

# warp and weft

Volume XXXVII, No. 3

March, 1984

## warp and weft

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

Subscription: \$12.00 per year U.S.A.  
\$12.50 per year Canada  
\$13.00 per year foreign  
Back issues, \$1.25 each plus 20\*postage

---

Volume XXXVII, No. 3                      March, 1984

---

### A Word from the Editor

Well, the February issue is at the printers, and I will take this March issue this afternoon. Hopefully, we will mail both of these in about a week to 10 days, and you will receive the two together.

I might mention that we had about 20 stencils the last time, that were so bad after inking and addressing that we could not make out the correct addresses. And the girl who had typed these had already thrown the subscription blanks or letters away. So, if you know of anyone who did not get their December or January issues, have them drop us a line, and we will get this all straightened out.

I've really been working hard to get this up to date, on schedule, and properly organized, so that one person could handle it, but I can see that I still have some couple of months to get back on an even keel. Hope no-one is really unhappy with us.

We have been busy in the shop, all of us trying to assume and do more jobs, and get more things done. However, if it continues as is, we will soon be able to rehire a new worker, and have her assume the responsibilities for both Warp and Weft, and Drafts and Designs, so she can take care of all of the stencils, and addresses, and mailings, and then perhaps I'll have a little more time for other things.

While in Scotland, I did purchase some beautiful 3 ply Cashmere last October. And I discovered a new custom knitting shop

next door to the mill where I did purchase this. So, I took 2 cones of the cashmere into this knitting shop, and the other day, I received 2 most beautiful sleeveless pull-overs, one in grey, and one in tan, from this Knit shop. They are so incredibly soft and nice, I hate to wear them for everyday wear in the shop. And the best part was she charged 15 English pounds each to knit these, and this comes to \$22.00 each. I was so surprized when these two Sweaters came in duty-free. It is most unusual.

Our warehouse is stored high with yarns, duplicates of what we have on the shelves. We have been renting it for about a year, and having some problems, especially with leaking. We now have most of the cartons on palates, so if it does leak, the water will not affect any of these. However, we felt that perhaps we should have some heat in there to keep or dry out any moisture. So, we had the gas heater connected 2 months ago, set the rheostat at 50 degrees, and thought this would take care of it, and not be too costly. Our first month's gas heat bill for this was \$7.50, which we thought was fine, and reasonable, etc. Then we had our seige of very bad and cold weather. About 5 days ago, we got our 2nd monthly bill for heating and the shock of a bill for \$240.00 for one month still has us in a daze. I called to check and see if they had made an error and to recheck the meter and see if this was right. They (the gas company) told me that it was correct and that they did not need to check it, so being upset with such a bill, I once again told them to turn off the gas, that it was not worth \$240.00 a month to keep it heated at 50 degrees. I suppose that many of you readers were greatly shocked with the heating bills the month of December and January also, as was I. But when a bill like that is 35 times higher than it was the previous month, it surely can be upsetting. Still haven't paid it, but suppose that I will shortly.

Enough for this month.

*Russell E. Groff, Editor*

## This Month's Cover Photo

This Navajo-inspired tapestry by Hilda Carvences of the Fort Mason Weavers was an award winner at the 29th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento in May 1982. The yarn was hand-dyed and although we can't see the colors in our black-and-white photo, the slight striations give an indication of richness of the surface.

Yarn which has been dyed unevenly often gives a pleasing handcrafted look as certain areas of yarn are highlighted by a dark or light streak, like shadows cast by quickly passing clouds. Even when streaking is minimal as in this piece, the surface comes alive. By contrast the areas which are evenly dyed seem flat and monotone. Look at the flatness of the black or white diamonds as opposed to the liveliness of the various diamonds in shades of gray and you will see this.

Another aspect of using unevenly dyed yarn is that the effect changes when the yarn weaves across wider or narrower areas. Compare the effect in the large background areas with the effect in some of the diamond bands. The background effect with its wide areas and long rows is fine and stippled. The effect in the narrow rows of the diamonds is one of softly blurred areas as the weft streak weaves back and forth upon itself.

