

warp and weft

Vol. XXV, No. 9

November, 1972

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Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

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A Word from the Editor:

I had a wonderful trip in September visiting England, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany and found many, many new threads.

In Fact, I've ordered so many unusual threads, that I'm now worried about how I will pay for them when they do arrive, and my hope is that they do not all arrive at once, or I'll be stuck.

And besides the many, many beautiful yarns I ordered on this trip, there were many other highlights. I was accompanied on this trip by some friends from Portland, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. (Andy) Anderson, and I think that they enjoyed the trip just as much as I did.

I was most fortunate. While in Scotland, one of the directors of one company kindly took my golfing one day at St. Andrews golf course, which was a tremendous treat for me.

Some of the many items that I've ordered for resale in the shop are:

1. **HEAVY RUG WOOL**, with an inner core of jute. The wool is wrapped around the jute and it has a small touch of various colors blended with natural. We have about 17 different color combinations coming.
2. **HEAVY, 6 PLY RUG WOOL**. We are working out details with a company for a standard line of 50 colors of a 100% wool rug yarn. Might take a while, but we do think we will eventually get these.

3. **NATURAL BRUSHED MOHAIR**. We have about 200 lbs. of this on order and it should be shipped very shortly from England.

4. **11 COLORS IN 4 PLY, MULTICOLORED HEAVY WOOL ROVING YARNS**. These are nice blends of yarns, and would have many uses.

5. **HEAVY SLUB LINEN IN 11 COLORS**. This will be heavy 2½ lea slub linen like the natural and white we stock. It will have 750 yards per lb., and will be sunfast and washfast colors.

6. **10/2 THIRSTY LINEN IN 11 COLORS**. We have contemplated these for a couple of years, and at long last, I took the bull by the horns, and ordered this linen.

7. **4 BEAUTIFUL ORLON BOUCLE BLENDS**. These are beautiful yarns, and I fell in love with them when I saw them, and had to order some.

8. **BEAUTIFUL BOBBIN LACE BOBBINS**. These will be coming from Denmark, and are extra nice.

9. **NEW BOOKS OR REPRINTS OF BOOKS OUT OF PRINT**. We are dickering with two publishers for about 15 different out of print books. One is almost a reality, terms are being worked out on a second, and we hope eventually to have more news on others.

10. **WOOL TWEEDS, BOTH HEAVY & LIGHT**. We have about 10 different colors of these on order.

11. **LOOP MOHAIR IN NATURAL AND WHITE WITH LARGE LOOPS**.

12. **16 COLORS IN WOOL NUB YARNS**. As wool will be going up about \$1.00 to \$2.00 per lb., during the next year, we tried to purchase all the unusual wool yarns we could find.

I could really go on and on, until this list reached about 40 to 50 items, but these are the major accomplishments on this trip.

Now, my main problem is to hope that they do not all arrive at the same time, so that I can perhaps sell some that is coming to help pay for others coming later.

You can see that this really was a busy trip, when all of these things were achieved in a period of about 20 working days, in five different countries.

Travel is fun, is educational, and is rewarding. However, my kind of business trip is a hectic one, making long distance calls for appointments, taking different train connections, and getting to and from as many different places as possible in a minimum amount of time.

I think that if I can get to go again, I should plan on more leisure time and relaxation, so that on the working days, I can accomplish more.

And you should see the work that awaits one, when you return after an absence of 30 days. I'm still struggling through two boxes of questionable and problems in the mail, and I've been back for three weeks now, but more than that, getting back on schedule for publications, magazines, and getting samples woven.

The week after my return we had a workshop here for the Portland Handweavers, by Louise and Ralph Cunningham, and we had a total of 40 weavers participate in the two day workshops. You can see what a job this was to get together 15 looms and have them all warped and ready to go for the workshop.

I must say that I felt this workshop was so inspirational to those who did attend it, that we are tentatively trying to arrange to do it again next year.

Now the correspondence, and packages are starting to arrive with some of the purchases on the trip, and it is almost like Christmas, everytime there is a new package to open, and new ideas and yarns arriving in each letter and package. Already, I have tentatively planned three or four new stops on a trip to England next year, that have materialized, as a result of the trip this year.

You can see one thing. This job of mine, which I so thoroughly enjoy, does not lack for variety and for new and exciting problems almost every day. It is a challenge to come to work, and I know that I will enjoy the challenge, before I do come to work.

