



warp and weft

Vol. XXI, No. 9

November, 1968

warp and weft

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

Subscription: \$4.50 per year.

Back Issues: 45c each plus 6c postage.

Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

Vol. XXI, No. 9

November, 1968

A Word from the Editor:

The Indian Summer portion of the fall is upon us here in Oregon, and if ever a weaver receives inspiration from nature, it would be easy to find such inspiration here this year. We have been in Oregon for seven years now, and this year, the fall leaves are more colorful and plentiful than we have ever seen them. For the past two weeks, we have seen trees of bright red, rust red, orange, yellow and many in-between shades here in our area of Oregon, and when the sun shines full on these trees, they are just beautiful.

Well, enough of nature and back to weaving. One of our friends has been doing some experimental samples for us, and from these, we have about five different projects planned for Warp and Weft and Drafts and Designs. You will be seeing one of these next month.

It has been a busy month again for us, with a little weaving being done, but of course the main project each month is preparing the two bulletins for the printer, and then getting them out in the mail to you, our subscriber.

We have also had word from our manufacturer and supplier in England that the 1,000 lbs. of the Fabri-type yarns they have spun for us are now being dyed, and they expect to ship this 1,000 lbs. of yarn in about one month. There will be 19 colors in all, and we are quite anxious to receive these yarns and do some work with them, as we did with fabri in the past. We are having some new

colors dyed, which we think you will like, such as three shades of avocado or olive, and others.

We also have ordered 600 lbs. of 20/2 Mercerized and dyed Ramie from the manufacturers of this yarn in Japan, and this is supposed to be on the way to us very shortly.

Then besides these two items, we have again ordered some 400 lbs. of linen from Ireland to be spun for us, and we are to expect these in about two months.

This is the first time that we have ever had over 2,000 lbs. of yarn on order at one time, and of course, it is quite exciting for us to do this, and we are eagerly looking forward to the arrival of this yarn.

We hope that eventually, we will have 35 colors available in the fabri-type yarns, and this is quite exciting for us.

Besides these yarns that we have listed, we have also ordered another 200 lbs. of the beautiful quality English rug wool we are socking, and some 200 lbs. more of colored Ramie is on order from Switzerland.

When you read all this above, it makes us sound like a big business house, and really, I'd say that ours is about as small as a small business can get.

Many of these contacts we have made to provide nice quality yarns for hand-weaving is the direct result of my trip to the British Isles all of one and half years ago now, and this trip was so inspirational to your editor that he hopes to take Janice and Robin on such a trip in another year and a half, if this can be done. At present it is just a wish, but perhaps it will eventually become a reality. On this trip one and a half years ago, I really did work hard on trying to find all possible sources of everything possible, and it is hoped that the proposed trip in one and a half years will be one with some business but more sightseeing this time.

Well, enough talk for this month, and back to the sample for this month.

This Month's Book Review:

This month, we would like to repeat a review that we had given earlier on the book by Jean Wilson, entitled **WEAVING IS FOR ANYONE**.

This book has been out of print for about six to eight months, and has just been re-published. It seems to inspire so many people who read it, that we felt it would be worthwhile to review it again, so here goes.

About 10 months ago, we had the pleasure of hearing a program by Jean Wilson about this book she had written, and we saw so many of the different samples and ideas that she has illustrated or told about in her book.

This book is primarily written to show that anyone can weave — even if they do not have a regular floor loom.

Mrs. Wilson shows many different techniques that the individual person can do on their own loom that they make themselves.

The first section of the book is devoted to the language of weavers and is really for a new weaver to help one comprehend the new terms that a new weaver will hear and wonder about.

The section devoted to looms is most interesting, as she tells about cardboard looms, cardboard crescent looms, circle looms, frame looms made of picture frames and stretcher frames, shaped board looms, oriental knot looms, box looms, vertical tapestry looms, backstrap looms, bag looms, round looms for tubular weaving, and looms from other places, and other times in the history of man.

The book is just full of pictures and illustrations, and will encourage many a beginner to make their own loom, and proceed with their own special type of weaving.

There are explanations of different tapestry knots and techniques, and complete step by step procedures in making these various knots and using them in your weaving.

The section on weaving from nature is most inspirational, giving ideas of designing from nature, weaving with natural materials, using weft threads from nature, and how to prepare and use weft materials and dried materials

from nature. You will be delighted with the pictures in this section.

There is a good section on what to weave, a section on small woven projects, and finally, the last section deals with nine simple projects that a person can do by making their own simple looms.

Also, almost every type of simple, easy to construct loom is included in the directions given in this book.

This is an ideal book for an individual or group without any previous weaving experience.

