



warp and weft

Vol. XXII, No. 9

November, 1969

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A Word from the Editor:

It seems as though it were just yesterday that I was writing up the details for the October issue of Warp and Weft, and here we are now working on the November issue. This must mean that time flies so swiftly, that we are enjoying our work or something to this effect. However, we three, Janice, and particularly ROBIN AND I must say that we do enjoy our business thoroughly and perhaps that is why the time does fly by so quickly.

A little about the activities of the three of us might be of interest here. Janice is back in school, and is busy with a full schedule in her senior year of high school. She is out for gymnastics again, and works out every day to keep in shape. She has a body that tends to add weight quickly, so it seems as though that every once in awhile she is on a crash diet. She does maintain her weight at 120-125 pounds though, which is most ideal for gymnastics. She is taking the regular classes and is having trouble with Physics. She also takes band and is first chair clarinet player in the band. She also takes or is a member of the school orchestra, and is helping out two days a week teaching the clarinet with the 4th and 5th graders. She also has about three dresses started and in various stages of completion and seems to like dress-making very much.

Robin has finished canning from the bumper summer crops (I think) but she still has lots of apples left on two of our trees and makes applesauce quite regularly. She too, seems to maintain her weight, and works in

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the shop four days a week. Busy, busy is the word for her.

Your editor is the one with the weight problem, and it looks as though I do not have enough will power to reduce as I should. However, I am still active, as I bowl three evenings a week, and play golf at least two times a week if possible and if the weather permits.

Besides this, the weaver's guild activities keep me stepping, and so you can see that ours is a busy household this fall. Well, enough of this and back to the business portion of this issue.

We have had some quite beautiful threads come in this past month. About four new colors in tweeds, and there are two slubby wools, fairly heavy and made to resemble Mexican hand-spun wool which are nice. One is a dark olive, and then there is a silver grey wool slub which is very attractive. One heavy slub yarn is about 50 per cent linen, and 50 per cent rayon and is a beautiful yarn. We've tried to wind it off onto smaller tubes on our winding machine, but it is so heavy that it gives us some trouble. About 300 lbs. of it came in. Then, there was about 750 pounds of assorted tweeds and slubs that came in in all wool yarn, about 300 pounds of cotton flakes, and another 400 pounds of slub yarns in rayon or rayons and linens. This is probably one of the biggest lots of yarns we've had come in as I figure there was about 1800 to 2000 pounds of yarn came in in this past month. The three girls (two high school and one college student) sort of groan when a new shipment of yarns comes in as they know they will have to sort it, put it in plastic bags, and then stack it neatly on our storage shelves, which are almost 100 per cent full now. The three of them worked all day last Saturday just sorting out and stocking the shelves, and trying to keep them as neat as possible.

Our guild has an exhibit to be on display at the International Conference in Las Vegas, and the Portland Handweavers have worked on this, this past month. We hope that some of you might be able to see this booth in Las Vegas on the first of November, probably before this issue arrives at your door. Well, enough of this, and back to our sample of the month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

This month's cover photograph is that of a sort of sheer or semi-sheer linen drapery woven by Sanger & Company in Langnau I.E., Switzerland. Notice the interesting sleying of the warp threads in this fabric to make such an interesting drapery. It looks as though in some cases, two threads were in the same heddle, and in others there were just one thread per heddle, but two or three for each dent of the reed, some every other dent, and some even further apart to give more richness and openness to this drapery fabric.

A Visit to the Swiss Home Handcraft School

I do not have any pictures to show to you of this school, but this past summer, Robin and I had a chance to visit this school, and so we'd like to tell you about it.

First of all, we must tell you that throughout Switzerland, you will find a series of HEIMATVERK SHOPS, which feature the best in hand-craft work made all over Switzerland. These shops are a very important part of the Swiss economy, and it is well worth

Visit Switzerland and Ireland on a Handweaving Tour with the Editor of Warp and Weft.

Plans are being made now for a tour to Switzerland and Ireland and to finish up the trip have a week's weaving workshop next summer, after school is out. The trip will probably start in the middle of June and will be either five or six weeks long. Tour leader will be Russell E. Groff, Editor of Warp and Weft. If you would like a brochure with prices and other facts, be sure to drop a line to Robin & Russ Handweavers, and they will see that a brochure on the trip is sent to you. We will visit some of the places that you will see featured in future issues of Warp and Weft. These places were just visited last May, to try and help make arrangements for next year's tour.

hearing about the school these shops operate.

This school is used mainly to teach all kinds of handcraft work to the peasants up in the hills and in the small towns and villages throughout Switzerland. It is also used to teach those from the larger towns and cities. The school that we visited in RICHSTER-SWILL, SWITZERLAND operates its weaving department the whole year around. The other parts of the school operate in the winter and they teach besides weaving, the many different crafts such as wood-carving, basketry, metal work and jewelry making, decorative wood painting, and many others.