Well enough for this time, and I'll tell you more in later issues.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

This month, the cover photograph is a close-up of a tapestry I saw on display at Palm Springs at the Southern California conference this spring.

This tapestry used a linen warp, but what impressed me the most was the use of the different natural colors and the texture of the hand-spun wool yarns in the weft. To me, these seemed to add so much to this particular tapestry, that I just had to take this picture and show you some of the details of the actual weaving on the wall hanging.

You can just imagine how much fun it would be to weave a wall hanging of this type with natural colors in handspun wool. Hope that you enjoy this as much as I did in seeing it.

This Month's Book Review:

This month's book review is on a subject that is very popular now. It is a review of the book "VEGETABLE DYEING," by Alma Lesch. A subtitle on the covering is also 151 color recipes for dyeing yarns and fabrics with natural materials.

First, the first thing that attracts you about this book is the inside cover on the front and back of the book. There are 24 color swatches on each of the four pages, showing 96 fabrics dyed with natural dyes, and giving the dyes and mordant used on each. This in itself, makes this an outstanding book.

The book or recipes are divided into eight main color ranges with specific dye substances and mordants given for each of the colors explained. These are called the primary and secondary ranges, and also a section is given for browns and blacks. The shades of colors are all explained, the degree of color fastness is given, and the properties of the various mordants used are also explained.

A source of supply for chemicals, fibers, and dye substances is given.

General information comprises the first portion of the book such as equipment, work

(Continued on page 5)

OP-ART

Yes, this four harness pattern almost gives one an optical illusion, as do the colors of red, white and blue, so I do hope you will enjoy this weave.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

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.

WARP

The warp in this sample is 18/2's worsted yarns in three different colors. This is the worsted yarn which we import from England.

A — color #3, Dark Navy Blue Worsted
O — color #11, Bleached White Worsted
X — color #15, Lacquer Red Worsted

WEFT

The same three colors are used in the weft as are used in the warp.

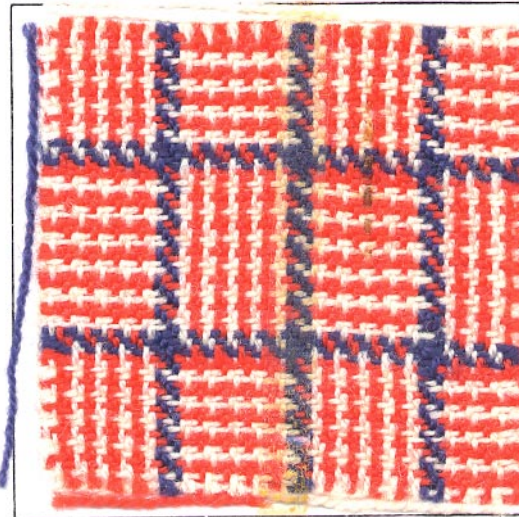
REED USED

A 15 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 30 threads per inch.

SOURCE OF IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE

When in Norway last year, I found a piece of cloth in this pattern woven with Norwegian, Single Ply, Homespun yarn, which was sett at 20 per inch. I had also seen such a fabric in a traveling exhibition many years ago, and made notes on it, and finally seeing it again in Norway, inspired me to have something done with it.

SAMPLE:



TREADLING SEQUENCE

There are 56 shots in one complete repeat of the pattern. I will try and simplify the treadling sequence here, so we do not have to write out all of the 56 shots in one complete repeat.

1. Treadle #1 — color #3, Dary Navy Blue
2. Treadle #2 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
3. Treadle #3 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
4. Treadle #4 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
5. Treadle #1 — color #11, Bleached White
6. Treadle #2 — color #11, Bleached White
7. Treadle #3 — color #15, Lacquer Red
8. Treadle #4 — color #15, Lacquer Red

Then repeat shots #5 to #8 a total of five more times, or until you have 24 threads of the sequence one and two white, and three and four lacquer red. Then proceed.

29. Treadle #3 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
30. Treadle #4 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
31. Treadle #1 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
32. Treadle #2 — color #3, Dark Navy Blue
33. Treadle #3 — color #11, Bleached White
34. Treadle #4 — color #11, Bleached White
35. Treadle #1 — color #15, Lacquer Red
36. Treadle #2 — color #15, Lacquer Red

Then repeat shots #33, #34, #35, #36, a total of five more times, or until you have 24 threads of the sequence three and four white and one and two lacquer red. This will then total 56 shots in all, or one complete pattern repeat.

