



warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor:

Well, the trip to England is over, and I've been back two weeks, and not caught up yet, but it is time to write *Warp and Weft* for April, so here goes.

The trip was a very, very good one, business-wise, and very tiring as I was trying to cram so much into 15 days.

On this trip, I visited three different publishers in various parts of England and was able to make the final arrangements on the publication of about six different books that we will be the distributors of in the U.S.A. and Canada. I saw the final layout on the book we will have entitled, *THE TARTAN WEAVERS GUIDE*. There will be about 120 color plates, with the thread count, and with a section written for the handweavers by the author, James Scarlet. There will be about 100 black and white, so there should be about 220 or slightly more tartans given. And the nice thing is that we will be able to sell it for slightly less than we had anticipated. I will not know for sure until I get the final invoice.

And we solidified the book on *BEDFORD-SHIRE BOBBIN LACE*, and it should be ready to ship about the middle of April.

And besides this, I arranged for an outstanding book on tatting and also three other bobbin lace books during the rest of this year.

I went to Inverness, Scotland, and met the author, James Scarlett, who has done the *Tartan Weavers Guide* for us. He met me at the train, wearing one of the tartans he had

woven, and took me to his home for lunch in a little town called Moy. It was a fun experience and very enjoyable. And to get to his place, I had a private compartment and sleeping berth on the train, which was a nice experience. It was 16 pounds for this, about \$18.00, and this was much, much less than the cost of a hotel room.

I visited a mill that had been weaving a lot of fine tussah silk noil in fabrics in about 20 colors. They were discontinuing this line, so I had the opportunity of going to their yarn bins and making my choice out of what colors of the silk I wanted, and then I had these all three-ply for us, so we can use them for warp or for weft. We will have about 10 to 12 new colors in this 3/9's tussah silk noil yarn to replace the ones we sold from our last shipment.

Then I visited a mill specializing in producing silk threads and rare threads for weaving. I spent most of my allowance for yarns all in this one place. Have some beautiful smooth spun silks coming, as well as interesting yarns, like 2-ply tussah spun silk, which will make a beautiful warp, and some 3-ply 17's, worsted count, bleached tussah silk which will be another good warp.

Here at the silk mill I found an exciting cotton flake yarn, and I ordered 100 pounds of it. There was a nice small lot of the tan tussah silk and smooth natural spun silk, twisted together as one thread. While I was there, the man who runs the silk business gave me four yards of fabric for a suit for myself. It was woven of cashmere and red fox hair and was very beautiful. It was in the process of being woven, so I will have this in a month or so and hopefully have a suit made of it in England.

It was snowy the day I visited the silk mill, and the hills and dales with their stone wall divisions were most beautiful. We had lunch in a French pub, with the typically French cooking, and this was a joy to experience.

I had lunch most days at the different pubs, and one of the meals that I enjoyed was the

steak and kidney pie; and in another I had the traditional Sunday dinners of Yorkshire pudding.

I spent about 4 days in the Bradford area, the Midlands, and I was taken shoe shopping one Saturday afternoon in the Bedfordshire area and purchased two pairs of the most beautiful leather shoes. They were leather lined also, and are so soft it is unbelievable. I have one pair on today, and it is such a pleasure wearing these. I could not believe having to pay only \$15.00 a pair for these leather-lined shoes.

One of the things I was looking for in England, and which I had been unable to find in three years, was a light weight and smaller fly shuttle. This year I succeeded and found three different sizes. I have ordered twenty of one size and will wait for my samples to arrive before I order any more of the other sizes. And I was able to obtain bobbins for these, and so am very delighted that I was able to do so. And I purchased about 117 of the regular fly shuttles at a very reasonable price from a shuttle company going out of business. The new ones in these have been selling for \$66.00 each, and I have these 117 which I think will sell for about \$20.00 to \$25.00 each, depending upon the duty and shipping charges.

Well, I've written enough about the trip this week and must leave room for other things, so see you next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photo

At the Northern California Handweavers Conference in Sacramento, 1984, this booth caught the eyes of many who attended the conference.

