



Menu
Guilds

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warp and weft

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warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

We sent out two issues, and now we are working on another two, and yes, we do have signs of catching up. We now have all the projects through June either planned or on the looms, so that in itself is quite a bit of progress.

Well, things are still quite slow with us, business wise, but we are hopeful of having it pick up. We are feeling that this recession now has to end, and it can be nothing but up, so we are working on this assumption, and stocking threads, etc., as we normally do, and trying to find new and unusual items for you.

One item that we have just located, is a lot of about 250 lbs. of assorted colors of silk noil which is on the way to us. There are from 1 lb. to 25 lbs. of about 15 to 20 different colors, and this will be in soon. It is quite hard to find colored silks, so we were delighted to find this.

And, we have located and have on the way to us a flake blend of natural linen and cotton which is quite beautiful, and we have been offered about a 200 lb. lot of assorted colors of the same thing, and I think that we will purchase this also.

And, we have some beautiful 20/2 bleached Danish linen on hand at a very, very good price, less than half of what the regular market price is. And besides this 20/2 linen, we also have some 8/1 natural and 8/1 bleached which is very nice and is from the same source. We are selling this 20/2 bleached linen for \$9.60 per lb., and

the 8/1 single ply is \$6.80 per lb., both very good prices.

We have been having a lot of trouble with our winding machines lately, and so, I have located a used one with 6 heads, to wind 6 threads at one time, and measure it, and so tonight, after I finish this, I hope to fly back east to look at this machine, and see if it will do a job for us. I'm even taking some samples of thread with me, to see how it winds.

And, while I'm back there, I will have a chance to visit with my family back there and see how everything is coming along with them.

We have been short-staffed, because of the recession, and I've felt, we have not given as good service as we usually do. I've been trying to eliminate this feeling on my part, by getting things out faster, but it doesn't always seem to work out the way I want it. So, with continued effort on my part, perhaps things will continue to improve.

Also, I did go to Northern California Handweavers Conference in Ukiah, California, and business was fairly good there, much better than it was at the Southern California Handweavers Conference.

And, in general, I have the feeling that most of these conferences have improved considerably these past two years, and it was a pleasure to look at many of the different guild booths, and see the quality pieces of weaving that were on display. And both fashion shows were excellent at both conferences, and there does seem to be much more interest by the handweavers in quality clothing. This is also shown by the many books on the subject that have become available these past several years.

See you next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

Ruth Duker of Sacramento wove this wall hanging or rug in a technique called Scandinavian Lightning. She won an award for her effort in the 29th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento in May, 1982.

This technique is well named Lightning with its active diagonals zig-zagging across the surface. Ruth has designed this piece using a graduation of darks and lights which emphasize the pattern. She creates a sense of scale by varying the sizes of the points and the number of times they are repeated.

Like many tapestries, this piece was woven crosswise from the way it is shown. In the Lightning technique the butterflies carrying the colors of different areas all move simultaneously so many steps before reversing direction to make a point. The more steps before reversing the bigger and bolder the point. The number and order of the colors remain constant except for the ones which sometimes go off the edge.

Another nice design detail of this piece is the border which encloses the activity of the pattern. At times the borders are considered proper and at other times they are considered constrictive of the design. This piece with the points moving off and back onto the edge benefits from the dark border which gives a framework to the piece by repeating the darkest value within it.

If you would like to try weaving a piece in Swedish Lightning, you will find good directions and pictures in the new edition of Mary Black's *Key to Weaving* on pages 471-474. The older editions have this section also, but the page numbering is different.

This Month's Book Review

The Comfortable Arts is the title of the latest book by Dorothy K. Burnham. The

subject of the book is traditional spinning and weaving in Canada and the first title suggested for the book was *Unlike the Lilies--They Toiled, They Spun, They Wove*. Although this title was discarded along with its allusions to dreary toil, Mrs. Burnham reminds us that few people established themselves in the new country without a considerable amount of plain hard work and the exciting thing is that so many rose above it.

"When it came to spinning and weaving, also a heavy form of toil, they did not just make the plainest and roughest fabric to serve their purposes. Instead they lifted their spirits by spinning a good yarn, dyeing it, and working it into a fabric that would be a pleasure to use."

The new title somewhat belies the effort that went into establishing the country and forming a background upon which textiles could be produced at all.

The material shown in catalog form comes from a wide range of ethnic origins. The native peoples, the Acadian, Western, and Quebec French, the Loyalists from the US, and the vast number of immigrants who continue to come to this day are represented.

Included with each photograph is a description and explanation of the circumstances both general and particular that surround the piece shown. This format makes for fascinating reading of several kinds. One can find an intriguing photograph and read the accompanying caption.

Curiosity whetted, one can read the preceding and following pages. And when one wishes to study an area one can read formally entire chapters.

