOSITS: To reserve space, send 1/3 deposit now, and balance to be paid by the first of July or the first of August.

UPON REGISTRATION, ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

MORE ABOUT JEAN SCORGIE:

1. 1972-73, Assistant Professor at Oregon State University.
2. 1973-74, Wrote and presented a series of ten 1/2-hour programs for educational television called "The Warp and Weft of Weaving."
3. 1974-5, Visiting Assistant Professor at Oregon State University.
4. 1976-7, Instructor, Oregon School of Arts & Crafts, Portland; Instructor, Bush Barn Art Center, Salem, Oregon.
5. She has presented and organized 40 workshops and lectures in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Montana, Colorado, and Alaska.
6. Too much else to tell you about.

SPEAKER AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- 1978—Convergence '78, Fort Collins, Colorado. Also workshop leader.
1975—Pacific Northwest Handweavers Conference, Pullman, Washington.
1974—Southern California Handweavers Conference, Santa Barbara, California.

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.

HEAVY, NATURAL, COTTON CHENILLE, 3-CUT

This one we call 240-250 Natural, because it has 240 to 250 yards per lb. It is about the size of a 3-cut natural cotton chenille, and came to us on cones of about 2 lb. 4 oz. to 2 lb. 8 oz. each. Price is \$6.80 per lb., a good price. We can wind off 1/2 lb. tubes if you wish. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

80% MOHAIR, 20% WOOL, NATURAL 2/12's SIZE IN A SMOOTH 2-PLY YARN

This is a beautiful yarn, with a nice luster. Everyone that sees this yarn raves about it. We found just 100 lbs. of it. With this high mohair content, it is an extremely good buy at \$9.60 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FRENCH LILAC, LINEN, WOOL, ARNEL BLEND

A beautiful color, this is one of the popular fashion colors. This is a blend that is most unusual, and with the linen and arnel around the wool, I do not think it will shrink. Has 2400 to 2450 yards per lb., and is \$8.00 per lb. Came on about 2 lb. 4 oz. cones. It is 38% linen, 33.5% wool, and 28.5% arnel. It has a boucle appearance and a nice hand for this yarn. We can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE LOOP MOHAIR, NATURAL AND BLACK

This fine loop mohair in natural is on about 3-lb. cones, and the black is on about 1/2 to 1-lb. cones. It has about 2,000 yards per lb., and the price is \$8.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY COTTON BOUCLE IN ANTIQUE GOLD

We had this before in a spring rose color, and now have about 40 lbs. in antique gold. It is a heavy nub yarn with 1200 to 1250 yards per lb. It is \$6.00 per lb., and this just does not seem to be made anymore. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE, NATURAL COTTON KNOT & FRILL

A nice fine cotton knot and frill twist yarn, with 3750 yards per lb. It came to us on about 4-lb. tubes, but we will wind off 1/2-lb. tubes. Price is \$4.80 per lb. A very nice yarn. It is 100% cotton. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CELADON GREEN 16/2 UNMERCERIZED COTTON

This light greyed green cotton is a soft twist cotton, and should be usable for warp or weft. It is on sale at \$4.80 per lb. I discovered another box of it, so we have about 100 lbs. on hand. This is a color that should blend well with naturals and beiges. On about 1 lb. 2 oz. cones or slightly less. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL COTTON LACE, 100% COTTON

We have an extremely good buy on this right now, as we have just located a new stock of it. It is similar to the Lily, cotton lace, just slightly heavier with about 1700 yards per lb., rather than 1800. It is on 2 to 3 lb. cones, and is \$6.00 per lb., less than 1/2 of the price of that from Lily's, and we understand they may discontinue theirs. Can wind off onto 1/2 lb. tubes if desired. Our new lot of 250 lbs. will be in skeins for easy dyeing if desired. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

MUSHROOMS FOR COLOR

By Miriam Rice and Dorothy Beebe. This book has just been reprinted and greatly enlarged in scope, and eight pages in color have been added to show the scope of colors available from mushrooms. Price is now \$6.95, and it is an excellent book. Shipping and handling is extra. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

1/69 METALLIC LUREX FROM ENGLAND IN COLORS

This is hard to advertise, as the spools vary in size from 2 oz. to 8 oz. We have exciting colors like copper brown, orange pumpkin, light silvery blue, light orchid, deep blue green, royal blue, fuchsia, bright kelly, bright lighter royal blue. This metallic sells for 50¢ per oz., and comes on all-sized spools from 2 oz. to 8 oz. Prices vary from \$1.00 to \$4.00 per spool. A great, great buy at 50¢ per oz. On strong, molded plastic spools with end caps. This makes it \$8.00 per lb. Let us send you a pound or 1 1/2 lb. assortment of colors. We'll guarantee from 3 to 8 colors in any 1 1/2 lb. order, and probably it would be about 6 colors. All bright, gay colors, no dull ones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVE WITH STYLE, by Jean Wilson.

Her latest book is an interesting one, intended to stimulate the weaver to make clothing, and to think and plan through projects before doing them. Price is \$7.95 plus postage and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

APPROX. 2 OZ. TUBES OF 1/64 GOLD METALLIC

We have both the supported metallic and the unsupported gold metallic in the 1/64" size on these 2 oz. tubes. And the supporting thread is dyed to match the gold. Also, we have the same thing in pink, on these small tubes. Price is a reasonable \$1.75 per tube.

FOUR COLORS IN 3-PLY FRENCH SILK NOIL.

We had advertised three colors of this, and when opening our shipment from England, we found another in this 3-ply silk noil. The three colors we advertised were on sample sheet #248; and they were MEADOW-LARK BROWN MIXED WITH NATURAL, BLUE-BIRD BLUE MIXED WITH NATURAL, and SUCCULENT GREEN MIXED WITH NATURAL. This fourth color is a RUST BROWN MIXED WITH NATURAL. This is all on about 1-lb. cones, seems to have 1100 yards per lb., and can be used for warp or weft. The price is \$13.60 per lb. Seems to be liked by those who have purchased and woven with it. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

w a r p a n d w e f t

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200 Patterns for Multiple Harness Looms

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Written and compiled by Irene K. Wood of Minneapolis, Minnesota, this book has 150 16-harness patterns, a photograph of each, and weaving directions.

\$8.95 plus shipping

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