The author is an experienced teacher of weaving, and has had 25 years of experience at weaving herself, so it is written in terms that are simple and easy for all to understand.

I can heartily recommend this book as an outstanding one on the subject matter that she covers, and it will prove to be an inspiration to many.

TITLE: WEAVING IS FOR ANYONE

AUTHOR: Jean Wilson

PUBLISHER: Reinhold Publishing Corp.

PRICE: \$8.50 plus 20c postage

AVAILABLE: Direct from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers if desired.

This Month's Cover Photograph:

This month's cover photograph is one that shows the details of one of the triangular head scarves that I have seen various individuals weave here in the Western United States.

This technique is interesting in that you set up your loom with a fine mohair and organdie ribbon, and then as you weave you gradually cut the warp threads and use them as the weft and this results in the triangular scarf.

As you proceed with the weaving, your warp gets narrower and narrower, until it comes to the corner of the triangle. The brushed mohair is also very important in that it helps hold the ribbon flat and in place, and keeps the ribbon from twisting. Your warp threads, which are eventually used for weft also, are allowed to extend out one edge, to make a fringed edge on your triangular scarf.

(Continued on Page 6) **Page 3**

GLAMOUR GREY

This is a beautiful heather grey fabric, which fits in with the fashion trends of the coming winter and spring.

THREADING DRAFT:

4	O			O			O			O
3		O		O			O		O	
2		O	O		R		O	O		P
1		O			R	R		O		P P

WARP:

There are three threads used in the warp. The main one is a heather grey combination thread of Alpaca, Silk and Mohair.

The two accent threads are two sizes of cotton. The parakeet green 20/2 cotton is an Egyptian cotton thread, and the 10/2 Rose colored cotton is a combed peeler cotton.

WEFT:

There are three threads used in the weft, and they are the same three threads as were used in the warp.

REED USED:

A 10 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

KEY TO THREADS

IN THREADING DRAFT

O – Heather Grey Alpaca, Silk and Mohair thread in a four ply.

R – 10/2 Rose Combed Peeler Cotton

P – 20/2 Parakeet Green Egyptian Cotton

TREADLING SEQUENCE

Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 1 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 1 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray

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

X – tie-up for Counter-balanced looms. A B
 O – tie-up for Jack-type looms.

SAMPLE:



Treadle No. 3 – 20/2 Parakeet Green
 Treadle No. 1 – 20/2 Parakeet Green
 Treadle No. 3 – 20/2 Parakeet Green
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 1 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 1 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 2 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 4 – 4 ply Heather Gray
 Treadle No. 3 – 10/2 Rose Cotton
 Treadle No. 1 – 10/2 Rose Cotton
 Treadle No. 3 – 10/2 Rose Cotton

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED:

The 4 ply heather gray, Alpaca, Silk and Mohair combination thread has about 3500 yards per lb. It has a light twist of the 4 ply, and comes on about 1/2 lb. tubes, or 2½ lb. cones. It is priced at \$4.00 per pound.

The 20/2 Parakeet Green Egyptian Cotton has 8400 yards per lb., comes on 1/2 lb. tubes, and is \$5.50 per lb., or \$2.75 per 1/2 lb. tube.

The 10/2 Rose Combed Peeler cotton has 4200 yards per lb. It also comes on 1/2 lb. tubes of 2100 yards each, and is priced at \$5.00 per lb., or \$2.50 per 1/2 lb. tube.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

All of the latest fashion magazines, American Fabrics, Elegance, and others all indicate that heathers are to be very popular this winter and the coming spring, and this was one reason why we decided to see what we could do with this heather gray Alpaca, Silk and Mohair.

The two colors used with this heather gray thread give it much more life than when it is used by itself, and sort of give a lift to the fabric, almost as though a touch of spring is flaring up through the winter grays.

It is quite an easy fabric to weave, and we used a medium double beat on the fabric; beating once, changing the shed, and beating lightly again.

One thing that several persons have commented upon is the effect that has been achieved by the slewing of the reed. There are three threads each of the 20/2 Parakeet Green, and so when you sley two ends per dent, this means two ends of a color in one dent and then one of a color and one of gray in the next dent. This gives a sort of off balance to the fabric, which does seem to give it a little more interest and appeal than if the squares were all uniformly even.

One thing that I must mention is the little problem that sometimes came up when using the 4 ply heather gray thread in the warp. This 4 ply thread has quite a loose twist, and not a tight twist like a 20/2 cotton or 10/2 cotton. And it also has a little texture or slub

in it, so every once in a while, one of the 4 plies of the 4 ply thread would break. As soon as we noticed this, we acted quickly, and put a dab of spee-dee fabric cement on our fingers, took the broken end of the 4 ply thread and ran it together with the other three ends left of the four ply, and actually glued the broken end to the other three plies of the four ply thread. In five yards of this fabric, we had about four of these threads break like this.

