



warp and weft

Volume XXXVI, No. 9 November, 1983

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A Word from the Editor

How have you been enjoying Warp and Weft these past six months. The main portion is being written by a good friend and excellent weaver, Miss Jean Scorgie. I've been very pleased with what she has written during this time. She was the weaving instructor at Oregon State University for several years, and is now out on her own as an independent designer and weaver. When I read what she has written, I sometimes realize how little I know about weaving, even after 30 years of it, and I think to myself, my if only I had studied all of these techniques more, and tried to remember them more, I would be a much better weaver, writer, and designer. Oh well, perhaps in the hereafter I will come back and be a top-notch fabric designer.

How does a year get so involved. This one has been particularly so. As soon as I arrive back from England in October, I will in November drive to southern California and participate in the tea and sale that is sponsored every year by the Southern California Handweavers Guild. This way, I will be able to take my visiting mother, and also Robin, and we three will have a sort of break on the drive down and back to this tea and sale.

I figured that this year, so far, I have participated in six different weaving or lace

conventions, trying to stimulate our business and keep it going. I guess it was successful, as we are still working hard at the business, and business does seem to be picking up for us this fall, now that school has started. That is a lot of travel in one year.

Also, last year, as most of you know, business was down quite a bit and I did not go on my annual buying and looking trip to England. Even though our volume of business was down last year, I had to pay \$1,400 more on income taxes than the year before. So, after a session with the book-keeper, and looking at all areas of the business, we decided that the main reason I had to pay \$1,400 more income tax last year was because I had not taken my annual buying trip to England. So you can see why I am doing it this year. What with traveling to six conventions and a tea and sale and a trip to England and Switzerland, perhaps this year Uncle Sam will send me a \$1,400 income tax refund to help even things out. I doubt if this will happen, but it is wishful thinking on my part, I believe. In any event, I certainly should not have to pay the extra \$1,400 this year as I did last year. No wonder my wife has been calling me a stranger this year. And, in between each of these conventions, I have worked as hard as possible to catch up on all the things that happened while I was gone. Then I would prepare for the next trip, and take off again. Oh well, I hope that next year it will not be quite as hectic a year, and that I will spend more time here working in the shop than I did this year.

Because of all of my absences, this is one reason why we have not gotten out as many sample sheets as we should have, and hopefully, this will be remedied before I leave for England on Monday. I will work all day Sunday if I have to, to get some of these sample sheets finished and on the way to the printer.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

Ellen Athens of the Mendocino Coast Weavers wove this tapestry which she showed at the 29th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento in May, 1982. It won an award for excellence.

Flowers are a favorite subject for fabric, both commercial and artistic. Curtain and drapery fabric, upholstery fabric, dress fabric to say nothing of wallpaper, all rely heavily on floral motifs, from photographically realistic to varying degrees of abstraction.

To interpret a flower in tapestry requires some stylization in order to translate the shading into warps and wefts. Color areas which shade imperceptibly darker as the curve of a petal falls into shadow can be woven with bobbins of mixed color. One bobbin may have three strands of a dark color, a second bobbin will have two dark and one light. A third bobbin will have one dark and two light and the fourth one will be all light. In this way four color areas have been made with only two yarns.

Another way of shading in tapestry is by a method of interspersing colors in a saw-tooth manner called "hatching." In hatching, one color weaves long fingers into the next color so that the eye blends the two when seen from a distance. This is the way the classic Gobelin figures were modeled.

Color gradations may also be interpreted by simplifying the darks and lights and omitting the grays in between. It is as if the object were seen in strong sunlight and had only strong contrasts.

This tapestry is woven using mixed colors on bobbins and designing for strong con-

trast. Thin lines are also woven for emphasis and to give variety to the surface.

The black and white photograph probably cannot do justice to the feeling this piece gives in color because there are several areas of similar value which most likely are different colors.

This Month's Book Review

With more weavers expanding their skills in multi-harness structures, Clotilde Barrett's book, *Double Two-tie Unit Weaves*, offers information on a class of weaves with great potential for exploration.

Unit weaves are sometimes called block-weaves, they consist of repeatable units of threading. Many weave structures are unit weaves, especially multi-harness structures.

Two-tie unit weaves have two tie-down harnesses in each block, usually harnesses one and two. The most common two-tie unit weave is summer and winter.

Double two-tie unit weaves have two *pattern* harnesses in each unit as well as the two tie-down harnesses. Though they can duplicate the look of summer and winter, their range of effects is much more extensive.

The pattern harnesses are usually set up in a twill sequence and some of the most interesting effects are maze-like twills that look oriental. They have sets of parallel lines following a diagonal and they abruptly turn into a diamond or change directions or come to a complete stop.

