



warp and weft

Vol. XXIV, No. 1

January, 1971

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Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

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A Word from the Editor:

This is being written just a few days before Christmas, so now is the time that we, at Robin & Russ Handweaving Studio, wish you a happy and prosperous new year. And may all of your weaving projects this coming year, be successful, beyond your wildest expectations.

We've had some unusual experiences this past month. One of them was almost a \$1010 fine by United States Customs. Let me tell you about it. We imported 1,000 pounds of silk from Switzerland. The United States regulations require that if the silk is not marked 100% silk, and the country of origin, that the buyer has to do this, before it is released for resale. So, we ordered tags printed, and put them on about 8,000 tubes. And we sent samples of the various kinds to customs via United Parcel Service. But the whole catch was that United Parcel went out on a wildcat strike, and so the parcel proving our doing the work was not delivered until after the deadline, because of the strike. And so, when the deadline passed, United States Customs fined us \$1,010.00.

Because of the circumstances of the strike, etc., and being able to prove this, it was reviewed by customs and reduced to \$25.00, for which we are very thankful. And now, we have another shipment of wool coming in the same way from England, which was not marked by the manufacturer, and so we have to have this done by the 16th of the month of January, in order to avoid another fine. You can imagine the work that is involved in meeting this, but it has to be done, so we try and get it done as quickly as possible.

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And another example of problems with customs. We had 20 packages of wool tops shipped from Switzerland, 17 in one shipment, and 3 in another. We received the first shipment and the duty for the entire shipment was paid with the arrival of the first package. The second and third came with separate duty on each package. Then five more came in through Chicago with duty on 17 packages and we had to pay the full duty again in order to get the packages. Then the others came dribbling in, and we had to pay separate duty on about six of the 12 packages. And also, about two months after they started arriving, we are still shy one package. We do figure that we paid about 250 per cent duty on this shipment. And we can't make a claim for a refund until the last package comes in. Sometimes, we begin to wonder whether it is worth importing the items that we cannot find in the United States, when such problems do crop up.

Business has slowed down a little for us as Christmas approaches, and it is giving us a little time to try and to catch up with loads of work. And this, we seem to be doing, so we'll be able to start the new year out with almost all of our work caught up. We still are having long delays on one item, and that is on the odd widths of reeds such as 4", 6", etc. We've been getting in the 5" high ones, but surely are unhappy with delays in the 6" and 4" ones.

We are delighted that our daughter, Janice, was able to weave this sample for this month's issue, during her spare time while attending Oregon State University. It is a great help to have her do some of the weaving for us, as I seem to be busy answering letters more than anything else, as well as ordering supplies, etc.

Our conference plans for April 30th, and May 1 and 2 are progressing nicely, and seem to be well under control, so we are delighted with the progress. We do have three good speakers who have signed a contract; we will have an evening banquet and fashion show, and many, many other items of interest to the handweaver, so do make your plans to attend.

There is just one problem with this increase in business, and that is that your editor has so little time to do some actual weaving, that it is very disheartening when he cannot do it.

It looks as though the only way I'll be able to do any advance planning, is to do as I did this summer, to go off somewhere alone for two, three or four weeks and try to plan some projects for a year in advance. I'm hoping that this can be worked out for this coming summer, so we will have some pleasing projects for you.

Well, enough of our activities for the time being, and back to our sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph:

This month's cover photograph is one of Paula Simmons, our guest editor, who wrote the interesting article on raising sheep which is in this issue. This picture tells the same thing that she mentions in the article, that the age of the sheep determines the color of the black sheep's wool. Note in the picture the young lamb, almost black, and varying shades of browns, greys, etc.

A Series of Articles on Spinning, On Raising Black Sheep From Paula Simmons

This is the first in a series of articles by spinner Paula Simmons. She and her husband raise BLACK SHEEP and spin the wool, for sale to weavers and knitters. We are so delighted to be able to present these articles from Paula Simmons, and hope that you will enjoy them, as much as we do.

Raising Black Sheep, Trials and Tribulations

Did you know that black lambs have black tongues? This was one of our more fascinating discoveries, along with the significance of a lamb's tail, in our adventures with Black Sheep's wool. Russ thought you might like a closer look at the "trials and tribulations" of raising Black Sheep, and that it would be help-

ful to other spinners who wanted to keep sheep, and it might be interesting to all others as well.