The school I visited was started in 1948 by the Swiss Handwork Society, and it is located in a building that was built in the year 1619. Other portions of the building have been added and there is room now for the students to live here at the school.

This school is open to students from any part of the world, and including the United States of America. As weaving is taught the year around, you could go for four weeks, six or eight or twelve or six months, whatever your wish is.

In the winter months most of the other crafts are taught. And besides crafts, they teach others such as blacksmithing, furniture construction and building, house building, etc.

This is primarily a school for teachers for those who will go out into the small villages and teach others.

In the Italian section of Switzerland, they have special classes for adults, and in the summers, quite often they will go up into the mountains into the small villages and have classes there on building and construction. One time, this school had 60 students from Brazil.

I thought the purpose of the school was so great that I must repeat it. **THE PURPOSE OF THIS SCHOOL IS TO TEACH PERSONS TO MAKE USEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS FOR THE HOUSE AND HOME.**

In the villages that have been troubled with avalanches, they go in and help to rebuild the villages, and teach the people how to re-

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HUNTING AND HALLOWEEN:

This all wool fabric was designed for a man's sport shirt or hunting shirt, made all of 2/18's worsted for both warp and weft. All wool, for warmth, and bright, so it can be seen a long ways.

THREADING DRAFT:

4	D	D	D		D	D	D		O	O	O
3		D	D		D	D			O	O	
2				T				T			T
1			T	T			T	T			T

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

D – Dark Brown, 2/18's worsted
 T – Tempting Tan, 2/18's worsted
 O – Sunkiss Orange, 2/18's worsted

WARP USED:

Our warp this month is the English 2/18's worsted yarn, made to resemble the "fabri" formerly put out by Bernats. There were three colors used in the warp.

D – Dark Brown, 2/18's worsted
 T – Tempting Tan, 2/18's worsted
 O – Sunkiss Orange, 2/18's worsted

WEFT USED:

Two threads of the English 2/18's worsted were used in the weft. One was the Dark Avocado Green color, which is the main weft thread. The other weft thread used was the same as in the warp, the Sunkiss Orange 2/18's worsted.

REED USED:

A 15 dent reed was used and there was a special sleying of the reed, as we have given below. This sleying gives 30 ends per inch.

SLEYING OF THE REED:

Starting at the right of the threading draft, here is how we sleyed the 15 dent reed.

1st dent – 3 ends Tempting Tan 2/18's

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TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

1 2 3 4 5 6
 A B

X's above—tie-up for Counter-balanced
 O's above—tie-up for Jack-type.

SAMPLE:



- 2nd dent – 2 ends Sunkiss Orange 2/18's
- 3rd dent – 1 end Sunkiss Orange 2/18's
- 4th dent – 2 ends Sunkiss Orange 2/18's
- 5th dent – 3 ends Tempting Tan 2/18's
- 6th dent – 2 ends Dark Brown 2/18's
- 7th dent – 1 end Dark Brown 2/18's
- 8th dent – 2 ends Dark Brown 2/18's
- 9th dent – 3 ends Tempting Tan 2/18's
- 10th dent – 2 ends Dark Brown 2/18's
- 11th dent – 1 end Dark Brown 2/18's
- 12th dent – 2 ends Dark Brown 2/18's

End of sleying for one complete repeat of the threading draft. Repeat over and over for the full width of your fabric.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

There are eight threads used in one complete pattern repeat in the treadling, as indicated just below. Also note that the A tabby treadle is called treadle No. 5, and that the B tabby treadle is called No. 6 treadle.

1. Treadle No. 5 – Dark Avocado 2/18's
2. Treadle No. 4 – Dark Avocado 2/18's
3. Treadle No. 3 – Dark Avocado 2/18's
4. Treadle No. 4 – Dark Avocado 2/18's
5. Treadle No. 5 – Dark Avocado 2/18's
6. Treadle No. 6 – Sunkiss Orange 2/18's
7. Treadle No. 2 – Sunkiss Orange 2/18's
8. Treadle No. 6 – Sunkiss Orange 2/18's

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

COST OF THE THREADS USED IN THE FABRIC

This English 2/18's worsted is a beautiful quality wool, and has about 4800 yards per pound. It comes on approximately 1/2 lb. tubes. Some tubes weigh from seven to nine ounces, so rather than selling it by the supposedly 1/2 pound tube, we have to weigh it and charge accordingly.

COST OF THE FABRIC

In this fabric, we had it set-up on the loom 43" wide, and we had a 12 yard warp. It takes 15,480 yards for the warp. This is three pounds, four ounces, and the cost of this is \$22.10. Cost per yard for the warp is \$1.85 per yard.