Other tie-ups make two different textures juxtaposed in floating blocks on a background.

(continued on page 6)

The fabric is fun to weave because of the color changes in the warp yarn. The sample does not give a true effect of the overall piece because the color changes gradually. On a larger piece the effect is dramatic as different areas of the fabric are highlighted.

We have been trying for quite some time to find a weave which would show off this variegated yarn to best advantage and couldn't seem to hit on anything. As soon as we got this on the loom in the shop we could tell it was a success from the enthusiastic response of those who saw it being woven.

This fabric would be perfect for placemats to go with all the new casual place settings in primary colors and white. It gives such a crisp, clean look. We hope you will try it.

COST OF YARNS USED:

The 5/2 space-dyed variegated cotton warp has 2,100 yards per pound and it is specially priced at \$6.00 per pound.

The 6½/3 spun rayon which is the fine weft has the appearance of silk. It is one of the nicest rayons we have ever had. It "scrunches" like silk when you squeeze it. Because it is three-ply, it is a round yarn rather than flat, another nice feature. It has 1,320 yards per pound and sells for \$8.00 per pound.

The heavy weft is snowdrift cotton .65. The .65 means it has 546 yards per pound which is very heavy for cotton. It is dref-spun. A customer told us that in her English textile dictionary, dref means hard to spin and we can see how it would be hard to

spin such heavy but even yarn from short cotton fibers. This yarn costs \$4.80 per pound.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We set up a 40-inch-wide warp, 12 yards long. The warp used four pounds, 10 ounces of 5/2 cotton at \$6.00 per pound. That comes to \$27.42, or \$2.29 per yard.

The spun rayon used two pounds, 11½ ounces as the fine weft. That is \$21.75, or \$2.42 per yard for the nine yards we got. The snowdrift cotton took seven pounds, three-and-a-half ounces or \$34.65, or \$3.85 per yard.

The fabric came off the loom three-and-a-half inches narrower in width. That is about nine percent shrinkage and there would be further shrinkage in washing. The warp also had lots of take-up due to the heavy rows of weft. For these reasons we recommend weaving and washing a sample to determine shrinkage allowance.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$2.29
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$6.27
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$8.56

Scarce Mohair

Kathryn Chastant of River Ridge, Louisiana, wrote us that her brother who is an officer with the Mohair Council of America said that drought conditions for several years in the mohair-producing regions of the world have diminished the sizes of the herds of Angora goats, but the demand for mohair has been increasing.

It takes two pounds of raw fleece to make one pound of yarn, and the raw fleece sells for \$6.00 per pound! Texas grows the best quality mohair, followed by Arabia, and South Africa the lowest quality.

This Month's Book Review

(continued from page 3)

Still other tie-ups make plaited twills, diagonal rectangles of parallel lines which are set at angles to each other.

The threading has still more surprises in that it can weave certain types of doubleweaves. The doubleweave areas can be stuffed afterwards or can be quilted with stuffer weft during weaving.

Double two-tie unit weaves require at least six harnesses and often more for exciting designs. They require twice as many treadles as harnesses which of course is impossible except for a dobby loom so they are woven with skeleton tie-ups in which part of the harness combination is tied to each treadle and two treadles are pressed together in different combinations for each row.

It is a challenging weave with many possibilities for exploration. This book which is clearly organized and written will help weavers explore the different aspects. The explanations are well-written, the text and diagrams are accompanied by photos of finished projects which are also described. This is a good addition to the library of multiple-harness weavers.

TITLE: Double Two-tie Unit Weaves
AUTHOR: Clotilde Barrett
PUBLISHER: Colorado Fiber Center, Inc.,
Boulder, CO
COST: \$12.00
AVAILABLE: from the publisher or from
Robin & Russ, if desired.

A Second Book Review

Paula Simmons and her husband Ross are probably the most well-known black sheep raisers and spinners in the world.

Paula's most recent book is *The Handspinner's Guide to Selling*. Starting with the most important factor, production, she discusses speed and efficiency, and suggests that one choose a specialty to concentrate on.

A chapter is devoted to equipment such as washing equipment, pickers (including directions and plans for a cradle wool picker), drum carders, yarn blockers, and electric spinning wheels. Foot-treadled spinning wheels were covered in her previous book, *Spinning and Weaving with Wool*.

Business matters such as accounting and taxes are covered, pricing theories, selling on consignment or wholesale, fairs, studio shops, mail order, catalogs, and sample cards are discussed.

Advertising, publicity, and related activities which can generate income are also covered. The book is illustrated with photos of handspinners who sell their work, their business cards and labels, craft fair set-ups, etc.