Sometimes weavers concentrate on using this effect by tie-dyeing skeins of yarn and weaving them on width of warps calculated to produce color effects as successive rows lie next to each other. Peter Collingwood has a discussion of some of the basic effects achieved this way in his *Techniques of Rug Weaving*. Some experimentation upon reading about the idea could lead you into a whole new area of tapestry weaving.

Some other features of this tapestry should be mentioned. Even though we

can't see the colors used, we can see the balance of dark areas against light ones. Sometimes in working with color we forget how important this balance of values is and we are unpleasantly surprised when we see a black-and-white photo which shows our neglect of this attribute of color.

Another nice feature is the juxtaposition of a bisymmetric design of diamonds contrasted with asymmetric diagonals in the background. The diamonds are strong but their effect is softened by the asymmetry of the rest of the tapestry.

Examining a piece of weaving closely can teach you a lot, don't you think?

## This Month's Book Review

Jean Wilson has written her seventh book. This one is entitled *Joinings, Edges, and Trims*. Surely it is a tribute to the imagination and ingenuity of humankind that seven books can be written on this seemingly endless progression of variations.

Usually encyclopedic books which illustrate the 700 variations of a certain technique are interesting when a weaver gets down to the nitty gritty of designing a particular project. One can flip through the pages until something catches the eye. Then one can narrow one's focus and through comparison of the best suited examples, find one with which to experiment. A well-written book of this kind (for example, Marguerite Davison's *A handweaver's patternbook*) will be organized and presented so that one learns to appreciate commonalities within each of the areas covered. A less well-designed and organized book such as Wilson's book relies heavily on the unrelated examples of finished work. These examples tend to add up to a less harmonious and less complete presentation of the subject. In showing different applications, one gets caught up in the minutiae of individual variations. Of course the reader adds another variation or

*Continued on Page 5*

## SPORTY SILK

This twill variation owes its richness of color to being set slightly warpage. The darker weft defines the twill and makes the warp seem brighter.

### TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	X	X	O	O
3	X	O	O	X
2	O	O	X	X
1	O	X	X	O
	1	2	3	4

X - Tie-up for counter-balanced looms  
O - Tie-up for jack-type looms

### THREADING DRAFT:

4	X		X		X		X		Start
3	X		X		X		X		
2		X		X		X		X	
1		X		X		X		X	

### Warp and Weft:

The warp and weft are two shades of 30/3 silk. The warp is Strawberry Red #8209 and the weft is Eggplant #1457.

### Reed Used:

An 18-dent reed was used. It was sleyed two per dent or 36 warps per inch.

### Treading Sequence:

This is a one shuttle weave. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4 with Eggplant silk.

### More About This Fabric:

Although this fabric seems easy and straightforward from the simplicity of the threading and treading, there are some potential problems to avoid.

The biggest problem was avoiding horizontal streaks in the fabric due to slight changes in the beat. Some skill was required to beat the fabric evenly and regularly. We used a tight, double beat and were careful to repeat it exactly.

Also, if the warp tension is not the same each time the warp is brought forward, a line will show. so be careful to test the new tension and adjust it until it is right.

The other problem was starting new bobbins. The 3-ply yarn is very smooth and even. Joins in the weft show so we started

### SAMPLE:



all new bobbins from the edge without overlapping the old yarn.

Now for some of the joys. The threading and treading are easy and fast. The warp is strong so there was no breakage. The yarn comes on small tubes so that the sectional warping method we use was very easy—we just used the tubes themselves without rewinding them. The tubes are even small enough to fit into a boat shuttle so we didn't even have to wind bobbins!

This silk fabric is very classic with its subtle twill striping. In choosing colors, remember that the warp color will be

predominant because of the set. Having the warp lighter or brighter than the weft will give a rich coloration as in this sample. On the other hand, making the warp darker or duller than the warp will give an iridescence or sometimes a feeling of dissonance. A little experimentation with the colors you choose will show you their potential.