In the weft, 5/8's of the weft is the 2/18's dark avocado, and in eleven yards of finished fabric, we used one pound 12 ounces of Dark Avocado. 3/18's of the weft was the Sunkiss Orange 2/18's, and we used one pound two ounces of Sunkiss Orange. The total weft cost was \$19.55 for 11 yards of weft, so the weft cost was \$1.78 per yard.

I hope that you realize that we had a 12 yard warp in the fabric, but had only 11 yards of finished fabric from this 12 yard warp. Thus the actual yardage cost varies from the warp cost, if you want a more exact figure. We will refigure total warp cost, and divide by 11 this time to get a more exact cost of the fabric per yard, 41" wide when finished. We come up with the figure of \$2.01.

WARP COST PER YARD,	
41" WIDE FINISHED	\$2.01
WEFT COST PER YARD.....	\$1.78
<hr/>	
FABRIC COST PER YARD,	
41" Wide.....	\$3.79

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

There was only one major problem in the weaving of this fabric. However, I feel it is a major one, and will tell you about it, and perhaps your solution might be different than our's was.

In your first five shots of weft, there is no problem, but when you change to the treadle sequence for the three orange threads, there is a tendency for the three threads of Tempting Tan in the warp in one dent of the reed to cling together somewhat. The best way to solve this is to open the shed, which is stepping on treadle No. 6, and then give a firm even double beat, sort of glance at your threads and make sure that these three have separated, and then make your weft shot. You might, if you use a double beat elsewhere, you might even use a triple beat here. It sounds simple, but it is a problem. This could perhaps have been solved by a straight sleying of two ends per dent for the entire width of the fabric, but I wanted the Sunkiss Orange and the Tempting Tan and the Dark Brown in the warp to sort of group together so they would weave together, and give a more pronounced sort of stripe in the finished fabric. I think this was achieved by doing it as we did. However, if we had sleyed it two ends per dent for entire width, then I think that it would have separated satisfactorily, but would have not given you as pronounced a stripe in the fabric as we now have.

Incidentally, please be sure and notice that the appearance of the stripes in the warp have a different intensity on the back and the front of this fabric. However, the front, or the part which is up in your sample has the shorter float of threads, so would be the more durable side to use for sport shirt fabric. However, some of you might like the underside of the fabric better and the length of the float might not bother you, so you might possibly use that side. Also, on a sport shirt, you could make the shirt more striking if you used the

short float side for the main portion of the shirt, and the long float side for perhaps the pocket and cuffs. It would give a different appearance to the shirt, and perhaps give it more character, and yet it would blend well in with the main portion of the shirt. It is my hope that I will have a sport shirt out of this fabric, if there is any left, after we cut-up the 1800 samples.

One more time, I want to emphasize the fact that you use a firm—but not hard—even double beat. Throw your shuttle through, beat, change to the next treadle and then beat again. AND after you have finished the first five shots of weft, THEN CHANGE TO THE NEXT SHED AND PERHAPS USE A HARDER DOUBLE BEAT.

This English type worsted is a joy to work with and we now have another 20 colors on order from England. So we eventually will have 39 colors in all as regular stock colors. We expect the 20 new colors in about two or three months now, as the yarn has been manufactured especially for us, and now it is being dyed in lots of 75 pounds of a color for us in the 20 different colors.

I'm sure that many of you will recognize that our threading draft is one of the many huck variations that you can use. It is perhaps my most favorite for trying to design a new drapery or upholstery fabric. Also, it lends itself well to table linens and place-mats. This is what I, myself, call a 5/3 huck variation, where you have blocks of five threads and blocks of three threads to make up your threading draft. The most common huck probably is three threads in each block, and it can be further extended from three threads in a block to five, or seven, or nine, or on up. However, there is always an uneven number of threads in each block.

Swiss Handcraft School

(Continued from Page 3)

build, how to choose locations, and how to continue living after disaster has struck.

They will often go out into a village and try to get them to build a village center where they can both teach and sell their handcrafts and works.

The cost is reasonable beyond belief for the Swiss peasant. The charge 25 francs a week,

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which is \$6.00 a week for room and lodging, and instruction for the peasants from up in the mountains. They have a price scale of cost of instruction which depends upon the person's position in life, which I think is a wonderful way of handling charges for such instruction.

One of their most popular courses that they teach is a two week class in early December of every year which prepares or teaches the individual how to cook, how to decorate and how to prepare the home for Christmas. It is figured that most of their students pay about 10 per cent of the actual cost of living and instruction, and the rest comes from their Heimatwork shops, from the government, and from individuals who make donations for the school to operate. Many factories make annual donations to this school, as they hope to get well trained personnel to work for them from this school.