We got our start of Black Sheep with old ewes (a substitute for the young ewes we had bargained for, but who had been poisoned by weed-killer) and the birth of our first lamb was a real thrill — it was the first newborn lamb we had ever seen, and how pleased we were that it was a black one. We named it Lambie Pie (what else?) and 15 years later, after producing some 40 dark lambs, mostly triplets, this ragged old ewe was still called Lambie Pie. Later that first spring, the lamb's mother died of heart failure during shearing, a shock both to us and to the shearer. We have sheared our own sheep every year since, being especially gentle with the older ones.

Our area has a moderate climate, as far as extremes of temperature, but a long rainy season. Sheep don't seem to mind a light rain. It usually takes a heavy rain, plus wind, to get them to go into the barn, which does create a problem when there are small lambs. We keep mama and baby in a lambing pen for the first three days, warm and dry and getting well acquainted. After that, bad weather can be handled in two ways. One is a canvas lamb coat which are really cute, although some ewes find them disturbing. The other way is to do what old time shepherds call "facing;" trim the wool off the ewe's face, and she willingly seeks shelter when it rains, taking her lamb with her.

One of the greatest pleasures (and biggest headaches) of sheep raising is the bottle lamb. This lamb is sometimes one rejected by its mother (possible causes too numerous to mention) which is really a frustrating situation when it is a single birth, with a hungry lamb, and an increasingly uncomfortable mother. If it is one of twins, I gleefully insist on bottle feeding, for there is nothing sweeter than a tame lamb, especially a black one. By the end of three months of bottle feeding, at least three times a day even at that age, I've had some second thoughts.

There are several brands of milk-replacers for sale in feed stores. Most are sold for raising calves, but we have had better success with canned milk, diluted to just a little less than one-half strength with hot water. It costs

(Continued on page 6)

THE BIRCH FOREST

This sample reminds us of the white birch trees we see in Oregon with the spring green of the grass and the grayness of the bare limbs still showing through the white and green. It is a huck variation for drapes, for placemats, or for many other uses.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP

X — 10/2 Bleached White Irish Linen
 O — 16/2 Ramie, Fog Grey
 A — 16/2 Ramie, Light Avocado

REED USED:

An 8 dent reed was used with a special sleying of the reed, as listed below.

WARP THREADS USED:

In our warp, we have three threads. Both are imported threads. We have used two colors of 16/2 ramie, and one of them is a new color, Light Avocado, we had dyed to order for us. The other is the standard stock color Fog Grey in the 16/2 ramie. This has 2400 yards per pound.

The other thread we used was a 10/2 Irish Linen in bleached white. It has 1500 yards per pound, and comes on one pound tubes at \$4.50 per pound.

WEFT THREADS USED:

The same three threads that were used in the warp were also used in the weft.

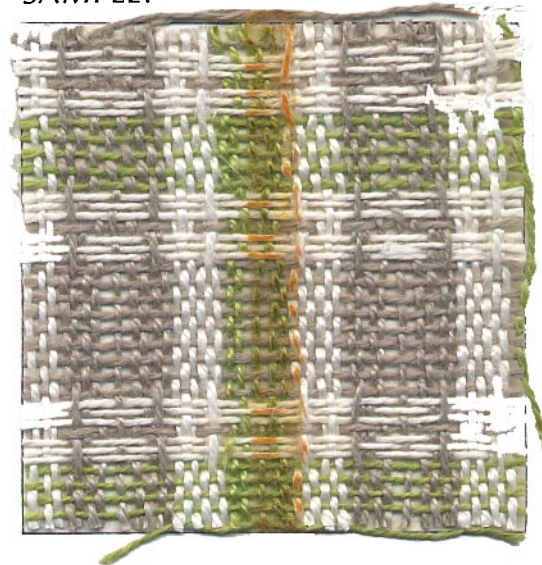
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TIE-UP DRAFT:

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
					A	B

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
 O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

SAMPLE:



SLEYING OF THE REED:

We will give you the sleying of the reed for one complete pattern repeat, and on the threading draft, we will read from right to left as you are supposed to on all threading drafts. And remember, we used an 8 dent reed for this special sleying of the reed.

- 1st dent — 3 ends 10/2 White Linen
- 2nd dent — 3 ends 10/2 White Linen
- 3rd dent — 2 ends 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
- 4th dent — 2 ends 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
- 5th dent — 1 end 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
- 6th dent — 2 ends 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
- 7th dent — 2 ends 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
- 8th dent — 3 ends 10/2 White Linen

9th dent — 3 ends 10/2 White Linen
10th dent — 2 ends 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
11th dent — 1 end 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
12th dent — 2 ends 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie

End of one complete pattern repeat. REPEAT OVER AND OVER.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

Please note that there are 28 shots in one complete pattern repeat, and we will give it to you in a shot by shot sequence.

1. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
2. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
3. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
4. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Avocado Ramie
5. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Lt. Avocado Ramie
6. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
7. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
8. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
9. Treadle No. 3 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
10. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
11. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
12. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
13. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
14. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
15. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
16. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
17. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
18. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
19. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
20. Treadle No. 5 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
21. Treadle No. 6 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
22. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
23. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
24. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
25. Treadle No. 3 — 16/2 Fog Grey Ramie
26. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
27. Treadle No. 1 — 10/2 White Irish Linen
28. Treadle No. 4 — 10/2 White Irish Linen

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT. DO REPEAT OVER AND OVER AS DESIRED.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

As it is both linen and ramie that you are using in both the warp and weft, I suggest that you use a firm, even, double beat, beating with the shed open, changing to the next shed and beating again before you throw the shuttle. This is because of the characteristics of the linen and ramie, and that it should be

beat fairly tightly, especially with the sleying of the reed we have used.

It is an easy fabric to weave, and you might have trouble with the linen unwinding on the bobbin, so our suggestion is that you wind the bobbins of 10/2 white linen only about 3/4 full, and do not wind them full on the ends, but only in the center, and this should result in less trouble of the linen unwinding and wrapping around the metal rod of the boat shuttle.

If you do use for drapes, for mats, etc., I do suggest that you wash the fabric first, allow to drip dry, and then steam press. Or even better yet, you can wash first, and then press dry after you have allowed most of the water to drip off the fabric. We did not do any finishing to our sample here, so it is just the same as when it came off the loom.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

The 16/2 ramie is now \$5.60 per lb., on approximately 1 lb. tubes, or it is \$1.50 per 4 oz. tubes. It has 2400 yards per pound, or 600 yards per 4 oz. tube. This is one of the four new colors we had dyed to order for us, this light avocado. We also have a bright orange, a castle gold, and a sort of blue green color called jade teal. We now have 21 different colors available in this ramie yarn, and gradually we will have more colors dyed to order, until we can stock about 30 to 40 colors. It costs you much less than comparable linens, and the manufacturers tell us that the colors are wash fast and sun fast.

The 10/2 Bleached White Irish Linen is \$4.50 per lb. However, we do have a new stock on order, and when it does come in, it will probably go up some, as our price was increased on the new order.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We had about a 10 yard warp, 42" wide. It took approximately 2½ lbs. of 10/2 linen, and 1½ lbs. of 16/2 ramie for our warp, so our warp cost came to \$19.65 or \$1.97 per yard.

In the weft, it took less thread than was used in the warp. It took about 2 lbs. of 10/2 linen, and about 1¼ lbs. of 16/2 ramie in 9

yards of finished fabric. So our weft cost was \$16.00 for 9 yards of finished fabric, or \$1.88 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD \$1.97
WEFT COST PER YARD \$1.88

FABRIC COST PER YARD, 40" \$3.85

RAISING BLACK SHEEP

Continued from Page 3

more, but nothing is more distressing than a sick lamb, which frequently happens with use of a milk substitute. During the first few hours, getting some of its own mother's milk is important, or the milk of another ewe that has just lambed, for this first flow of milk is rich and thick in vitamins, and it also acts as a laxative. If this is not available, a "newborn lamb milk formula" can be prepared to use for the first two days, combining:

- 26 oz. diluted canned milk (more than 1/2 water)
- 1 Tbsp. castor oil or codliver oil
- 1 Tbsp glucose or sugar
- 1 beaten egg yolk.

Note: Discontinue the addition of oil, sugar and egg yolk after the first two days.

Give this in three or four ounce feedings, depending upon the size of the lamb, and being sure not to overfeed, which can cause diarrhea. Immediate use of Pepto Bismol is the easiest remedy for the result of over-feeding a bottle lamb.

As a lamb gets older and stronger, it drinks more, and gets correspondingly louder at mealtime, bouncing its bottle like a punching bag, and makes a real pest of itself. Sooner or later one thing inevitably happens. It gives a mighty swig at the bottle and pulls off the nipple, splashing everyone with milk and creating even one more threat of disaster — the possibility that it will not only chew on the removed nipple, but will actually swallow it before you can take it away.

With sheep raising on a small scale, there is the danger of making pets of the weakest lambs, and becoming so attached to them that you keep them instead of selecting a more desirable animal for breeding. My husband says I spelled "pets" wrong — it is spelled "pests."

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If a rejected lamb is a single birth, it is more urgent that the mother accept it. One fun solution, sometimes but not always successful, is the use of a little aerosol treatment called "U-Lam," made in England, which smells very much like vanilla, and is sprayed on the ewe's nose and the lamb's rear. Some people say they have used a room deodorant in this way, with the same result.