A handwoven bathrobe, many different face towels, and a few large body towels all tell the story of what it was like in the olden days when we had no running water or plumbing in our homes.

A nice soft rug to step out on, a bathrobe to put on, a face towel for your face, and then a larger bath towel to dry off your body.

This booth was rather clever, and it was done by the Mother Lode Spinners and Weavers Guild.

This Month's Second Project

I just finished weaving this rug on the loom, and it is quite an easy project to tell you about, so here goes.

The warp is 8/4 Scottish linen rug warp, sett is 6 ends per inch, 1 per dent in a 6-dent reed, and it was set up 34" wide.

I threaded the loom 1,2,3,4 to the exact center, and then I reversed the threading to 3,2,1,4. So when you weave, you have two blocks of twill meeting in the center.

You use a standard tie-up for a 6-treadle, 4-harness loom; that is, 1 & 2 to #1; 2 & 3 to #2; 3 & 4 to #4; and 4 & 1 to #4 treadle. Then two tabby, 1 & 3 to the 5th treadle, and 2 & 4 to the 6th treadle.

You leave 12 inches for fringe and then weave a 1-inch heading in plain weave (treadles 5 and 6).

For weft, I have used a heavy 3-ply berber wool in a dark brown blending of colors.

I wove the rug in three blocks, so when it is finished and put down on the floor, you actually have six major blocks in the rug. You treadle 1,2,3,4, with the 3-ply heavy brown wool for 20 inches. Then I treadled 1, and then 4, 3, 2, 1, for the next twenty inches. Then the third block you treadle 4, 1 time, and then 1,2,3,4, for the third 20 inches. This makes it 60 inches long under tension, and it will come down 2 to 3 inches in length when the warp is relaxed and it is cut off the loom. You weave 1 inch of plain weave for heading at the other end, using the same
(Continued page 6)

6. Treadle #1 - one end of 16/2 Ramie in #77, Rich Royal Blue
 7. Treadle #3 - Doubled 6/2 Linen in Glacier Blue
 8. Treadle #1 - one end of 16/2 Ramie in #77, Rich Royal Blue
- End of one repeat. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

This is a fairly hard fabric to weave. The whole problem was the two ends would together of the 6/2 linen. The Swiss linen has always seemed to be stiffer than linen from anywhere else in the world. I do not know why, but it is a fact. With the two stiff threads wound together on one bobbin, they tend to unwind and tangle. The rest of the weaving was easy except for this problem.

We used a firm, even double beat. We had three different threads in the weft, so three different shuttles.

Every knot in the warp had to be cut out and replaced with a new thread. There were not too many knots, but the knots were too large to come through even a large eye heddle.

Remember in particular, a firm, even double beat is important in weaving this and many other linens.

This Swiss linen has some beautiful colors, which we had dyed to order. I should say, however, that we have used all we had of the 6/2 in this color called Glacier Blue.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

The 6/2 Swiss linen, with 900 yards per pound, is \$10.80 per pound. We also have in the same colors a size 2½ lea with 750 yards per pound in a very slubby linen. The Swiss seem to be the only ones in the world who make a heavy slub like this in linen. It comes on about one-pound tubes. Both 6/2 and 2½ lea are the same price.

We have the 16/2 ramie available on 4-ounce tubes or about 1½-pound cones. It has 2400 yards per pound and is \$4.00 per 600-yard tube, or \$16.00 per pound. It is the same

fiber family as in linen, the BAST family of fibers.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We had a 10-yard warp, 40 inches wide on the loom, plus 8 selvage threads. It took 480 warp threads, or 4,800 yards, for the 10-yard warp. With 900 yards per pound in the 6/2, it took 5⅓ pounds to warp the loom. Our total warp cost was \$57.60, or the cost per yard, 40" wide, was \$5.76.

Our weft cost was about \$4.80 per yard.

PLACEMAT PLAN:

Using linen warp and the 6/2 linen for selvage, here is the plan for weaving mats out of this pattern.

1. Selvage thread 4,1,2,3 4 thds.
 2. Repeat pattern 20 times ... 160 thds.
 3. To balance, thread four thds,
4,2,4,2 4 thds.
 4. Selvage, 4 thds 1,4,3,2 4 thds.
- 14¼" wide mats 172 thds.

