

warp and weft

Vol. X, No. 10

December, 1957

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A Word from the Editor

It hardly seems possible that this is our Christmas issue, as here it is being prepared before Thanksgiving. And yet, the Christmas trees were put up along State Street, here in Santa Barbara yesterday, and so we know that it isn't far away.

December in Santa Barbara is the month of tax bills also, and ours were quite a shock this year. Hope that I can forget about it soon.

Last week saw your editor taking a trip to Stockton, California, to meet with the Stockton Weavers Guild, and the next day on to Santa Rosa, where I again met with the weavers guild there. The Santa Rosa group seemed particularly inspiring, as they seemed extremely interested in all kinds of yarns and fabric samples that I took along. Then after Santa Rosa, a trip to visit the Yarn Depot in San Francisco, and a trip to Sacramento to visit the Marion Kurtz weaving studio, and the new one there, that has been opened in West Sacramento by Mrs. John Berggreen.

After a hectic week, much of it in the car travelling, a trip to Reno, was quite relaxing and enjoyable. I'm sure that all of you know why we went to Reno (and our luck was good).

Back to Santa Barbara, where about 150 letters were staring me in the face, new copy

to be ready for Warp and Weft in just a few days, and more mail coming in each day. At last, I can begin to see daylight.

Robin, Janice, Mr. Brown, Jeannie and I all wish you the happiest holiday season ever, and we wish that you could take part and see our happiness with our daughter Janice Susan, who will be really enjoying her fifth Christmas this year.

Details are still being worked out on the multiple harness bulletin, but it is becoming more of a reality now, and we hope soon to let you know more about it.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

This Month's Cover

The cover this month is a piece of 5 harness "Bound Weaving," by Vera Pence of Los Molinos, California. It was a ribbon winner at the Northern California Conference of Handweavers last year, and was beautifully done by Mrs. Pence. The weft was all wool, and while I'm not sure, I think that she used a cotton warp.

Book Review

A new printing of an English text has just come to our attention. It is an old reliable called "The Weaver's Craft," by L. E. Simpson and M. Weir.

This has impressed me as being quite a good book for beginners. This book begins with a more or less summary of the beginnings of weaving, the gradual process of evolution that has seen weaving come to what it is today, a wonderful, creative, relaxing hobby for many of you.

Explanations are given of the simplest types of weaving, as paper weaving, braiding; chapters devoted to pattern, color and texture.

A chapter that is interesting is devoted to byways of weaving, such as circular weaving,

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Weavers and Weaving Shops

It is our intention, each month, to give a short article about various well-known weavers, or about different weaving supply centers and shops throughout the country. If you know of an exceptional weaver in your area, or of a good supply center where there is weaving going on, we will be more than glad to hear about them, that we might contact them and see if it will be possible for us to present an article about the individual weaver or shop in each issue.



MRS. EDITH B. KING
working on a Tibetan Rug

This month, we thought that you might enjoy hearing a little from Mrs. Edith B. King about Tibetan Rug Weaving. Mr. and Mrs. King spent many years in Tibet as missionaries, and it was while here that they became interested in this particular type of rug weaving. Now for some factual material.

Tibetan rugs are unlike any others, using the Tibetan knot (also found in West China) in tying wool on a rod. This is the method taken over by foreign commercial rug makers in making pile carpets.

These rugs tend to be highly convention-

alized in design and coloration. The motifs are interesting; the "Greek Key" for example is a half swastika. It is a question in history whether Alexander the Great gave them the "Key" or whether he got it from them. They also use the Chinese "Cloud." One inevitable characteristic in color is shading within a single motif — quite effective in total effect. Strangely, the MOTIF of Tibet (occurring in their art forms of other types and in their worship) — the Dorji, or Thunderbolt of the Gods — this does not seem to appear in their rugs. Mrs. King has never seen it in this form or in the half-form which is used as a handle of bells used in worship.

Mrs. King said that they lived on the wool route between Tibet and India, and the wool they used is said to be the best rug wool in the world, being raised at elevations of up to 14,000 feet in a high, dry, cold climate. When used, as the Tibetans do, for warp as well as weft, it wears out more rapidly than when the warp is cotton.

The Dalai Lama has a "factory" in his palace, or at least a private rug making establishment. The trade with the outside world is not large, however.

Mrs. King learned how to make these rugs from a Scottish missionary whose station was so far inland that Mt. Everest was to the south. She set up a school in Darjeeling, bringing the women in, training them, giving them a supplementary source of income. This and kindred industries and arts were further developed by the Scots Mission, which enlarged the number of designs, selected materials, worked out new uses for the articles made, and developed a market in both India and England.

The art is adaptable to other designs, anything which can be drawn on squared paper, and makes nice throw rugs. Large rugs are feasible also, as you can make the loom as

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PERIWINKLE BLUE

A yardage of silk and cotton, that can be used for dresses, blouse material, men's sport shirts, and numerous other uses.