The fleece of a Black Sheep tends to lighten, from year to year. In the beginning we were disappointed, but in the long run it proved to be an advantage because it gave a greater variation in color from a relatively small flock. The first shearing of the lamb will be its darkest wool, and after that will come dark brown or charcoal, then medium brown or medium gray, then tan or light gray, and sometimes eventually a marvelous silver gray. This change is quite gradual, and the rams, as you may guess, get gray slower than the ewes.

One way of determining the eventual type of wool in every young lamb is the wool on the tip of the tail. Note the amount of guard hairs in relation to the softer underhair, or how coarse and wavy it is. While it is hard to tell the adult wool type for sure from inspection of a three-four month lamb, unless you are very familiar with the wool development of the particular breed, the wool on the tip of the lamb's tail can be held a reliable indication.

For information on the many things I've not mentioned, I recommend the free pamphlets on sheep that are available from your County Agricultural Extension Office, covering nearly all the problems that might be encountered, and giving a lot of helpful advice.

Paula Simmons

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STEP BY STEP MACRAME

It is an instruction book, with step by step directions that is very popular. Price is \$2.50 plus pp. Has been out of print, and was just reprinted this month. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BAMBOO BAG HANDLES.

We have about four different sizes just in from Switzerland of the tote type bag handles. They are 1/2 circles with rods to put your material on. Priced from \$2.00 to \$4.00 each, depending upon size. Smaller ones cost less. Also, we have 6" and 7" circles at \$1.75 per pair. Also, there are larger circles from Switzerland which clip together, as well as oval ones. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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OUT OF PRINT BOOK, THE TECHNIQUE OF WOVEN TAPESTRY IS AVAILABLE FROM ROBIN & RUSS

We have been unable to get this book from the distributors in the U.S.A., so while in England this summer, I was able to locate 36 copies of this outstanding tapestry book. It was written by Tadek Beutlick and many of the weaving instructors have mentioned that it is an outstanding book on planning and weaving and tapestry, so we are pleased to have it at the regular price of \$10.95 plus postage and insurance. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CARD-WEAVING KITS:—

These kits consist of all items needed for card-weaving. Consists of a book with complete directions, a set of 100 cards, a special made shuttle, and 6 skeins of yarn. You save \$2.70 by buying it by the kit. Price is \$8.00 per kit, plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ICELANDIC WOOL

in 16 colors. This is called Lopi, and there are 6 natural colors-undyed, and then 10 dyed colors available. Price is \$1.90 per skein. Also available are two knitting instruction booklets giving complete directions for knitting outstanding sweaters of this yarn. Booklets are \$1.00 each. Postage extra on all orders. It takes from 6 to 8 skeins per sweater for most sizes of sweaters. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

NATURAL BRUSHED MOHAIR

This very nice yarn has about 1250 yards per lb., and comes on cones of 1½ to 2 lbs. each. Price is \$4.80 per lb. We will wind off 1/2 lb. tubes for you at \$2.50 each, if you do not want a full cone. This will not last long, it is a popular thread. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NAVAJO NATIVE DYES

is once again back in print. This interesting dyeing pamphlet was out of print and has just been reprinted. Price is \$1.50 plus 12¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

VEGETABLE DYEING, by Emma Conley

has also just been reprinted. It has always been about the most popular of the natural dyeing pamphlets, and was out of print for over a year. Still the same price of \$1.25 plus 12¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SALISH WEAVING

is an interesting and well illustrated booklet on the weaving of the Salish Indians in Canada. It is the story of this craft, and how it has been revived. Price is \$2.95 plus 12¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE HANDBOOK OF KNOTS, by Raoul Graumont

is an excellent little manual for the Macrame worker. It has 428 different knots illustrated, and sells at just \$1.75 plus 12¢ postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

REDUCED PRICE ON CASTLE TYPE SPINNING WHEELS.

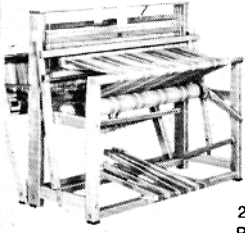
On our recent trip to Europe, we were able to order these direct from the manufacturer in England, instead of a middle-man in England, so we have been able to reduce this outstanding spinning wheel from \$110.00 to just \$95.00 each. Also, there is no packing charge now that we can get a box the right size, free of charge, so take advantage of this price reduction while you can. It is \$95.00 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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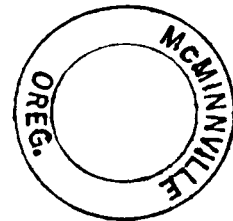
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