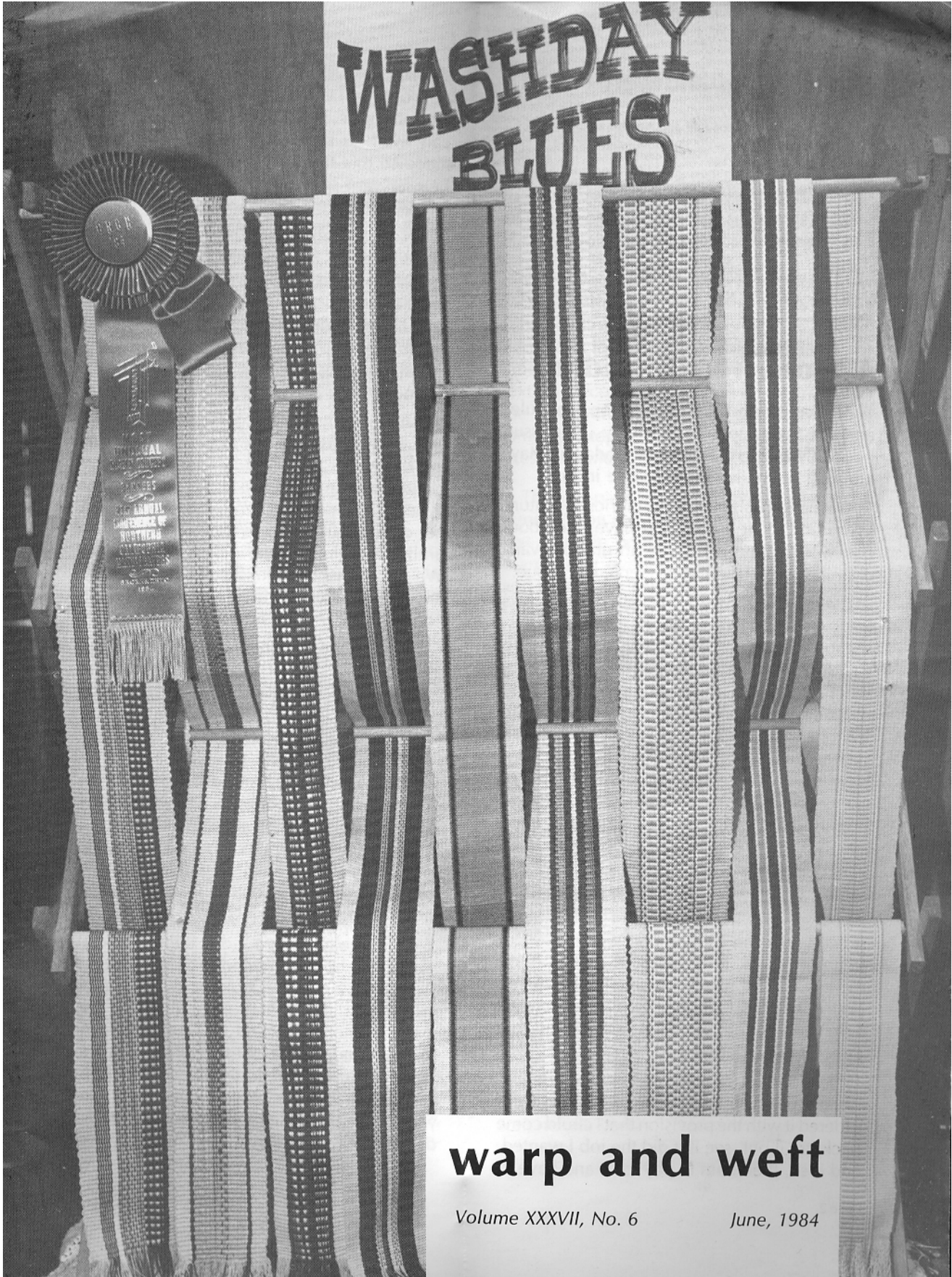


WASHDAY BLUES



warp and weft

Volume XXXVII, No. 6

June, 1984

warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

Believe it or not, we are still on schedule, and are trying to stay that way. This issue hopefully will go to the printers today, in May, and will be mailed on schedule in June.

