

June 1955

Threadbender's News Letter

My dear Shuttle Craft Guild Member:

Having had to make an emergency substitution of the article on page 20, for the Threadbender communications, was a happy accident, as I'm glad to have more space to discuss an important subject with you, which otherwise would have been left for next month. This is the NEW Shuttle Craft Guild Home Study Course in Handweaving.

The original 8-lesson Correspondence Course was revised in 1948 to 1950 and enlarged to 20 lessons, as the Home Study Course which could be taken either with or without correspondence criticisms. But as experience grows, dissatisfaction grows with it and one always aims for something better. This work on the new course has been in progress almost since the Home Study Course was issued. In the past months this work has been serious and a completely new Course is now almost ready for introducing. The writing is completed on the introductory book: and on the first series of lessons. Remaining are the details of some of the drawings and photographs and sample weaving, and the printing. The new course is actually four separate courses, each with ten lessons, each of which will sell individually for \$10.00. The outline is:

- Course I -- THE BEGINNERS LESSONS -- Fundamental lessons in weaving, introduction to drafts, designing, color harmony, and yarns. All of the lessons may be worked on a 2 or 4-harness, small loom.
- Course II -- THE BASIC LESSONS -- The four-harness techniques with draft writing, cloth analysis, the variations from single techniques, original drafts.
- Course III -- THE ADVANCED LESSONS -- Advanced techniques for four and multiple harnesses, continuing drafting, designing and analysis. All of the lessons may be worked on a minimum of six harnesses,
- Course IV -- THE MASTER WEAVER COURSE -- The unusual techniques for four and multiple harnesses. Emphasis on original designing, drafting and on analysis. All of this course may be worked on a minimum of 10 harnesses.

Each course well illustrated with diagrams, drafts, designs, photographs and woven samples. The courses are being substantially printed, all sheets the same size, suitable for filing or ring binding. The HANDWEAVING FOUNDATIONS is, we believe, the most complete information for the beginning weaver and reference for the advanced weaver, assembled under any cover. All chapters are detailed; no articles superficial or padded though we have tried to include everything which puzzles weavers, having collected notes on these problems during almost 10 years of answering weaving questions and correcting correspondence lessons and giving personal instruction. Chapter subjects include: The Loom, Accessory equipment, Yarns, Color Harmony and Design, Loom Dressing methods, The Technique of Weaving, Terms and Symbols, Drafts, Original Designing. This book will be sold separately at \$7.00. Supplemented with the HANDWEAVER'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL, and the individual instruction sheets with each lesson, it will supply all of the reference material required for accomplishing all four courses. There will be an

introductory special as follows:

HANDWEAVING FOUNDATIONS	\$7.00
HANDWEAVER'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL	3.00
THE BEGINNERS LESSONS, Course I	10.00
THE BASIC LESSONS, Course II	10.00
Shuttle Craft Guild membership	7.50

This \$37.50 value will be just - - - - - \$27.50

(Anyone who owns the INSTRUCTION MANUAL may have a substitution of \$3.00 worth of back BULLETINS. Current Shuttle Craft Guild members will be credited with a subscription renewal.) To everyone who orders the Home Study Course from now (June 1) until the new material is ready for distribution, we shall send the lessons sheets and introductory material from the former Home Study Course (a few of the advanced lessons are out of print

and the HANDWEAVER'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL, (but none of the supplementary material or samples) without extra charge. Then when the new FUNDAMENTALS book and Course I are ready, they will be mailed, and the BASIC LESSONS, Course II, will follow later in the summer. Courses III and IV will not be ready before fall and will be announced later. Anyone wishing any of these items alone, may purchase them at the list price.

I feel very confident of this new course. And I feel sure that for the first time in handweaving history, here is instruction adequate for the completely new weaver who has never as much as seen a loom and has no one to help or advise him, to teach himself to weave. Criticism of lesson work will again be offered for those who wish to work for certificates, at the rate of \$15 per course.

All students now working on the former course with correspondence criticisms will continue as before, and the Basic and Master-Weaver Certificates will be issued on completion.

Now that you understand about this big and necessary project on which I have been working this year, you will understand why progress has been slow on the other big project: the rewriting of the TWILL AND TARTAN material. Another reason for delay is that in the past 18 months I have been carrying the work of the Shuttle Craft Guild alone, with only infrequent and part-time assistance. Our work is too complicated and technical for me to hire just anyone as a full assistant. But now that problem is solved, and the solution is worth waiting for.

Mrs Wilma Widener, who was assistant to the Shuttle Craft Guild in 1952 and 1953, and a weaving student for two years before that, has moved with her family to Clear Lake to resume her old job. With Wilma, whose interest in the Shuttle Craft Guild extends far beyond the limits of merely a job, and whose ability is unquestioned, back at work full time and permanently, the coming months should see many unfinished jobs rounded out.

A letter with an interesting invitation came this week: from Mrs Lorraine Thornton de Osario, formerly a weaving teacher in Washington state, and a long-time Shuttle Craft Guild member. She writes from her address: Calle Lerma #335, Apt #1, Mexico, D F, Mexico. "Have a nice, new studio-apartment with a patio, so hope to have students and also to do some new work in native fibers. Am going to rent one bedroom with meals and, in case anyone you know is coming down and doesn't want to stay in a hotel, mention my place. Very well located: two short blocks from the Paseo de la Reforma and near bus stop to Mexico City College." I wish we were going to Mexico this summer. A notice came today that a few more weavers can be accommodated for the Mexican tour escorted by T H Hewitt and Mama Valborg Gravender. This is 14 days, leaving Laredo Texas June 17, only \$190. Sounds wonderful.

The listings in the spring issue of HANDWEAVER AND CRAFTSMAN make a summer weaving course sound enticing. I hope many of you will have opportunity to attend one of the courses. Whichever one you choose, you are bound to find stimulation, inspiration, new experiences, new ideas, and -- that greatest pleasure of all -- new weaver-friends from other parts of the country. If you can't travel to study weaving, perhaps you would like to take your weaving course at home or while on your family vacation. This Beginners Course, even if you are an experienced weaver, should bring you new values and skills. This one is a true VACATION COURSE, since it is planned so a person may (but does not need to) do all of the weaving exercises on a portable, 2-harness loom -- the little loom which is conveniently carried to porch, patio, lawn or summer home. Wherever you spend the season, we wish you a happy weaving summer.

Sincerely yours,

June 1955

Harris Tibball