This fabric is an excellent weight for a suit or sport jacket. It is also heavy enough for skirts or pants. Besides clothing, this fabric would be lovely as upholstery or as pillows.

### Cost of the Yarns:

This silk comes on 300-meter or 325-yard tubes. The tubes are packaged 10 to a box. Each tube is \$2.50. This silk is expensive but when you see the quality and the wide color range you will understand why. The yarn is 3-ply which makes a yarn with a very circular cross-section. The fabrics woven with it will be very crisp and clean looking with much definition of weave structure. This 3-ply yarn is also very strong and makes an excellent warp for other silk or silk-blend fabrics.

### Cost of the Fabric:

Our 12-yard, 40" wide warp used 51 tubes or 3 lb. 4 oz. of Strawberry Red. At \$2.50 per spool the warp cost \$127.50 or \$10.63 per yard.

The weft used 29 tubes of Eggplant at \$2.50. The weft cost \$67.50 or \$6.43 per yard for the 10½ yards of finished fabric. Shrinkage from weaving was just under 10%.

WARP COST PER YARD .....	\$10.63
WEFT COST PER YARD .....	6.43
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....	\$17.06

*Continued from Page 3*

two in trying to reproduce the effect seen in one of the examples. And after viewing a certain number of variations, one's attention flags and the eyes blur. The same can be said about viewing successive books covering roughly the same subject matter.

Another factor pertinent to this book is that many of these embellishments can be found in embroidery books which are often beautifully written and very inspiring. The field of textiles is broad and being a weaver doesn't mean that the other areas must be avoided.

Also, why is it that tassels, embroideries, and embellishments from historic or ethnic traditions look so beautiful and our contemporary attempts at copying them seem so clumsy? A quick perusal of the photographs in Wilson's book shows this to be a fact. Could it be that in the traditional pieces the embellishments were in scale with the surface they adorned? They most certainly were not worked with knitting worsted and a size 13 tapestry needle. Unfortunately the blatant overscale of contemporary embellishment is often needed for recognition that a piece is handmade. Wouldn't it be better to hear someone enthuse, "Isn't that beautiful," instead of "You made that, didn't you?" How about some restraint in fancy finishes.

Wilson's first book popularized inventive techniques used on a variety of easily made looms. Her premise of inventiveness is good when used as a way of thinking, but it is less helpful when it continues to present models to stand in the way of our own ability to create.

TITLE: *Joinings, Edges, and Trims*

AUTHOR: Jean Wilson

COST: \$25.50 plus shipping and handling

PUBLISHER: Van Nostrand Reinhold

NO. OF PAGES: 144

AVAILABLE: from the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams, McMinnville, OR 97128.

## A Second Book Review:

*The Techniques of Crocheted and Openwork Lace* devotes a chapter to each of ten types of crochet. Crochet (meaning 'a hook') is always popular. It works up quickly with a minimum of tools needed, it is durable and can be worked in different scales by changing the size of threads used, and the basic stitches are easy to learn. Longhand directions have long been replaced by abbreviated systems and although these vary from one country to another, they are soon learned without having to learn a foreign language's technical terms.

The chapters include basic crochet, bosnian, broomstick, continental looping, filet, framewoven crochet lace, hairpin lace, Irish, tambour, and Tunisian crochet. Each chapter begins with a short introduction to the technique presented. It is followed by diagrams and directions for working the basic variations. Sometimes it helps to have some experience of the effect of the technique because they are described succinctly. Often photographs of finished articles with general directions for making them are also included.

This book shows a variety of techniques with a common base of lacemaking. It gives a good overview of the relationship of various techniques. It would be of interest to the crocheter who wants to expand her repertory of techniques.