We have designed three fabrics for future Warp and Weft issues, and have one about half woven; and it is quite an unusual variation of a twill. It will be the September issue.

I'm looking forward to a trip in two weeks back east to visit Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. I have a 10-day itinerary already made out, and there is no room left, as I have made arrangements to visit 14 different mills in the 10-day trip. It will be quite a job to keep to the schedule I have made, but with luck, I will be able to do it.

We have been needing a winding machine to wind off our ½-pound and 1-pound tubes, and last year I bought one, thinking I had solved the problem. However, it was so old and used that I could not get it to wind a straight edge on spools; and when they got to be ½ pound, it began forcing the yarn off the ends of the tubes. I worked and worked on this machine and had two other persons help, but to date, we have never been able to get it to work properly.

New ones of this are made in Providence, Rhode Island, and I have ordered one; and I ordered it with the provision that I could come back, try it out, see if it did the job I wanted, and if so, then I am to pay for it and have it

shipped. I have saved for 1½ years to get this new one, so I wanted to be certain that it did the job for us. It will have six heads, and so can wind six spools at one time. It is being made so that three of the heads will wind a heavier yarn of all kinds, and three of them will wind the finer yarns of all kinds.

I'm eager to go and see this and try it out and make sure that it does the job for us. This is really the main purpose of my trip; and at those 13 other mills, I will be looking for the unusual in yarns, and hopefully I will have some luck.

At last, summer has descended upon Oregon. We have had three days in a row of all sunshine, and during the past two months, we've had sunshine only about 1½ days during the entire period. It is a pleasure to get out and cut the grass, and for Robin to garden. When it is gardening time, Robin forgets all her other crafts and puts them aside, usually until the beginning of the next rainy season. We are all hoping that these last three days are a harbinger of many sunshiny days to come during this summer.

This year there is only one conference I am attending, and that was in Sacramento, California, about three weeks ago. I had considered the "Convergence" in Dallas, but I started adding up the expense of going, and I finally came up with an expense of almost \$5,000 to get there, rent a booth, hire two or three persons to help out, rent a trailer (and when I haul the trailer, I get 9 miles per gallon), pay for hotel and meals for 15 days, etc. I would have to sell an awful lot of yarn just to pay my expenses before I would make a profit; so regretfully, I decided to pass this up.

There are to be two 1-day bobbin lace affairs that I hope to attend. The conventions are always a good pick-up for us, as it brings in some capital to help pay bills that I normally do not have, and it usually gives me some capital to go on these buying trips. This year, because I have less to spend, I'm going to have to be much more selective in the yarns I choose, getting only exciting items, or replacing stock that we are out of.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

Summer is a wonderful time for portable weaving projects, and what is more portable than an inkle loom or a backstrap loom. We thought we could inspire you with this photo of warp-face belts.

Viewers at the 39th Annual Conference of Northern California in Sacramento in May 1984 were amused by this clever presentation of inkle weaving displayed by the Yokayo Spinners and Weavers Guild. It won a special ribbon for "Most Unusual Design Concept."

From the title "Washday Blues," one can imagine all the dark and light shades of blue making a sometimes bold, sometimes muted effect. Ikat dyeing even appears on one of the belts on the left.

These belts are all woven in warp-face tabby. Fine cottons were probably used for warp, such as 10/2 or 10/3 cotton, or even finer. To calculate the number of warps needed, wrap the yarn around a pencil firmly and count the number of yarns in one inch. Multiply this number by 4 and then by the width you want the belt to be. For a yarn with 40 wraps in one inch, to weave a 2-inch-wide belt would take 380 warps. This will make a firm belt.