Their first instructions were given in 1943 and they are now in their 26th year of this type of work.

DON'T YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THE SWISS FOR THEIR INITIATIVE AND INDUSTRY. I DO.

Just a few more words about the Swiss people, as we have about 1/3 of a column to use here.

First of all, the Swiss love of country is one of the things that impressed us so much. And their energy in trying to improve their country, and to utilize all of the natural resources that they have is another thing that surprized and also pleased us.

This next fact is almost unbelievable, but one day while we were there we heard a broadcast in English by the United States Armed Forces radio in Germany, and they stated that total national unemployment in Switzerland for that day was 47. This is almost so low, that you feel you can't believe it, but I do, because I have been there and seen the country and people.

I believe that the Swiss employ some 300,000 persons from Italy and from Germany and France, and that they all cross the border and come into Switzerland each day to work and then commute back home in the evening.

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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.

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100 PER CENT ALPACA IN TWO COLORS

This comes in a 2/24's worsted size, and is a beautiful yarn. It is \$4.80 per lb., and comes in Light Fawn color and Light Avocado. On about 1½ lb. to 2 lb. tubes. Price above is correct. \$4.80 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

HEAVY SLUB LINEN AND RAYON

A most beautiful yarn with about 600 to 800 yards per pound. Would make beautiful coats, drapes, etc. Natural linen with white rayon, and an occasional brown rayon inject. Price is \$3.20 per pound. Comes on 2½ to 3 lb. cones. We will try and wind off a minimum of a 1/2 lb. spool for you if you wish. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

7/1 BLEACHED THIRSTY LINEN

A new shipment of 150 lbs. of this bleached slightly slubby linen has just come in from Scotland. It is on cones of 1½ lbs. each, and is reasonably priced at \$2.30 per lb. Made especially for weft in soft, rich, absorbent linen bath towels, and face towels. Use a 20/2 linen or 20/2 ramie for warp and this for weft, and have some beautiful towels. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARD WEAVING:

Our book on Card Weaving has just been reprinted. Contains complete directions, and 53 patterns for card weaving, with step by step illustrations in both pictures and words. Price is \$3.50 plus 18c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FLAKE WOOL IN THREE COLORS — MADE TO RESEMBLE MEXICAN HAND- SPUN YARN.

It has about 1100 yards per lb., and comes in 3 colors. Dark Olive, Silver Gray, and Copper Brown. All rich colors. Price is \$3.20 per lb., and we are limited in amounts available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TIE AND DYE AS A PRESENT DAY CRAFT

by Ann Maille is in stock again. An excellent instructional book on tie and dye work. Outstanding. Price is \$6.50 plus 18c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPIN YOUR OWN WOOL, AND DYE IT AND WEAVE IT.

A long title for a little book, but an excellent one. Price is \$2.95 plus 18c postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

JUST 12 COPIES AVAILABLE OF THE OUT OF PRINT BOOK, LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING.

We located 12 copies of this book and have them on sale at \$4.50 each, plus 18c postage. Out of print, and eagerly sought after. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

AN ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT LAMP FOR A LOOM LAMP.

This is an excellent floor model loom light. Leans in over any corner of your loom and gives you the light you need. Adjustable height from 36" to 61" height. Has an excellent light shield to keep the light out of your eyes. Price is \$15.75 plus shipping. Shipping is about \$1.00 to \$3.00, depending upon where it is shipped. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLACK AND WHITE HEAVY SLUB RAYON

This slub yarn has about 1,000 yards per lb. and has a fairly heavy slub. Price is \$3.20 per lb. on about 1/2 lb. tubes. Just 50 lbs. available. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW SHIPMENT OF STRINGS OF WOODEN BEADS, HANDMADE IN SWITZERLAND.

Our third shipment of 40 strings of the beautiful Swiss hand-made wooden beads has just come in. Beautifully made, of all kinds of hardwood. Some are of rosewood, some of nut woods from Africa, some of cherry, and some of zebra wood. One of the most interesting strings of beads you can find. Price is \$4.95 per string. All have a clever fastener, which is strong and durable. About 8 pairs of earrings are available at \$2.50, and solid wood rings of beautiful woods at \$1.50 are also available to wear on your wrist. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

20/2 EGYPTIAN COTTON IN 86 COLORS

These are beautiful colored Egyptian cottons in a mercerized and gassed thread. Strong, and durable, it is excellent for warp and weft. And, at long last, we have sample sheets made up of these 85 colors. Price is \$5.50 per lb. for the Egyptian cotton in size 20/2, and it comes on 1/2 lb. tubes. About 70 of these colors are available in a 10/2 cotton and about 25 of them are available in a 16/2 and also in a 5/2 cotton. All on our sample sheets. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

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