TITLE: *The Techniques of Crocheted and Openwork Lace*

AUTHOR: Ena Maidens

COST:

PUBLISHER: Batsford, David & Charles, North Pomfret, VT

NO. OF PAGES: 118

AVAILABLE: from the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams, McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

### 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.

---

#### FOR RUGS AND WALL HANGINGS. A MOST UNUSUAL BLENDED BROWN WOOL.

It has about 3 yards per ounce, comes on about 4 lb. cones, and the price is so good at \$8.00 per lb. We will wind off any order for ½ lb. or more, if you do not want a full cone. Should make beautiful rugs. I want to use some of it myself. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

#### EMBROIDERERS SPECIAL:

100 skeins of assorted colors of cotton floss. There are 4 skeins per color, with a guaranteed 25 colors per bag. Price is \$9.50 per bag, plus shipping and handling. A very good buy. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

#### THE TECHNIQUE OF RUG WEAVING, by Peter Colingwood

is now in stock. New edition. Price is \$40.00 per copy. Shipping and handling extra. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

#### THE TREASURE CHEST OF SWEDISH HANDWEAVING

Published in Sweden, but the text is in English. Many interesting projects, good color photographs, and complete directions are given. Price is \$17.95 plus postage and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

---

#### SPACE-DYED COTTON FLOSS IN 3 COLOR BLENDS.

This we have in a blend of red-rose-wine, shades of yellow and gold for a 2nd, and blue-turquoise-navy for the third. This is such nice yarn to work with. It has 2080 yards per lb., and we are limited to about 40 to 50 lbs. of each of these 3 blends. Price is \$9.60 per lb. and well worth it. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

---

#### ENGLISH, SUPERWASH, SUPERSpun WOOL IN 30 COLORS.

All in stock, we have this on about 14 oz. cones (sold by the cone only) with 1850 yards per lb. It is 4 ply, excellent for warp or weft. If you would like a sample card of the colors, do let us know. Price is \$20.00 per lb., but it is a superior product. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---





---

---

**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.**

---

---

**INKLE WEAVING, by Lavinia Bradley.**

From England, you will like this little book on inkle weaving. It describes the correct use of the loom, the basic techniques and more advanced skills. Also details on how to make one are given. Planned to show how the hand-weaver can combine Inkle Weaving with regular Hand-weaving. Price is \$10.95 plus shipping and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**JAPANESE IKAT WEAVING, by Jun and Noriko Tomita**

This is an outstanding book, well written, easy to understand and with many, many details. Describes the different types of Japanese Ikat or Kasuri weaving and how to do it. A good book at \$11.95 plus shipping and handling. Robin & Russ handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**BOBBIN AND NEEDLE LACES, IDENTIFICATION AND CARE, by Pat Earnshaw.**

It deals specifically with the care and preservation of lace. Has a practical approach towards lace identification. Many, many illustrations. Published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**30/6 ply NATURAL MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON:**

About 2½ to 3 lb. cones, we have just 20 cones left. Same size as a 10/2 only it is 6 ply. Price is \$4.80 per lb., and it is sold by the cone only. I doubt if we get anymore at this price. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**LINEN AND COTTON FLAKE, NATURAL:**

A very nice combination of the two in a flake yarn, with approximately 2400 yards per pound. Available in skeins of about ½ lb. each, or on about 2 lb. cones. The dullness of the linen, and the lightness of the cotton make it a most exciting thread. \$6.00 per lb. for the natural. We have from 3 to 5 colors of the same, on skeins of about ½ lb. at \$8.00 per lb. Black, light yellow, green, orange gold, medium green. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**2/60's SPUN TUSSAH SILK WITH A SHEEN**

It is fine, with about 14,000 yards or so per lb., but it is good warp or weft. Price is \$24.00 per lb., while our current stock lasts. It is in skeins. And we have a fine bleached white spun silk in about the same size in stock. \$24.00 per lb. while it lasts. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