Colors may be used in solid stripes or dotted stripes. The dotted or ribbed areas are made by alternating two colors in the warp so that one color always falls on the same shed.

The weft yarn used for belts can vary in. Some of the belts have quite a heavy weft, like cotton mop yarn. Others are finer, using perhaps Sugar 'n' Cream. Experiment to find the best weight for your project. The weft will show along each edge, so color may also be a factor in the choice of yarn.

The weavers who participated in this project are Shirley Barbero, Marilyn Dickens, Holly Brackmann, Jan Ward, Lottie Schwartz, Loris Puckering, Patricia Hicks, Erda Kappeler, and Arleen Chapman.

This Month's Book Review

A treasure of a weaving book has been published on coverlets from Tennessee. Over a period of five years, a group of women from the Handweavers Guild of Nashville worked on this project called the Tennessee Textile History Project.

With the help of the Tennessee State Museum, they visited each county in the state, inviting the public to bring their historic bedcovers to be documented. The documentation session included photographing the textiles, recording available historic data on the textile and the weaver, and copying old family photographs of the weaver, old homesites, and old mills.

The 500-page book, *Of Coverlets*, by Sadye Tune Wilson and Doris Finch Kennedy, is the first of three books to come out of this research. *Of Coverlets* is masterfully organized and presented. The coverlets are grouped according to motif. A motif classification has been developed which enables the reader to analyze coverlet designs. Each coverlet has its threading recorded in this system. Details about the history of each coverlet are included along with pertinent photos, all of which make fascinating reading.

Most of the coverlets are shown in color except for the black, brown, or blue ones. The colors are vivid and show sensitivity and great variety in color placement within the motifs. The photographs include close-ups, medium shots, and sometimes the whole end of a coverlet, whatever shows it best. Over 1,000 textiles were documented and 8,000 photographs were taken in color and black and white.

Given the number of excellent quality color photographs and the overall quality of this book, one would expect it to be more expensive than it is. It would make an outstanding addition to anyone's weaving library or historic textile library.

(continued on page 6)

PARQUETRY

This design is by Bertha Hayes, an avid designer of miniature overshots on her 8" Structo loom. Seventy-eight of her miniature drafts are published in a folio titled *The Complete Book of Bertha Hayes's Patterns*.

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

O — for jack or rising-shed looms
 X — for counterbalanced or sinking shed looms

THREADING DRAFT:

4		X		X		X	X		X		X		X		X
3		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
2		X		X		X	X		X	X		X		X	
1	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
	Selvage								Selvage						

WARP:

The warp is 45/3 raw grey linen.

WEFT:

There are three wefts. The tabby is the same as the warp. The pattern yarns are 6-strand cotton floss in Sunset Orange and Rich Brown.

REED:

A 12-dent reed was threaded 2 per dent for 24 warps per inch.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

Three shuttles are used, two for the pattern yarns and the third for the tabby. The tabby is woven on treadles 5 and 6. They are alternated between the pattern rows. The pattern rows are as follows:

1. Treadle 1 — 4X — Sunset Orange
2. Treadle 4 — 4X — Sunset Orange
3. Treadle 1 — 4X — Sunset Orange
4. Treadle 4 — 1X — Rich Brown
5. Treadle 3 — 2X — Rich Brown
6. Treadle 4 — 1X — Rich Brown

End of complete repeat. Repeat as desired.

SAMPLE:



MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

For weavers new to overshoot treadling, a few tips might help everything go smoothly. In overshoot weaving, there are usually two shuttles, one for the pattern yarn and another for the tabby yarn. (Our sample has three shuttles because there are two pattern colors.)

The pattern and tabby rows alternate, one pattern row followed by one tabby row. The tabby rows also alternate between 1-3 and 2-4, so that a perfect plain weave is woven along with the pattern rows.

The tabby rows give structure to the fabric through their over-one-under-one interlacement, allowing the pattern row to be repeated as many times as desired to form a block of color.