Even though this four ply Alpaca, Silk and Mohair thread has a loose twist in the four ply, it seems to have some whip or twist to it, and tends to twist upon itself. We do all of our warping on a sectional warp beam and our threads are under tension, and as a result, this tendency to whip or twist upon itself does not present a problem in our warping. However, I wonder if it would not be a problem in a chain warp, and think that it might be.

In the weaving, we also found that we had to make sure we did not allow too much slack of the thread before we threw the shuttle, or it would tend to whip or twist upon itself, and if you were not careful, you sometimes had a doubled thread in the weft.

These were not major problems, but just minor ones. However, I can imagine that a beginning weaver, not accustomed to this happening might think it a problem.

We like this fabric because it does have a nice soft feeling.

We have washed it in our automatic washing machine in the shortest washing cycle possible, and then we used the extractor to extract as much of the water as possible, and then put it in the dryer.

After it came out of the dryer, we took it to the ironing board and steam pressed it with a steam iron. Turns out beautifully, and presents no problems. There seems to be very, very little shrinkage in this particular fabric in the warp length or weft width, when it is processed this way.

And of course, instead of doing this yourself, you could send it out to a commercial yardage finisher and have them do it for you if you wished.

We at first were afraid that it might be too open a fabric for suiting when used at only 20 threads per inch, but I think that the washing and extracting and drying and steam pressing made it come together and be a much nicer fabric.

And, we must confess to one more thing that I shouldn't tell you. We had the whole thing threaded through the harnesses correctly, but after weaving about five yards of fabric, and becoming more familiar with it, we examined it more closely, and to our dismay, we found that we had only one thread in one dent in almost the center of the fabric. It is hardly distinguishable though, and as we are using it primarily for samples for warp and weft, we went ahead and finished it as it was. Now — don't tell anyone that we did this, as normally, we try and try to make sure that there are no errors whatsoever in our sample swatches.

An International Weaving Festival

An international weaving festival is being planned for October 30-31, November 1-2, 1969 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The sponsoring guild is the Southern Nevada Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild, under the leadership of Paul Mercer.

This convention will be held at the STARDUST HOTEL in Las Vegas, and I have visited these facilities with Paul Mercer to see the physical set-up. It has a tremendous display room for commercial and guild booths, and for weaving displays and booths from all over the world. Besides this large room for displays, there is also an auditorium and stage on one end of this room which will seat 1,000 people, and it is here that the three or four of the well-known speakers will present their lectures during this convention.

Every country in the world is being invited to send or bring representative handweaving, and some countries are going to supply real live flesh and blood weavers to demonstrate how things are done in their country. There will be exhibits by many schools and universities, as well as by the guilds and commercial exhibitors.

Page 6

This will be the first of its kind in the United States, and one reason that this is being held is to see if a weaver's group can be formed which will cover all of the United States.

Why not have your guild participate and have a booth at this convention. Remember the dates are October 30 and 31, and November 1 and 2, 1969 at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

For further information, write to: Mr. Paul Mercer, 3979 South Pearl Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

This Month's Cover (Continued)

This technique does require great care in beating, and in maintaining an even and uniform beat. Also, it requires time and effort to make sure that your scarf is triangular and also that when you do turn the warp ends in as weft, that you do not leave a loop, and thus do not break up the symmetry of the triangular shape.

The sheer organdie ribbon that is used in such a scarf does come in about 30 colors. Also, there is a new type of ribbon which has a fine line of metallic on each selvage edge of the ribbon to match the color of the ribbon. This should be quite beautiful also in this type of head scarf.

Sizes of Cotton and Rayon Chenille

In wool yarns, we have a system of measuring yardage per pound by designating that it is three cut, eight cut, six cut, etc. We refer strictly to so many yards per lb., when we give a size designation to a wool yarn.

Such is not the case with cotton or rayon chenille. When we have a 12 cut cotton or rayon chenille, it means that it is 1/12" wide. Accordingly, eight cut means 1/8" wide, three cut means 1/3" wide, etc. So you can see that there is an entirely different system of measurement used here. The yardage per lb. in the various sizes of chenilles vary according to the construction of the yarn itself, the size of the thread used in the weft to make the chenille, etc.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$4.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET

are agents for the Macomber, Norwood, and Lerlerc Looms in the Chicago area. Visit them and see what is available. The Handweavers Workbasket, Box 399, Route 1, West Chicago, Illinois 60185.

IMPORTED RUG WOOL.

