

warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor:

As most of you well know, it is very hard to write a second column like this just three days apart — but here goes.

I'm so excited about this coming trip to England that I could probably write just about this and nothing else. I have so many plans and appointments already made for my trip, but it is the unexpected things that make such a trip memorable.

I think that I will be able to visit the London Handweavers Guild meeting, and if so, we will give you a report on this.

I will be staying at the St. Regis, which is just opposite one of the Scotland Yard main offices. I have been tempted to go into Scotland Yard just to see what it is like, as it is such a respected part of the British government.

And the American dollar has increased in value so much that I really should be able to purchase about 25 percent more with my limited buying power.

Also, I went into the bank and also arranged for a short term loan in case I find more than I had anticipated in the way of unusual yarns.

I have arranged for visits with four different publishers, and I hope to be able to visit about five rare book shops that I know of to try to find any out-of-print weaving books.

When I was in the Bedfordshire province two years ago, I discovered that it was such a great shoe-making center that there were many stores featuring close-out shoes, etc.

I purchased four pairs of shoes, leather inside and also lined, for a total of \$50.00 the last time in this area, and I hope to visit and see what they have available now.

I will be visiting with two or three antique collectors whom I hope will have found some of the rare bobbin lace bobbins that I look for on every trip.

I have never been to England in the winter, and I wonder if I will be cold the whole trip, as I think I will.

I'm looking forward to crossing an old bridge built in about 1200 AD over the river Ouse. This bridge is so unusual for when you get to the middle of the bridge, you make a 90-degree right turn and continue on crossing the bridge. It is the first and only one I have ever seen with a right turn right in the middle of the bridge.

I'm looking forward to visiting some firms that had no threads for me the last time around but who might have some now.

I'm looking forward to visiting the Conservative Club in Pudsey, England, and playing a game of snooker with my host.

And don't tell Robin, but when I do visit the pub, I will have a taste of Harvey's Bristol Creme, one of the very sweet English sherries. It will be another year between tastes of this famous English drink.

I will be visiting one of the pubs where the main drink of some persons is what is called "Shandy," which is a combination of beer and lemonade.

Hopefully, I will get taken to an English (football) soccer match while I am in the Bradford area or midlands of England. And it is fun visiting some of the very old mills and seeing what it was like before the advent of unions.

There is one mill I hope to visit which weaves very, very expensive yardages, and there they have a machine to thread both the heddles and the reed in the looms, and I want to see how that works again.

And I know that I will have some new adventures, as well as renewing many of the old.

I will go to church with friends in Bradford and visit one of the old big English cathedrals.

So, you can see why I'm so excited about this visit to England and Scotland.

Hopefully, I will have a visit with Mr. Bernat Klein, whom many consider to be the most outstanding textile and yarn designer in England today. And I will see the beautiful hills of the borders country, with the tree-lined roads that are so spectacular in that area.

The cricket club will be another place that I hope to visit, as it was here that I met several men who were managers or directors of different yarn mills, and it was here that I made contacts for some of the many nice yarns that we now have in stock.

You know, I thought this column would be very hard to write this time, but when I tell you about my visits to England, it is very easy. Enough for now, and back to the sample.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photo

The dress on the cover was exhibited at the 31st annual conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento last spring.

It was woven by Deborah Musick, a member of the Humboldt Weavers Guild.

The flower inlays are in the Swedish Duk-A-Gang technique.

I believe the main warp and weft was the 22/2 cottolin from Sweden, and it was sett at 30 ends per inch, 2 per dent in a 15-dent reed.

I also wanted to point out that the technique is very beautiful, but unless the final dress is

well tailored, as was this one, that effort that goes into the weaving goes for nil. I thought that this one was beautifully done, and think you will feel the same way when you see this cover photograph.

Never used, 10 years old 22" 4-HARNESS TABLE LOOMS

A very good buy on these at \$175.00 per loom. These, also, were sitting in an empty room above the weaving room, and I do not think these were ever used. Now about 10 years old, in good condition. One is on display at ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

USED 46-INCH 4-HARNESS JACK-TYPE LOOMS

These have not been used very much. Have been sitting in a school room for about ten years. Made of maple. Extra sturdy, strong. As is. They are \$750.00 each. Has many nice features, and actually used only once or twice. Six of them, all the same. One is on display at our shop. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

15-YARD WARPING BOARD

These are good and sturdy and can be taken apart for easy storage by unfastening four wing nuts. Pegs are glued in so they will not come out and be lost. Price is \$35.00. In stock for immediate shipment. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TENSION BOX, ADJUSTABLE TO FIT ANY SIZE BACK-BEAM

And with reed of your choice. We have these made to order for us, and they are outstanding. Price is \$35.00 plus shipping and handling. In stock for immediate shipment. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

TANTALIZING TOUCH OF TENDER YELLOW:

Our sample this month was thread in an unusual basket-weave variation, and woven in a straight twill. It results in a lovely, slightly different fabric than usual.