Please note that you would use the same treadling, and same weft and color sequence as given in the large piece of fabric, so I will not repeat them again here. In other words, the treadling and color sequence has already been given on page 4 for the placemats.

You will notice that the placemats will beat a little tighter, as it is a narrower warp.

Also, to try to solve the problem that resulted from doubling one of the 6/2 linens in the weft, you could use a shuttle that will take 4-inch plastic bobbins and which will take two of these bobbins, and you can use them this way.

Also, another suggestion, and the one which we use all the time, is to put a doubled, tripled, and triple-folded piece of tissue under the bobbin in the bottom of the shuttle, and the bobbin thus drags lightly on this tissue, and as a result, less thread unwinds and you have less trouble with 2 ends on one bobbin.

You want to make your placemats about 14" x 20" in size, plus hems. So I always allow about 24" of warp length for each mat.

2nd Project

(continued from page 3)

thread as the warp for this heading. Then you allow 12 inches of warp for fringe, and cut off the loom.

If you are going to make just one rug, it takes 84 inches of warp plus some for take-up. I would warp $3\frac{1}{3}$ yards for this rug. It takes $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of $\frac{8}{4}$ linen rug warp for just the one rug. If you do more than one, you can add about one more pound per rug. You have quite a bit of waste on one rug, but you should allow one yard for loom waste, or take-up.

In the weft, I used four pounds of the heavy 3-ply brown berber wool for the entire rug. This is \$8.00 per pound. My total cost for the rug, including loom waste, is \$50.33. If you weave more than one rug (we wove four), you can bring your warp cost down by about \$8.00 per rug.

Jack Womersley Workshop Plans Are Now Complete

We have two 1-week workshops planned with Mr. Jack Womersley, a weaving instructor from Bradford, England, as the instructor.

The classes will be held the first two weeks in July — July 1 through July 5 and also July 8 through July 12. Each week will be the same. We are limiting the class to 15 students. We will warp the looms in advance, and hopefully have 15 different projects. Each student will have a chance to work on as many of these looms as possible.

Warps are provided by us, and you can bring your own weft, or use what we have here in the shop. Mr. Womersley's emphasis will be on fabrics for clothing, but there will be many different techniques, and these can be applied to many different uses.

Here are some of the types of projects that are planned.

1. Using superwash (machine washable wool) in ladies' fabrics.
2. Traditional men's and women's suiting cloths as made in England.

3. Distorted thread effects, with two different warp or weft threads.
4. Lace-weaves and effects
5. Double cloths and double weaves.
6. Color and weave effects
7. Large patterns on four harnesses
8. Swedish Rep.
9. Adding threads in warp or weft for additional effects.
10. Thick and thin threads in warp and weft.

Mr. Womersley and I worked on these 15 projects while I was in England about three weeks ago.

The workshop will cost \$125.00 per week, with all warp threads being furnished.

Also, there will be a lecture or discussion each morning and afternoon. The lectures will cover such subjects as point paper; fabric structures, color and weave; calculations for weaving; fabric analysis; critique of weaving in progress; a structure and color slide show; and a final critique of your work.

The Safari Motel is offering any students a commercial rate for the length of the workshops.

Classes will be daily from 9:30 to 12:00 noon, and then from 1:30 to 5:00 each of the five days.

If there are any cancellations, full deposit will be refunded up to one week before the workshop. After that, there will be a 25 percent service charge on workshops.

Also, there is now limousine service from the airport to McMinnville (50 miles one way from Portland, Oregon), and it is \$10.00 one way. We will make motel and ride reservations for anyone who would like us to do so.

This will be Mr. Womersley's third series of workshops at our studio. Many of those who attended his workshops before have asked that we have him back again.

We are asking for a \$50.00 deposit now for anyone who is interested in taking the workshop. Then the additional balance of \$75.00 will be due one week before our classes begin. More details will be sent out

later to anyone who registers and plans to attend one of the two workshops. Oh, yes, if anyone is interested, they can attend for both weeks as students have done in the past.