Examples of native Canadian basketry, plaiting, twining, and quill weaving begin the book. Although this is not a how-to-do book, there are excellent structural diagrams of the different fabric constructions. The French Tradition

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More About This Fabric:

This delightful fabric weaves well except for Treadle #4 which sticks. On this treadle all the harnesses change places and because the threads are crowded in the reed, the shed doesn't open easily. You will find that you need to use your hand to press the warp to make the harnesses fall. This slows the weaving and is really only a problem on a wide warp because on a narrow width the weight of the harnesses should be enough to separate the threads.

The contrast of yarn texture and weave structure make this fabric unusual. The glossy cottons provide a firm structure for the chenille in the recessed cells. The black, grey, and white give this piece a formal look.

This fabric would be good for accessory items such as envelope bags. It could also be sewn into interesting: wide sash belts that are so popular now. Another good use would be pillows or cushions. The chenille makes such a soft finish. No doubt you will think of many other uses for this fabric.

Cost of Threads Used:

The 20/2 Egyptian cotton has 8400 yards per pound and is \$14.00 per pound. It comes on 1/2 lb. cones.

The 6-strand cotton floss has 2080 yards per pound. It comes on 1/2 lb. tubes or skeins and sells for \$8.00 per pound. The velour chenille is an especially nice dense quality. It has 65 yards per pound and comes on 1 lb. cones for \$8.00 per pound. This yarn comes from Germany and we have never seen an American chenille as firm as this one.

Did you know that chenille is a woven yarn? It is made by warping the loom in a way quite similar to this sample, as a matter of fact. The warps are crowded in a single dent, then dents are skipped. The weft is

beaten in very tightly in tabby or leno and when the fabric comes off the loom, it is cut length-wise into strips with the tabby in the center of each strip.

Flat chenille is chenille just as it comes from the loom. Round chenille is twisted (sometimes the leno helps twist it) so that the fringes come out all around the strand.

Chenille is sized by "cut." An 8-cut chenille has 8 strands cut from 1" of the fabric, a 4-cut chenille is twice as heavy, each strand being about 1/4" wide. And the name chenille is French for caterpillar!

Cost of the Fabric:

The warp took 2 lb. 7 oz. of 20/2 Egyptian cotton which is \$29.25 or \$2.44 per yard of our 12 yard, 40" wide warp.

In the weft we used 3 lb. 11 1/2 oz. of velour chenille or \$29.50 which is \$2.95 per woven yard. The cotton floss took 2 lb. 6 oz. That comes to \$19.00 or \$1.90 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD \$2.44
WEFT COST PER YARD..... 4.85

FABRIC COST PER YARD..... \$7.29

This is an excellent, readable book on traditional Canadian weaving. It contains a wealth of examples that will serve as sources for identification of similar pieces. It enlightens, elucidates, and educates all of us interested in our textile heritage. We highly recommend it.

TITLE: *The Comfortable Arts: Traditional Spinning and Weaving in Canada*

AUTHOR: Dorothy K. Burnham

PUBLISHER: National Gallery of Canada

COST: \$24.95

AVAILABLE: from the publishers or Robin & Russ, if desired.

A Second Project

Deirdre King of Visalea, CA, and Judy Goetz of Los Angeles have given us directions for Fur Inlay Rugs they have been making. The fur inlay creates the right side of the rug while the woven backing creates stability on the back and is not seen.

Use 8/5 linen for warp and set it at 8 ends per inch. This will give a fur tie-down every inch. Threading from the right, the selvege is 1, 3, 2, 4. Then the rug is threaded 1, 3, 2, 3, 1, 3, 2, 3, 1, 4 for as many repeats as desired. Finish with a left selvege of 1, 3, 2. It also helps to add a floating selvege.

Use heavy rug wool for the weft and treadle 1&4, 2&4, 3&4 approximately 3 or 4 times until it equals the height of the fur strips. Then treadle harness 4 and lay in the fur strip, tapering the ends and letting them extend off the selvege about $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Tie down with tabby, 1&2, 3&4, and repeat the entire sequence. Beat the background hard for a firm rug.

On a large rug, more tension will be created on the harness 4 threads, so if you have a double backbeam, put these threads on separately. These threads are the tie-downs for the fur inlay wefts.

Deirdre and Judy obtained the threading from an article by Enola Dickey in the Fall 1977 issue #32 of *Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot*. We thank them for sharing their version with us.

If you have projects you would like to share with the readers of *Warp & Weft*, we would be delighted to hear from you.

This Month's Book Review

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includes braided belts, a variety of coverlets in different techniques including boutonnie or weft-loop weaving, skirts and shawls. The Loyalist tradition contains classic coverlets and linen weaving. The Scottish, Irish, and English Traditions contain blankets, carpets, articles of clothing, and overshot weaving. German Traditions include multiple harness twills and jacquards. The last section on the multi-cultural tradition of western Canada contains 20th century pieces because the pioneering period was just beginning there at the turn of the century. The pieces are sparse and uneven for many reasons — textile traditions had died out elsewhere and were replaced by industrial production, and most of the handwork that was done in Western Canada at that time was utilitarian. Nevertheless this section is interesting both for what it does and does not contain.