THREADING DRAFT:

4		X S		X G		X D		X Y
3		X G		X D		X Y		X G
2		X D		X Y		X G		X S
1	X Y		X G		X S		X G	

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

- X - White Nile, wool blend
- Y - #26, 2/18's worsted Light Yellow
- G - #28, 2/18's worsted Yellow Green
- S - #14, 2/18's worsted Saffron Yellow
- D - #7, 2/18's worsted Daffodil

WARP:

In the warp were four different colors of 2/18's worsted in Light Yellow, Yellow Green, Saffron Yellow, and in Daffodil color. Also, we had one heavier thread which was a blend of 30% wool, 25% mohair, 25% alpaca, and 20% nylon. It is a 2-ply yarn with 1,600 yards per pound.

WEFT:

The weft is all one thread. It is called "THAMES NILE BLEACHED," and it is the same as the basic thread we had in the warp.

REED USED:

We had a 12-dent reed, and it was double-pleyed with one end of the THAMES NILE BLEACHED and one end of one of the four colors of 2/18's worsted in each dent. This means we had two per dent, or 24 threads per inch.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

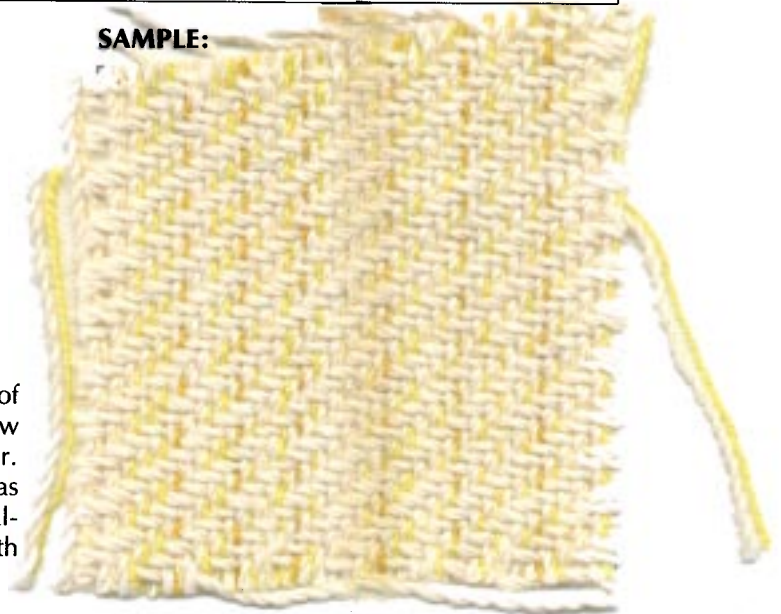
4	O	X	X	O
3	O	X	O	X
2	X	O	X	O
1	X	O	O	X

1 2 A B

X - tie-up for counter-balanced looms

O - tie-up for jack-type looms

SAMPLE:



TREADLING SEQUENCE:

We treadled a straight twill treadling of 1, 2, 3, 4, over and over, using just one weft thread.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

The threading was a slow process on this one as we had two threads in each dent of the reed, and there was a change of color in every dent. And it does make a very pleasing fabric.

The fabric as is, is slightly stiff, but with a good washing and pressing, it will soften up considerably. We have had many, many

persons tell us how nice this blended wool-alpaca-mohair-nylon thread did work up, and we had about 15 different colors in the beginning. I have been trying to purchase more of this same type of yarn in England without any luck this year. This is one of the things I will be looking for when I go next week to England.

Also, there is another treadling that I would like to recommend that you try with this type of fabric; and if you do, it will give you more of a raised rib on the twill. This treadling is to use a fine natural white 2/18's worsted for the tabby, and the blended wool for the twill treadles. This seems to make the twill a rib, and you have a more pronounced rib fabric than appears in our sample that we are presenting this month.

This is an idea from the book *THE STRUCTURE OF WEAVING*, by Ann Sutton, which came out about two years ago and has been out of print for most of the time since then. The supplier of this book says it will become available, but they keep extending the date later and later.

Another nice combination would be to use a brushed wool for the pattern thread and a fine natural 2/18's for the tabby.

Also, in your set-up, you can put both threads that appear in each dent of the reed also in one heddle if you wish, or two heddles as I have shown it in the threading draft. This would eliminate half of the weight of the heddles on each of the four harnesses, and thus make the harness lifting lighter to do, and this results in faster weaving.