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 SALE

Ashford Elizabeth spinning wheel, one year old, good condition. \$175.00 or trade for Louet S40 mini wheel. Also Mohair; kid, yearling, adult, and rovings. SAAE for samples. Viking Fibers, Julie Busch, Route 2, Box 2289, Benton City, Washington 99320.

ANTIQUE BOBBIN LACE BOBBINS

We have a nice selection of about 40 antique wood bobbins with beads, from 100 to 200 years old, just purchased in England, price is \$8.50 each. And we have about 5 named bone or ivory, and one wood bobbin, antiques, at \$25.00 each. And we have a selection of about 15 to 20 ivory or bone, antique bobbins in a price range of \$16.00 each to \$30.00 each, depending upon quality and also unusualness of the bobbin. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 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 1/2-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.

BRUSHED MOHAIR

We will have about 15 to 20 colors from England. The price will be \$28.00 per lb., and it should be on about 1-lb. cones. This is a superior quality and most beautiful yarn. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 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.

HEAVY SINGLE-PLY NATURAL BERBER WOOL

From England, this heavy berber wool is about the size of a thick ball point pen. It is on about 1-lb. cones and makes beautiful rugs. Price is \$6.80 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

SIMIA, A TWISTED BLEND OF SPUN SILK AND SPUN TUSSAH SILK

About 1700 yards per lb. Shiny and glossy. Only 44 lbs. of this one. Price will be \$24.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

RAYON CHENILLE, 8-CUT, IN PURPLE, PLUM, SALMON RUST, and CATTAIL BROWN SPACE DYED, and AUTUMN HARVEST SPACE DYED, and LIGHT TOAST BROWN.

We have about 50 or more pounds of all of these colors on 1 1/2-lb. cones or on 1/2-lb. tubes. They are from 1000 yards per lb. to 1300 yards per lb. Price is \$6.80 per lb., and all are available on 1/2-lb. tubes also. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLEACHED 3-FIBER SEED YARN

A blend of rayon, cotton, and nylon. We had ordered this spun and then bleached for a customer, and about a week before it arrived, our customer quit business. So, we have 350 lbs. On 2-lb. cones, excellent for knitting, crocheting, and weaving. Price is \$12.00 per lb. on 2-lb. cones. We can wind off 1/2-lb. or 1-lb. tubes. Also, this will dye beautifully, and will dye 3 shades or values of the same color. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

STONE NATURAL, A HEAVIER 3-PLY FLAKE COTTON

This one has 1120 yards per lb., and we found it in England. It will be on about 1-lb. cones, and it will sell for \$8.00 per lb. A most beautiful cotton flake. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/27'S SPUN TUSSAH SILK, SLIGHTLY SLUBBY, WITH A SHEEN

A good silk for warp or weft, 2-ply, with about 7300 yards per lb. On about 1-lb. cones, and it will be \$28.00 per lb. A most beautiful tussah silk. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

15 NEW WOOL TWEED YARNS FROM ENGLAND

Yes, we will have 15 new colors due in this week. It will all be on 1-lb. cones, and there will be slightly different sizes of these tweeds. The price will be \$8.00 per lb. Free samples upon your request if you send a self-addressed stamped envelope. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/12'S AND 3/16'S NATURAL TUSSAH SILK

These 3-ply silks are due in this week from England. We will wind this onto 1-lb. cones for you if you wish, although most of it will come on 2 1/2- to 3-lb. cones. These will both be \$13.60 per lb. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/10'S TUSSAH SILK IN NATURAL, IN RED, IN ROYAL, GRIGIO, MID BROWN, BOTTLE BLACK, CLOVER, CHAMPAGNE, LIGHT GREEN, MULBERRY, ORANGUTAN, COPPER, CAMEL, TEAL, STONE GREY, MEDIUM BLUE, PINK, SAGE, HEATHER, AND BLEACHED WHITE.

All these colors due in this week in the 3-ply silk. It will have about 1650 yards per lb., should be on about 1-lb. cones, and it will be \$16.00 per lb. We are delighted to have this wide range of colors. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