A beautiful quality Ryagarn, English Rug Wool which is available in 41 colors. It is mothproof, comes in Kilo packages of 2 lbs. 2 oz. each, or is available in smaller amounts in skeins of about 3½ oz. each. Price is reasonable at \$4.80 per lb. for this superior quality rug wool. 550 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

12/3 NATURAL RAMIE.

A nice quality Ramie yarn at a reasonable price. This 12/3 Ramie is available in both NATURAL AND BLEACH WHITE. It has 1200 yards per lb., and is excellent for table mats, linens, etc., at 15 per inch. Imported from the Philippines this Ramie is quite strong. Price is \$3.20 per lb. for the natural and \$3.60 per lb. for the bleached on 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE, 12 CUT, BLEACHED WHITE CHENILLE.

This is the chenille that so many seem to want. Used by many in towels, bibs, and baby items, as well as for accent in drapes, upholstery, etc. It comes on tubes of about 1 lb. each. Price is \$4.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPINNING WHEELS FROM ENGLAND AND NORWAY.

Another shipment of the Norwegian Castle Type and the English conventional spinning wheels is due in in about one month. Price of both of these will be \$95.00 each, plus shipping. Price is a good one for these wheels. Remember, due in here in about 30 days. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ENGLISH HAND SPINDLES.

Price on these is \$1.50 each, plus shipping. These are light weight compared to many we see and come from England. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6/1 NATURAL GREY SLUB LINEN WITH GOLD TWIST

This one has about 1800 yards per lb., comes on cones of about 1 lb. 4 oz. each, and is \$3.20 per lb. Just 30 lbs. left. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVING IS FOR ANYONE,

is once again back in print. This excellent book showing many, many different weaving methods was one that sold out very quickly after its original printing. Now available again. Price is \$8.50 plus 18 cents postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

25/1 NATURAL GRAY DANISH LINEN.

We have about 50 lbs. of this 25/1 natural grey single ply linen. Many persons like to use this as warp or weft. 7500 yards per lb., on about 1½ to 2 lb. cones. The price is reasonable at \$3.20 per lb. It is also available in bleached white. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

THE DYE POT,

by Mary Frances Davidson was republished in 1967 for the 3rd time. Excellent text for those interested in Vegetable Dyeing. Price is \$2.00 plus 10c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

YELLOW & GOLD 2 PLY SLUB RAYON

This is another of those interesting slub yarns, in a 2 ply thread. It comes on 1/2 lb. tubes of 275 yards per tube. Price is \$3.20 per lb. Just 15 lbs. available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CREATIVE DESIGN IN WALL HANGINGS

by Lili Blumenau is an outstanding book, and to my way of thinking, one of the best to be published in the past 2 or 3 years. Full of ideas of all kinds. Price is \$6.95 plus 24c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WEAVING WITHOUT A LOOM,

by S. Rainey is an outstanding book. Full of ideas in particular for teachers and instructors in craft work. Price is \$7.95 plus 24c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

4 COLORS IN NEW ZEALAND TWEED WITH REINDEER HAIR

This is a heavy wool slub tweed with about 1100 yards per lb. Comes on 1½ to 2 lb. cones and is priced at \$4.00 per lb. Natural with gold flecks, yellow gold, beige or tan color, and gold with brown flecks are the 4 colors. Excellent in coats of all kinds. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DRAFTS AND DESIGNS

is the multiple harness bulletin with large sample swatch published by Robin & Russ. Complete directions for each swatch. 10 issues per year. \$5.00 per year. Features patterns of 5 to 8 harnesses with one 10 or 12 harness pattern each year. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

NEW!!!

Functional Overshot by Grace D. Blum
A basic source for modern designs.
Contains concise directions for weaving almost any overshot threading, in 24 different methods and 32 woven swatches. \$16.50 per copy.

Mailed prepaid when
check accompanies order.

Hand Weavers' Work Basket
Box 399, R. R. 1 West Chicago, Illinois

HANDWEAVING YARNS and SUPPLIES

A wide variety of distinctive yarns, developed especially for handweaving is available for prompt shipment in quantities to suit your needs.

Write today for *FREE CATALOG and PRICE LIST.*

The Handweaver's Headquarters
Lily Mills Company
Dept. HWWW Shelby, N. C.

15" SAMPLE LOOMS

Available in 4, 8, 12, 16 harnesses

Uses 9" wire heddles, good shed,
very easy to weave upon.

FREE BROCHURE UPON REQUEST

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128

Have
you tried
a NORWOOD loom
YET? They are compact, easy to operate, jack-type, folding models, made of cherry wood, available in 22", 30", 40", 50" widths in 4 and 8 harness model looms. For further information write to the NORWOOD LOOM Company, P. O. Box 272, BALDWIN, MICH.
for a free
list.