Also, my recommendation for finishing this fabric is for you to wash it in luke-warm water using Lux, Ivory Snow, or Woolite, and then if you'd like, you could use the extractor on your washing machine to remove most of the excess water. I myself feel it is better to rinse out, allow to drip dry, and then steam press

the fabric after it is dry. This will make it much softer and a more pliable fabric for dress-wear.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED:

Most of you are familiar with the 2/18's worsted like the four colors used in the warp in this fabric. It has 5040 yards per pound, comes on 1/2-pound cones, and is priced at \$16.00 per pound. We have 37 colors on hand.

And the white 2-ply blended wool in mohair-alpaca-wool-nylon blend is called Thames Nile Bleached. We have several different beiges in this yarn and also some greys, as well as the one we have used. Some of these are scoured with the spinning oil removed, and this is \$9.60 per lb. And those colors without the spinning oil being removed had the name London in the front of it, and we have about eight colors in beiges and greys in this. It has 1600 yards per pound, and the unscoured yarn is \$8.00 per pound.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

In our 10-yard warp, 40" wide, we used three pounds of the Thames Nile Bleached, and this came to \$28.80. And in the four colors of 2/18's worsted, we used 15 ounces, so the 2/18's came to \$15.00. Our total warp cost was \$43.80, or the cost per yard came to \$4.38 per yard.

We had 8 1/2 yards of finished fabric from our 10-yard warp. In this 8 1/2 yards of finished fabric, we used 4 3/4 pounds of the Thames Nile Bleached. So our weft cost came to \$45.60, and the weft cost per yard comes to \$5.36 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide .	\$4.37
WEFT COST PER YARD, 38" wide .	<u>5.36</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$9.73

A Second Project

A rug that we have just finished having one of our students weave.

We had a student who wanted to make four rugs for wall hangings, and he asked us for ideas. He followed our suggestions, and this is what resulted.

The warp was an 8/4 linen rug warp with 600 yards per pound, which he set-up on the loom at six threads per inch. He did it 40" wide on the loom, and 60" long. He allowed a 12" warp length on each end to be braided into a fringe.

As he wanted to do four of these, we figured he would need about 8½ yards of warp, plus loom waste, so we did a 10-yard warp. It took 4 lbs. 4 oz. of the 8/4 linen rug warp, at \$8.00 per pound, so our total warp cost came to \$34.00, or \$3.40 per yard. And as we received four rugs from this warp, we figured the warp cost per rug to be \$8.50 per rug.

We threaded this 1, 2, 3, 4, for 120 warp ends, and then the last 120 warp ends from the center to the edge was threaded 3, 2, 1, 4.

We wove these on a twill treadling, and we wove it 1, 2, 3, 4 for 32" under tension, and then we wove the last half of the rug 3, 2, 1, 4. This gave us a diagonal from both edges of the warp, and meeting in the center and changing direction. The lines of this diagonal all meet in the exact center of the rug, and thus it makes a point of interest.

Our weft thread on the first rug was a heavy 2-ply, brown berber wool which we have which has about 50 to 60 yards per pound. In this rug, we used approximately 4 lbs. 10 oz. of the heavy berber wool, which is slightly larger than a pencil. In fact, it is probably twice as thick as the average pencil, and it made an exceptionally beautiful rug for a wall hanging. I tried to get our student to beat it very tightly, but he evidently was afraid to do so. It was nice, but I felt it would have been even nicer if he had beat it even as much as three or four times and used about

one more pound of weft thread, and made it much firmer. I have just put a new warp of this 8/4 on the loom, and this is how we are going to weave it.

Each of the other three rugs was also woven with one thread, with a berber wool for the weft.

We had one which was done in all natural white; and then the next two were woven with a heavy berber; one with a heathery grey-green cast; and the last one had a heathery tan cast with flecks of copper brown and dark brown in it.

All of these last three berber wools have about 50 to 60 yards per pound, they come on about 1-pound cones, and the price on these is slightly less at \$6.80 per pound. We have limited amounts of all of these, and they do make a most beautiful rug.

The last three rugs which our student wove came to approximately \$40.00 per rug, and they were quite striking and should make excellent rugs or wall hangings. I think that he was quite pleased with all of them, and it was very exciting for us to see a beginning student make such nice straight edges and do quite a good job for just his third project.

Also, one of our other students, working on the loom right next to the first one, was weaving saddle blankets on a finer warp, but they would also have made a very nice rug on this 8/4 linen rug warp. She was using the natural tan, and natural grey, New Zealand unspun wool tops as the weft in her saddle blankets. This is on about 1-pound bundles, and it sells for \$6.00 per pound. We have quite a bit of this on hand.