Thus, the first step of the treadling which is written "Treadle 1 — 4x" is woven:

Treadle 1, pattern yarn
Treadle 5, tabby
Treadle 1, pattern yarn
Treadle 6, tabby
Treadle 1, pattern yarn
Treadle 5, tabby
Treadle 1, pattern yarn
Treadle 6, tabby

As one can see, there are four pattern rows repeated, and they alternate with the tabby, which also alternates.

For most weavers, it usually doesn't make any difference which side the shuttles start from or which tabby is woven after a certain pattern row, although perfectionists whose area of interest is overshot have definite preferences.

For the rest of us, the main problem is remembering which tabby to use. The easiest way to remember is to think of the two tabby treadles as lefthand and righthand. In our tie-up, treadle 5 is lefthand and treadle 6 is righthand. Begin the first tabby row from the same side as the treadle and from there on, if the tabby yarn is at the left edge, use the left treadle. If it's on the right, use the righthand one. It's that simple!

Also notice that the tabby treadles are placed together to one side of the loom. Use the right foot for the tabby treadles and use the left foot for the pattern rows. That way, the left foot can stay on the same treadle without moving for as many rows as required.

Because overshot has a tabby structure along with the pattern floats, the rows beat in differently. There are twice as many weft rows per inch as there are warps per inch. The number of tabby rows per inch should equal the number of warps per inch (in this sample, 24) and the pattern rows double this number.

If you like miniature overshots for their compact designs and short floats, you would enjoy Bertha Hayes' book. In addition to the drafts and photos of each design, there are suggestions for warp, weft, and end uses, all by Osma Gallinger Todd. The book is \$7.95 and is available from Robin & Russ or from the publisher, The Mannings, R.D. 2, East Berlin, PA 17316.



MORE ABOUT THE YARNS:

The 45/3 raw grey linen is lightly plied and sometimes has a slightly irregular texture. We made a special purchase of this yarn and are able to offer it at \$8.80 per pound. It has 4500 yards per pound.

The 6-strand cotton floss has 2080 yards per pound, and we have it in a wide color range. It is \$8.00 per pound.



COST OF THE FABRIC:

The 10-yard, 40"-wide warp took 2 lb. 3 oz. of 45/3 linen. At \$8.80 per pound, that is \$19.25, or \$1.93 per yard.

We wove 8 yards 35 inches of fabric and used 1 lb. 8 oz. of 45/-3 linen tabby, or \$13.20. We also used 2 lb. 3 oz. of Sunset Orange and 12 oz. of Rich Brown for a combined total of \$23.52. The entire weft cost \$36.72, or \$4.09 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.93
WEFT COST PER YARD	4.09
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$6.02

This Month's Book Review

(Continued from page 3)

TITLE: *Of Coverlets, the Legacies, the Weavers*

AUTHORS: Sadye Tune Wilson and Doris Finch Kennedy

COST: \$53.90 postpaid

AVAILABLE: From the publisher, Tunstede Press, 212 Vaughn's Gap Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

A Second Project

We have a very easy rug project for you this month. With the vacation days of summer ahead, a boldly textured rug might be just the thing with which to greet the fall.

The weaving goes fast because of the weft yarn. We have an assortment of German wools especially made as weft for long-wearing rugs. The yarn is exceptionally heavy with only 18 yards per pound, so there are only 4-5 rows per inch. The wool is wrapped around a jute or linen core which gives it strength and body. Rugs woven with this yarn have worn well for several years in a country restaurant in Austria which Russ visited.

The German rug yarn comes in a range of naturals, each with some brown streaked through it. Small amounts of other colors are added to this cream and brown base to create the color range. One yarn will have yellow, another turquoise, streaked with the brown on the cream background.

To set off the wonderfully bold texture of this wool, we alternate it row by row with a single strand of our English Tapestry Wool. The tapestry wool comes in 39 colors, so here is a chance to add to or reinforce a color idea with the natural and brown of the rug wool. A cream, a rust, or a dark brown could be used with the neutral rug wools, while a royal blue or a purple tapestry wool might look good with the turquoise one.