**SPACE-DYED 3.5's COTON FLAKE.**

This one yarn has 5 colors dyed in it. It is Grape, plus, thistle, taupe, and violet. Seems to be very well liked by many. We have about 200 lbs. left out of 250. On about 1 lb. 4 oz. cones, and the price is \$6.00 per lb. while it lasts. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

**20/2 by 3 PLYED, NATURAL UNMERCERIZED COTTON.**

Yes, this is a 20/2 cotton which has been 3 plied, so it is a 20/6 ply. And it is unmercerized, about the same size as a 10/3 cotton, and is \$4.80 per lb. It comes on tubes of about 11 oz. each. Could be used for warp on many different projects. Price a bargain. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

**SLUBBY, ITALIAN, SINGLE PLY TUSSAH SILK**

On about 2 lb. cones, you'll love the texture of these two lots of silk that we received recently. About 50 lbs. of each available. \$12.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128. Natural only.

---

---

**8/4 DRY SPUN LINEN RUG WARP FROM SCOTLAND:**

On about 1 lb. tubes, this is excellent rug warp. It has about 600 yards per lb., is a 4 ply, natural only, and the price while it lasts is \$8.00 per lb. We had this spun to order for us in Scotland. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

**FOUR DIFFERENT WEIGHTS OF LINEN RUG WARP**

2 of these are waxed and glazed. One is a 12 ply, and another a 4 ply. Very good prices, varying from \$8.00 to \$9.60 per lb. Some on balls, most on tubes. 12 ply and also 8/4 are \$8.00 per lb., and the waxed and glazed ones are \$9.60 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

**20/2 SPUN RAYON. EXCELLENT QUALITY:**

It came to us on 4 to 5 lb. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. or 1 lb. tubes. It has 8400 yards per lb., and the price is \$4.80 per lb., Minimum order ½ lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

---

---

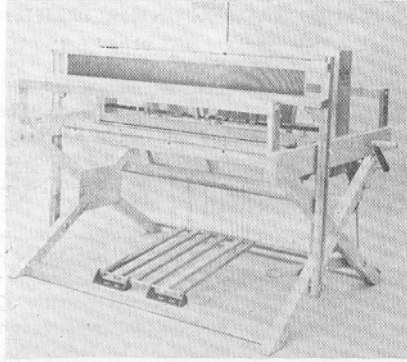
**7 HEAVIER, ENGLISH WOOL TWEEDS IN GOOD FASHION COLORS.**

We have this on one lb. cones (approximately), and I have not checked the yardage per lb., but would venture saying it has 1000 to 1100 yards per lb. One with purple cast, one with lavender cast, a blue green, a navy, a teal blue, a sky blue, and a rust do comprise the colors. Price is \$8.00 per lb. If you would like samples, do let us know. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

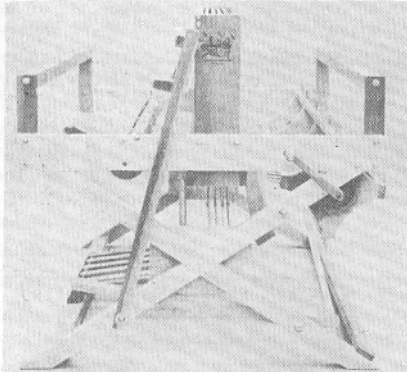
# The Weaver's Marketplace

**warp and weft**  
533 NORTH ADAMS STREET  
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

## The Oregon Trail Loom\* The Mark of Loom Quality



Sturdy, reinforced beater, beveled shuttle race, locking rods to immobilize the beater when slewing, lift out removable harnesses, spring lock hooks, large eye heddle, removable board for pinning up your patterns, one yard sectional warp beam.



The rigid X-frame structure adds extra strength and eliminates the customary corner posts so the weaver may enter and exit the loom easily. Weaving consistency is easier to control not only due to the advanced ratchet system but because of the exceptional weaving area between the breast beam and harness rack.

**Robin & Russ Handweavers**  
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

\*U.S. Patent Numbers — 2,960,115; 3,068,907