MORE ABOUT THIS SAMPLE

Our warp was set up 41" wide, plus we also added some eight threads of nylon selvage on one side, and seven threads of nylon selvage on the other.

And, in the weaving of this piece of 2/18's worsted fabric, we used a stretcher or temple, to keep it out to full width. I feel that on a piece like this, you will gain a full two inches of width, as the result of using a stretcher or temple, and I really recommend that you use one of these on almost every wool yardage.

The weaving was quite easy. A light, and even double beat was used, and the weft was thrown through the shed, beat with the shed open, changed to the next shed, and beat lightly again with the shed open.

There were no broken threads in the weaving of this, except for the few knots found in the warp. Of course, these were cut out and taken care of, so that they did not appear in the fabric.

I forgot to mention that the nylon selvage threads on both edges helped keep the fin-

ished fabric wider, and it also provided a place for inserting the teeth of the temple or stretcher.

COST OF THE THREADS USED

The 2/18's worsteds come on 1/2 lb. tubes in 39 different colors. We have them all in stock. Price is \$6.80 per lb. All of the threads in the Warp and Weft in this sample are 2/18's worsted.

COST OF THIS FABRIC

In our 12 yard warp, 41" wide, sett at 30 inches, it took 9 oz. of the Dark Navy Blue, 1 lb. 6 oz. of White, and 1 lb. 2 oz. of the Lacquer Red. Thus, our total warp thread used was 3 lbs. 1 oz. at \$6.80 per lb. Total warp cost was \$20.83, or the cost per yard was \$1.75.

In the weft, we used 6 oz. of the Dark Navy Blue, 16 oz. of White, and 16 oz. of Red or a total of 2 lbs. 6 oz. in 11 yards of weft. The total weft cost was \$16.15 or the weft cost per yard was \$1.47.

WARP COST PER YARD, 41" Wide	\$1.75
WEFT COST PER YARD, 11 yards	\$1.47

FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.22
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BOOK REVIEW (Continued from page 3)

space, collecting, preserving, water, fibers, stripping, mordanting, color fastness, etc.

And then each of the 151 color recipes is explained in full, with complete details for each of these recipes.

One of the things I like in this book, is a thorough color information chart, and the dye substance is given, the mordant that should be used, the color range for that dye stuff, the suitable materials that substance should dye, and the degree of fastness are all given on this chart.

I personally feel that this is one of the better books on the subject of Vegetable Dyeing, and I can recommend it as outstanding.

TITLE: VEGETABLE DYEING

AUTHOR: Alma Lesch

PUBLISHERS: Watson-Guption Publications

PRICE: \$7.95 plus postage

AVAILABLE: Direct from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers

TEN (10) BOOKS EITHER PUBLISHED OR DISTRIBUTED BY ROBIN & RUSS

1. CARD WEAVING OR TABLET WEAVING:

By Russell E. Groff. Complete instructions for cardweaving, plus 53 illustrated patterns are given in this booklet. It has detailed directions for making the warps, setting up the cards, and weaving the narrow bands. Drafts for all 53 patterns are included. **\$3.50**

2. SECTIONAL WARPING MADE EASY.

Just now in the process of being reprinted, this manual has 25 photographs showing sectional warping in the step by step stages. Text in both words and pictures makes this method of warping very easy to understand, and answers most of your questions. **\$2.95**

3. WARP AND WEFT FROM TIBET.

By William A. King. This Tibetan method of rug and tapestry weaving is most interesting. Exactly as it is done in Tibet, the author and his parents spent many years in Tibet where they learned this technique. A good diagram is given on a small tapestry loom. **\$3.50**

4. BOBBIN LACE.

By Elsie Gubser. This gives complete instructions for bobbin lace, even telling how to make your own pillow and bobbins. Many drawings and photographs. 13 lessons on Torchon lace, one on tape lace, and one on Brussels lace. Also, 10 extra patterns explained by pictures. **\$5.00**

5. AN EYE FOR COLOR.

By Bernat Klein. Fascinating. Anyone interested in clothes, weaving, art, furnishings or creativity will love this book. Written by one of Scotland's most famous textile designers, this book tells of his inspirations, and how he transfers them into fabric. These are not tapestries, but woven fabrics inspired by the artist's own absorption with various subjects which he first paints (sometimes again and again) and finally expresses in fabrics with a variety of textures and colors that are breathtaking. There are 22 vivid color photographs. 136 pages, 8¼ x 9". **Price is \$9.95**