For warp we have some excellent buys on linen rug warp. Spun to order for us in Scotland are two weights: 8/5 at \$9.60 with 480

yards per pound, and 8/4 at \$8.00 with 600 yards per pound. We also have a waxed and glazed linen that some rug weavers have told us is the best warp they've used for rugs. It is approximately on 8/5 size and comes in two colors. The dark natural comes on 1½ lb. tubes while the light natural comes in 40-gram balls. Both are priced at \$9.60 per lb.

For this rug project, we suggest a warp of linen 8/4 or 8/5 set at 4 ends per inch with doubled selvage threads. The weaving will be tabby, so threading will be in straight twill. For a rug 36" wide and 54" long, we used just under 5 pounds of German rug wool and one spool of tapestry wool. The German rug wool is \$12.00 per pound though it sells elsewhere for up to \$26.00 a pound. Our English Tapestry Wool is \$3.95 per spool containing 175 yards.

The rug should take part of an afternoon to weave, believe it or not!



16/2 RAMIE in 29 COLORS

We have now on hand our regular stock colors, plus about 10 new ones. New sample sheets are being made now. This is a member of the linen family of fibers, but it does surpass linen in all physical and chemical tests. Stronger than linen, resists rot and mildew. After first washing, does not stretch or shrink, and the colors are the best ones we can find for color fastness. 2400 yards per lb., on 1½-lb. cones or 4-oz. tubes. 600 yards per 4-oz. tube, and the price is \$16.00 per lb., or \$4.00 per 4-oz. tube of 600 yards. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARPET WARP IN NATURAL, WHITE, AND 12 COLORS

On ½-lb. tubes of 800 yards each. Free samples upon request. The colors are boilfast. Price is \$3.50 per ½-lb. tube. Natural has a tighter twist than many, and is a very good quality cotton. Price again is \$3.50 per ½-lb. tube. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 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.

8/2 NATURAL MERCERIZED COTTON

We have a shipment due in soon of a very, very nice quality 8/2 cotton. We have been having quite a few calls for this, and we have had some in the past. It will be \$6.00 per lb., on 2½-lb. cones, and will have 3360 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 BEAUTIFUL NEW RAYON CHENILLES, 8 CUT

And more coming in. We have about 125 lbs. each of these 5 colors. The one space-dyed one is beautiful fall festival colors. The other colors are rich rust, salmon rust, cantrelberry, and SFD purple. Price is right, too, at \$6.80 per lb. About 1000 to 1100 yards per lb.; ½-lb. tubes are available. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10/3 NATURAL, HIGH QUALITY UNMERCERIZED COTTON, AND ALSO BLEACHED WHITE

This is a superior yarn, smooth, and very, very few knots. On 6-oz. tubes. It is good warp at 16 to 20 ends per inch. We also have natural on 2½-lb. cones. The white is on special at \$5.60 per lb., and the natural is a regular stock item at \$6.40 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

BRUSHED AND LOOP COMBINATION WOOL

We have a limited amount of this in NATURAL ONLY. We purchased the entire lot of 35 lbs. It has 1200 yards per lb., is on about 1 lb. to 1 lb. 4 oz. cones, and is \$16.00 per lb. Should also dye beautifully. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL LOOP WOOL

We have the same yarn in natural only of loop wool, 1200 yards per lb. On about 1½-lb. cones. A very good buy at \$12.00 per lb. Just 35 lbs. of this one also. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

NATURAL AND BLACK SEED YARN, NATURAL AND CAMEL SEED YARN

Yes, these have alternating seeds of black or natural on one of the yarns, and camel and natural on the other. We had this one spun to order, and the price was high, but it is an exciting yarn. We have to sell these two for \$13.60 per pound. Can be used for weaving or knitting. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