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.

CUSTOM WOOL PROCESSING

Services offered for small and large wool producers includes scouring, picking, carding wool into bats or rovings. We guarantee to return your wool. White or natural colored rovings and batts from our fleeces available. Amazing Acres, RD #1329, Womelsdorf, Penna. 19567, 215-589-4023.

COTTON FLAKE WITH LINEN TWIST, in colors

There will be about 200 lbs. of this, in perhaps 10 colors. From about 15 to 30 pounds per color. Same as the natural, only in dyed colors. Price will be \$8.00 per lb. for the colors. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARPET WARP, IN NATURAL, WHITE & 12 COLORS

These are boifast colors, comes on 1/2 lb. tubes of 800 yards each, and it sells for \$3.50 per 8 oz. tube. A very good price. Nice colors, and it has been quite popular. A new sample sheet will be available soon on these. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6/1 SILK, LINEN, AND POLYESTER BLEND

This is a single ply, but is mainly a weft thread. It is natural only, has a most interesting texture almost like oatmeal, and is quite nice. It has 5,000 yards per lb., comes on about 3 lb. cones, but we can wind off 1/2 lb. or 1 lb. for you. Price is \$6.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL FLAKE COTTON WITH NATURAL LINEN TWIST

We've had this before, and it was very popular, and at the time, we were unable to get more. Now, it is available by the tons. We have 300 lbs. coming. It should have about 1100 to 1200 yards per lb., and is in skeins, so it could be easily dyed, and the price will be \$6.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ASSORTED COLORS IN SILK NOILS

These are in skeins. We will have from 1 to 25 lbs. of about 20 colors. The price will be \$13.60 per lb., and we were delighted to find some colors. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/10's BELGIAN-SPUN SHETLAND

A natural colored Shetland from Belgium's most famous spinning mill. It is also called 2/3-1/4 run. A set of 16-20 epi would be good. It has 2400 yards per pound, comes on 2 lb. cones and is \$8.00 per lb. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

2/10's SMOOTH, SPUN MOHAIR

This is a beautiful fine smooth yarn which would be strong and long wearing for upholstery or apparel. It would dye richer colors than wool. Yardage is 2700 yards per pound, comes on 3 lb. tubes, and is \$8.00 per pound. We can wind tis off onto 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

BLACK BRUSHED WOOL FROM HOLLAND

We call this Jack of Clubs. It is from Phoenix mills and is still on the original mill cones of about 3 lbs. each. It has approximately 1,000 yards per pound and we have a special price of \$16.00 per pound. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

30/2 BLEACHED WHITE MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

some like to weave with a fine thread, so I took a chance and purchased a 200-lb. lot of this 30/2 bleached white, mercerized durenne cotton. It is a very nice quality, has 12,600 yards per lb., and came on 2- to 3-lb. cones. Price is most pleasing for this fine cotton at \$6.00 per lb., by the cone. It takes so long to wind it off, that if you want less than a 2- to 3-lb. cone, then it is \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

50% SILK, 50% WOOL, AVAILABLE IN 11 COLORS

In at last from England, this 50% silk, 50% wool comes on about 1-pound cones. We are just preparing sample cards for this. Have about 100 pounds of each color. It is on about 1-pound cones, has about 1,350 yards per pound, and is \$16.00 per pound, while it lasts. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for free samples. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL, SINGLE PLY, WOOL-ROVING TYPE YARN

We have about 80 pounds of this single ply wool, roving type yarn. It is on cones of about 1 pound each, and I have measured and found that it has about 415 yards per pound. Was very popular last year. We have it priced at \$8.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

1.4/1 ACRYLIC NOVELTY TWIST YARN

Nice hand, appearance, and color to these 3 colors. blended brown, natural white, and blue-beige-natural blend. These would work well in coat material or suiting. They are \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

12/2 DURENE COTTON IN NATURAL

This extremely nice quality cotton makes excellent warp. It is slightly smaller than a 10/2 cotton and we'd suggest 20-24 epi, 2 per dent in a 10-12 dent red. If you buy it on 2/1/4-2-1/2 lb. cones the price is \$6.00 per pound. However if you want less than that it will be \$6.80 per pound. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
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MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

Wool Tweed Yarns

34 colors in stock for immediate delivery. It has from 1300 to 1800 yards per pound, depending upon the color. Also, 17 more colors have just arrived to be unpacked from England.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for free samples of all 34 colors.

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Robin & Russ Handweavers
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Phone (503) 472-5760

DRAFTS AND DESIGNS

A monthly, multiple harness bulletin with a large sample swatch in each issue. It is issued 10 times a year, and features 5 to 8 harness patterns. Also, once or twice a year, 9 to 12 harness patterns are also featured. Price is \$10.00 per year. All subscriptions start with the September issue, so if you subscribe now, back issues from September will be sent to you. Available from: **ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS**, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