6. LICHENS FOR VEGETABLE DYEING.

By Eileen Bolton. This new edition is being printed for Robin & Russ Handweavers and will be shipped from Italy in March, and should be available in April, 1972. This book has 6 color plates, 5 of them of the various lichens, and the 6th is a page of fleece, dyed different colors with lichens. There are 6 major parts to this book. 1. The Lichen Dyes, 2. The Lichen Plant, 3. The Orchil-producing Lichens, 4. The Boiling Water Lichens and less plentiful lichens which give dyes, 5. The extracting of orchil dyes, and 6. Extracting the dyes, boiling water method. Excellent descriptions are given of the lichens, how to gather them, and a list of the lichens in America is also given. **\$4.95.**

7. A MANUAL OF HANDMADE BOBBIN LACE WORK.

By Margaret Maidment. Considered by many lace-makers to be one of the outstanding instruction books in the teaching of bobbin lace, this book was just republished by Robin & Russ Handweavers. It covers thoroughly many, many different areas of bobbin lace such as the materials needed, the general methods used, the various stitches, and then it teaches you about different famous laces such as Torchon Lace, Torchon Corners, Cluny, Beds-Maltese, Honiton Lace, Bucks Point Ground, and others. This hard-bound edition is protected with a clear plastic cover. **Price is \$12.50.**

8. THE ROMANCE OF THE LACE PILLOW.

By Thomas Wright. This is not an instruction book, but it is an outstanding history of the lace-making industry in England from about 1500 to 1850. Very, very absorbing, you will be delighted with the details in this book as to how the lace industry was started, why, and other related details. How the bobbins are made, where, and how the traditions about lace started, are all given in excellent detail in this book. Most interesting details are given, and it is a well illustrated book. **Price is \$11.50**

9. PILLOW LACE

By Elizabeth Mincoff and Margaret Marriage. Another outstanding lace book that is excellent for the beginner, and the advanced lace-maker. Instructions seem to be clear and concise and those who already own this book say it is an outstanding one. Also on the back cover page are two removable sheets with nine patterns for you to transfer to your mounting or pattern board. You'll like this one. **Price is \$12.50**

10. HONITON LACE BOOK

By "Devonia." This is a book for the advanced lace maker, and it gives some of the directions for making the beautiful "Honiton" laces, which are so famous. This book gives directions for each of the illustrated patterns. Originally published about 1900, the author writes, this book contains "FULL AND PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACQUIRING THE ART OF MAKING THIS BEAUTIFUL AND FASHIONABLE LACE." **Price is \$8.00**

DEALERS INQUIRIES ON THESE BOOKS ARE INVITED

ORDER FROM: Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128

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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 \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

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Heavy, heavy handspun 100% wool from Germany in natural natural, natural brown, light grey, and medium grey. Four shades of natural in wool yarn about as thick as your thumb. 100 gram, or 3½ oz. skeins. Price is \$2.25 per skein while it lasts. A beautiful yarn, which we can duplicate over and over if desired. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BEAUTIFUL SPACE DYED BRUSHED MOHAIR FROM ENGLAND

There are four colors in this. One is reds and oranges, another shades of beige and gold, light and dark blues, and light and dark greens. On about 5 to 8 oz. cones. Price is \$12.00 per lb. This is the most beautiful brushed mohair I have seen, and each color combination has been dyed three times in order to obtain these beautiful blending of colors. This yarn cost us almost \$8.00 per lb., plus shipping and duty, and so we have to sell it at \$12.00 per lb. This is 75¢ per oz., which is about 1/3 of what you would pay if you purchased it in a knitting shop. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ANTIQUE, NAMED, BONE OR IVORY BOBBIN LACE BOBBINS

These antique bobbins all have names or quotes on them, and are from 100 to 150 years old, from England. Made of bone or ivory, we have about 30 available at \$5.00 each. And, we have some unusual wooden ones, with pewter inlay or decoration, with handmade beads at \$3.00 each. These are going up in price so much in England, that I feel these are quite a bargain at \$3.00 and \$5.00. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BEAUTIFUL, BOBBIN LACE BOBBINS, FINE QUALITY, WELL FINISHED AND DELICATE FROM DENMARK

These are somewhat similar, but nicer, than the fine delicate Swedish bobbin lace bobbins we used to be able to get. Price is \$3.25 per dozen. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6 STRAND SILK FLOSS, on 2 to 5 oz. tubes.