HEAVY RAYON SEED WITH GOLD SHIMMERETTE TWIST, IN NATURAL ONLY

We had this one spun to order. It is 34% rayon, 46% acetate, and about 20% shimmerette gold metallic twist. Exciting and beautiful. Price is \$13.60 per pound. It has approximately 1900 yards per pound. You'll fall in love with this one. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SLUBBY, SPACE-DYED, SILK & RAYON BLEND

This is a beautiful yarn. It has been space-dyed, a blending of 3 colors with natural. Colors are soapstone, wild flower, sea-salt, and natural—all in one yarn. It has 2100 yards per lb., came on 1½-lb. cones, and is \$6.00 per lb. while it lasts. This one should sell quite fast, it is so pretty. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE WEAVER'S BOOK, by HELENE BRESS

Is still in stock. This has about 3,000 to 4,000 variations of patterns given, and is perhaps the best intermediate weaving book there is. Price is \$60.00, plus shipping and handling. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

THE TECHNIQUE OF RUG WEAVING

By Peter Collingwood. Is in stock. It is the new edition, and is \$40.00 per copy, plus shipping and handling. Everyone seems to think this is the best rug book available anywhere. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

8/4 NATURAL SCOTTISH LINEN RUG WARP

This is on about 1-lb. to 1½-lb. tubes, is excellent rug warp at 6 ends per inch, has 600 yards per pound, and was spun to order for us in Scotland. The price is \$8.00 per lb., plus shipping and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/24's wc, ALPACA & WOOL BLEND

One color only, this tan color is, I believe, 50% ALPACA, 50% WOOL. On about 2-lb. cones, it should be useable for both warp and weft. It is a 2-ply, price is \$9.60 per lb. while it lasts. We have about 100 lbs. of it. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FOUR-PLY, 50% SILK, 50% WOOL

In 10 different colors. On about one-pound cones, it has about 1,350 yards per pound, and can be used as warp or weft at 15 ends per inch. Have sold out purple and pink, but have many other nice colors. It is \$16.00 per pound, and seems quite popular. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SUPERSPUN AND SUPERWASH WOOL

In 30 colors. This won the wool mark award for excellence in England. One of our customers said it was the nicest wool she ever wove with. It is four-ply, and has about 1,850 yards per pound, and comes on cones of about 13½ to 14 ounces each. It is machine washable, cleared of knots and fuzz, is non-shrinkable, and resists pilling, and has a special anti-tickle finish applied. Price is \$20.00 per pound, but it is worth it! It is about the size of a three-ply fingering yarn as we know it. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE NORWEGIAN "PRINCESS" CASTLE-TYPE SPINNING WHEEL

These are outstanding spinning wheels, and we have been selling them for about 25 years, with a few years in between times when they were not available. Price is \$375.00 per wheel. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

SPINNING BOOKS, SUPPLIES and ACCESSORIES

We have a current list of spinning books, and a listing of the supplies we stock for hand-spinning, and the list includes related items.

If you would like a copy, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, mark spinning books on top left corner and send to us, and we will send you a copy of our current list.

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BOBBIN LACE BOOKS and SUPPLIES

We specialize in books and supplies for bobbin lace, and keep a current list of what we have available for this craft. We have just revised the list we had, and would be pleased to send you a current list if you like to have one.

If you would like a copy, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, mark bobbin lace supplies on top left corner, and we will send you our latest list.

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DYEING BOOKS

We have a current list of dye books that are available for use by handweavers, spinners, and dyers.

If you would like a copy, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, mark dye books on top left corner, send to us, and we will send you a copy of our current list.

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TEXTILE PUBLICATIONS FROM ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS

Shops, studios, guilds. Send for a free list of our 40 textile publications. We do wholesale these 40 publications, and group orders from guilds, from shops, from bookstores, will receive our wholesale prices according to the number of books they order.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and mark it on the left hand top corner textile publications, and we will send you this current list.

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