The book contains practical and realistic suggestions gleaned from many years of firsthand experience. Reading the book is like talking to a friend who is willing to share everything she knows.

It is a valuable book not only for handspinners but also for other craftspeople who want to market their work. Her tips are good business practices for people who want to produce a quality product and have it purchased by a customer who will be satisfied and come back for more.

TITLE: *The Handspinner's Guide to Selling*
AUTHOR: Paula Simmons
PUBLISHER: Pacific Search Press
COST: \$8.95
AVAILABLE: from the publisher or from
Robin & Russ, if desired.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$6.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

SIX-STRAND COTTON FLOSS

Twelve skeins per box for embroidery. Price is a sale price of \$1.00 per box. We have about 35 different colors, and would suggest a selection of one box of a color. Each skein of this now sells for anywhere from 29¢ to 40¢ per skein, and by the box only, our price is 8-1/3¢ per skein. A good buy. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

VARIEGATED BROWN LOOP WOOL

On about one-pound cones. About 50 pounds left, and this is a nice color blend. It is from Phoenix of Ireland by way of England. Price is \$13.60 per pound. Free sample upon request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

WINTER WHITE, 50% SILK, 50% ACRYLIC

This is in a three-ply thread, and can be used for warp or weft. It has about 1,600 yards per pound, is on about one-pound tubes, and is \$8.00 per pound. We also have three colors, bright yellow, exciting gold, and a good dark brown. The colors are \$8.80 per pound, and are also on about one-pound tubes or cones. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/36's WORSTED IN BLACK, KELLY GREEN AND KHAKI GREEN

An exceptionally high-quality worsted yarn, with about 10,000 yards per pound. These I believe are all from England, and it is what they make fine suiting out of. Three colors only. Price is \$8.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY, 16-PLY, YELLOW GOLD, SILK NOIL

Yes, this is a 16-ply silk noil, with approximately 480 yards per pound. It is on sale at \$12.00 per pound, and we have about 60 pounds on hand. It is on about one-and-a-half to two-pound cones, and is sold by the cone only. Free sample upon request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

MEDIUM LIGHT GREEN, TWO-PLY, SILK NOIL

This is on about one pound, two ounce to one pound, four ounce cones, is a good warp or weft thread, has 1,600 yards per pound, and the price is \$12.00 per pound. About 50 pounds only of this one available. Suggest 16 e.p.i., if used for warp. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLAZING EMBERS, SPACE DYED, 1.61 RAYON

Variiegated reds and oranges working into a gold gave this yarn its name. It came on one-and-a-half-pound tubes, has 1,050 yards per pound, and is \$6.00 per pound. I purchased it because I thought the color blending was beautiful. The manufacturer said it costs over \$2.00 per pound just to dye this one. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE WEAVERS BOOK, by Helene Bress

Is in stock, and I consider it one of the most outstanding books for intermediate and advanced weavers there is. Price is \$60.00, plus shipping and handling. In stock for immediate delivery. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

16.5x3x2 SWISS, WHITE RAMIE

A very good buy at \$8.00 per lb. It has 825 yards per lb., and would be excellent warp for rugs or wall hangings, for heavier weight placemats, and many other related uses. On about 2- to 3-lb. cones, we can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6 COLORS IN 1.25 SMOOTH SPUN RAYON IN A SINGLE-PLY YARN

Has a good hard twist and probably could be used for warp as well as weft. And it comes on about 1-lb. to 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes, and is just \$3.20 per lb. while it lasts. Write for samples. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

FIVE (5) DIFFERENT NATURAL LOOP WOOLS

These have from about 1200 to 2400 yards per lb., and vary in price from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

12/2 DURENE COTTON IN NATURAL

This extremely nice quality cotton makes excellent warp. It is slightly smaller than a 10/2 cotton and we'd suggest 20-24 epi, 2 per dent in a 10-12 dent red. If you buy it on 2/1/4-2-1/2 lb. cones the price is \$6.00 per pound. However if you want less than that it will be \$6.80 per pound. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

RAYON SEED YARN

This has been one of our most popular yarns the past several years. We have a new set of these yarns in about 15 colors. They have about 1550 yards per lb. and they come on cones of about 2 1/2 lbs. Yes, we can wind off 1/2 lb. tubes for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

1.4/1 ACRYLIC NOVELTY TWIST YARN

Nice hand, appearance, and color to these 3 colors, blended brown, natural white, and blue-beige-natural blend. These would work well in coat material or suiting. They are \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

2/11 1/2's ENGLISH WOOL

Five colors in a softly plied yarn for knitting and weaving. The colors are Shoe Polish Brown, Chromium Blue, Apricot, Thyme Gold, Stone Beige. They are strong enough for warp. Price is \$8.00 per pound. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