Ideal for embroidery, for pattern thread in over-shot, for stitchery and the like. The price is 60¢ per ounce. We have about 200 different colors, but some colors we have only 1/2 lb. to a lb., and others, we have two or three lbs., so it is impossible to make sample sheets. We will be glad to send you a lot of pound of silk floss, for instance in four or five shades of greens, roses, yellows, blues, etc. Most seem to be on about 2 to 3 oz. tubes. And the wood spools they are on, we have seen advertised for 50¢ each just for the wood spool, so this is a good buy. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5/1 BLEACHED SLUB LINEN FROM SCOTLAND

This is a good buy at \$3.20 per lb., and it is on cones of about 1½ to 2 lbs. each. Has approximately 1500 yards per lb., and I imagine our next lot of this from Scotland will probably sell for over \$4.00 per lb. when it comes in, linen has gone up so much in price. We have about 50 lbs. left on hand. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

GREY, BLACK, NATURAL ENGLISH LOOP MOHAIR

The grey, natural, and black are blended together to make a beautiful loop mohair, and it is one of the few at a reasonable price of \$4.00 per lb. Comes on 8 to 14 oz. tubes, and we have just about 30 lbs. left of this color combination. Also, about 5 to 10 lbs. of **grey, brown, and natural blend**, also at \$4.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

PINK LUREX SUPPORTED METALLIC

A beautiful color in lurex on 2 ounce tubes. Price is \$1.50 per two ounce tube, while it lasts. We have about 200 tubes on hand now, and this pink has a rose cast. The supporting thread is also dyed to match the metallic, which is very nice. Remember, \$1.50 per 2 oz. tube, while it lasts. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WHITE, NYLON STRAW, FLAT, AND ABOUT 3/8" WIDE

This is a nice rich, lustre straw, that could have many different uses. I believe that a similar fiber was used in some of the Swedish Swatches, Blue Series, by Malin Selander. Price is \$3.20 per lb., and I believe it is all on tubes of about 12 to 16 ozs. each. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BUTTERMILK FLUFF

A 55% silk, 45% rayon combination. Fluffy, and light weight, this is an unusual combination. Can be used for warp or weft, if combined with other threads. Has approximately 800 yards per lb., and is \$4.80 per lb. It comes on 2 to 3 lb. cones, but we will wind off 1/2 lb. cones if you want less. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LIGHTER WEIGHT, FINE BOBBIN WINDER FOR THOSE BOBBIN LACE BOBBINS ABOVE

These bobbin lace bobbin winders, we located in Denmark. Very nice, and lighter and smaller than the Swedish ones, and will also take the Swedish bobbins. Price is \$12.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

40 COLORS OF 2 PLY, ENGLISH RUG WOOL

This yarn comes in 4 oz. skeins, and we have the same colors in it that we used to be able to get in the Ryagarn. Price is \$5.60 per lb., or \$1.40 per 4 oz. skein. On display at all times in our shop. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft
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Compact Folding NORWOOD LOOMS	Five Widths 16" — 22" — 30" — 40" — 50" Made of Cherry The Norwood Loom Co. P. O. Box 272 Baldwin, Michigan
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9 COLORS IN EIGHT CUT RAYON CHENILLE

Just in, this exciting thread is available on 1/2 lb. tubes. Price is \$4.00 per lb., and there are approximately 500 yards per 1/2 lb. tube.

COLORS ARE:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rose Beige | 5. Velvet Purple |
| 2. Golden Brown | 6. Navy Blue |
| 3. Natural White | 7. Smoke Grey |
| 4. Rich Chocolate | 8. Burgundy |
| | 9. Golden Olive |

ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS

533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

4 EXOTIC ENGLISH BRUSHED MOHAIR YARNS

Exciting just to look at, these space dyed mohair yarns were dyed three times to get these color combinations. One is shades of Reds and Oranges One is shades of Light and Dark Blues, One is shades of Nile Greens, some Aqua and Dark Green, and the last is shades of Golden Brown with Gold and Peack. On cones of 5 to 12 oz. Price is \$12.00 per lb. Limited amounts of all colors.

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