Well, this should give you some good ideas for rug projects.

Oh yes, we used a standard tie-up for our tie-up draft. Harnesses 1 and 2 to the first treadle, 2 and 3 to the 2nd treadle, 3 and 4 to the 3rd treadle, and 4 and 1 to the 4th treadle. Then the other two treadles were tabby, 1, 3, on the 5th treadle, and 2, 4 on the 6th treadle.

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.

3 SPACE-DYED COTTON 6-STRAND FLOSS YARNS

We have one each in shades of red, shades of aqua-blue, and shades of yellow-orange. All have 2080 yards per pound and are good for warp or weft, and are \$9.60 per pound. Limited amounts of each. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/60's SPUN TUSSAH SILK

This one is in skeins and should have about 15,000 yards per pound. Skeins are about 3½ to 4 oz. each. Price is \$24.00 when in the skeins and while it lasts. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BRASS 5" S-TYPE REED HOOK

While these last, they are still \$2.50 each. These are designed for the reed only and fit almost any dent reed up to 20 ends per inch. Price is \$2.50 plus shipping and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LINEN AND COTTON FLAKE YARN IN SKEINS

These are a blend of about 50/50 in the linen and cotton. A nice texture results when you weave with these flake yarns. This is in natural, about 2,400 yards per pound, and the price is \$6.00 per pound. Also, we have limited amounts of about six colors of this blended yarn, and the colors sell at \$8.00 per pound. We have black, orange, light green which is slightly darker than a Nile, a light canary yellow, and a flesh pink-peach color. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NICE NATURAL, 3-CUT COTTON CHENILLE

This heavy chenille has come to us on about 2-lb. tubes. While it lasts, it is \$6.80 per pound. Not many yards per pound, but a good yarn. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

6/53 SPUN SILK, NATURAL, GLOSSY

A good warp. About 4800 yards per pound, and it came on about 3-lb. cones, but we can wind off ½-pound tubes. The price is \$32.00 per pound while it lasts. Excellent warp at 20 or 24 epi. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3 sizes in SKI SHUTTLES

As we could not get the size we wanted from the manufacturers, we asked our loom maker to see if he could make these for us in three different sizes. We have them in 18" at \$12.95, 23" at \$13.95, and 27" length at \$14.95. These are the best rug shuttles I have ever used. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3", 4", 5", 6", 7", and 8" size WOODEN BOBBINS

We have these made to order for us. Price is 75¢ each, and we have most in stock all the time. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WOODEN STRETCHERS OR TEMPLES IN 4 SIZES

Use these to keep your warp the full width of what you have it in the reed in weaving yardages, rugs, and the like.

1. 15 to 23" size. \$ 8.50
2. 21 to 33" size. \$ 9.50
3. 25 to 43" size. \$10.50
4. 30 to 53" size. \$11.50

Over the past 10 years we have probably sold well over 1,000 of these. Do a good job, and well worthwhile. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

4/4 NATURAL CARPET WARP

Twice as heavy as the regular carpet warp. It has 800 yards per pound, and the yarn came on about 1½-pound cones. It has kept the same price of \$6.00 per pound. And as stated before, we are trying to keep this as a regular line of carpet warp. Seems to be very popular. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

36% SILK, 40% COTTON, and 24% ACRYLIC

is the blending of this new yarn in a natural tan. About 4,000 yards per pound. Just 20 pounds available, and it has come to us on about 3-pound cones. We can wind off ½-pound tubes. Price is \$8.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

20/1 LIGHT AQUA LINEN

On about 1½- to 2-pound cones. We have this on special at \$6.00 per pound while it lasts. It has 6,000 yards per pound, and shipping and handling are extra. This one could be used for warp as well as weft, but is made primarily for a weft thread. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

20/1 LIGHT PINK LINEN

This is a beautiful color also, and it, too, has 6,000 yards per pound and came on 1½- to 2-pound cones. Mainly a weft, but it also seems strong enough that it could be used in a warp. Price once again is \$6.00 per pound while it lasts. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

8/2 BLEACHED SCOTTISH DRY SPUN LINEN

Excellent for warp or weft. It has 1,200 yards per pound. On about 1 lb. 4 oz. to 1 lb. 12 oz. cones, it is good for warp or weft. It is very absorbent and would make wonderfully soft towels after washed two or three times. Price is \$9.60 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLACK and DARK RUST GREEN TRAM SILK

We have about 20 pounds of each of these two colors of fine, fine shiny silk. Has a high gloss and is very fine. About 3- to 4-ounce skeins and minimum is one skein of a color of this silk. I would venture to say 15,000 to 20,000 yards per pound. Price is \$16.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.