THREADING DRAFT:

	C		B									A	
4.		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.									X	X			
2.					X	X							
1.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4				X	X		X
3			X			X	
2			X				X
1		X			X	X	
		1	2	3	4	A	B

THREADING PLAN:

1. Repeat A to B over and over for the width of your fabric.
2. End threading with B to C.

WARP:

20/2 egyptian cotton, sett at 30 threads per inch; sky blue.

WEFT:

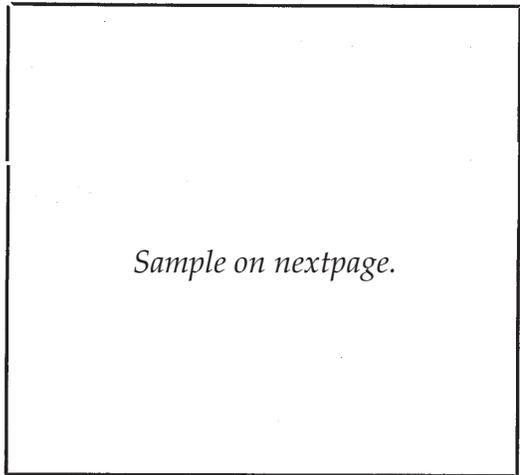
7½/1 silk, slub, douppioni. 6200 yards per lb.; periwinkle blue.

REED USED:

A 15 dent reed was used, 2 ends per dent.

TREADLING:

Treadle No. 1—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. 1—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. 3—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. 3—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time

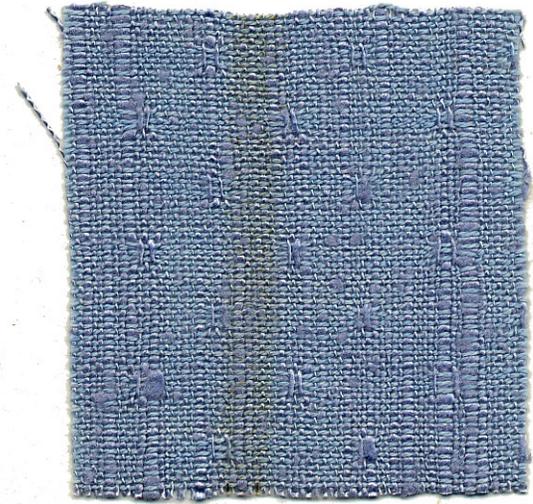


Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time

One repeat of pattern. Repeat over and over.

TABBY:

A treadle is 1 tabby
 B treadle is 1 tabby
 Another method of writing the treadling is this:
 Treadle No. 1—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle No. 1—one time
 Treadle No. B—one time
 Treadle A and then B for eight threads.
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. 3—one time
 Treadle No. A—one time
 Treadle No. 3—one time
 Treadle B and then A for eight threads.



Of course the float or skip of the warp threads can be shortened if desired, by treadling as follows:

Treadle No. 1—one time

Treadle No. B—one time

Treadle A and then B for about 10 threads.

Treadle No. A—one time

Treadle No. 3—one time

Treadle B and then A for about 10 threads.

Repeat over and over.

More About this Fabric

This was a particularly easy fabric to weave, and also, while weaving it, it seemed most pleasing and satisfactory. The weft was a 7½/1 silk, wound single on the bobbin, and even with the slubs, was easy to weave.

The fabric was inspired by a sample swatch that was sent to us by Mrs. George T. McDermott, of Topeka, Kansas. In her fabric, Mrs. McDermott used the same sky blue warp, but for weft she used a natural spun silk slub yarn, doubled, or two ends wound together on a bobbin. This particular silk weft that she used has 11,000 yards per lb., and is available with two ends wound together on one spool or with three ends wound together on one spool. The three ends will make a slightly heavier fabric, and perhaps a firmer fabric.

There were no special tricks or techniques or methods needed in weaving this particular fabric. A medium beat was used, and of course, if you used a tighter beat, a firmer fabric would result.

I might mention that I think that this fabric would work beautifully in draperies also, as well as for dress material, for blouse material, for skirts, and also for many other uses.

Of course, one of the most pleasing things about this fabric is the cost. See just below for the actual cost per yard.

On this particular set-up, which is also a "huck" weave, there are many other possibilities with different weft threads. For in-

Yarns Used in the Sample

The yarns used in this sample, the 20/2 egyptian cotton, and the 7½/1 silk or the natural douppioni silk are available from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

stance, you could use a medium weight rayon boucle, about 2700 yards per lb., for weft and this would result in a nice fabric, with the warp thread skip breaking up the texture of the boucle. Also, if you use a contrasting color for weft to what you use for warp, the skip of the warp threads or the actual pattern of the fabric will stand out much more clearly.

Another good thread for weft would be a 10/2 or a 10/3 cotton, and of course the smoother the thread, the more your warp skip pattern will stand out.

Cost of the Fabric

A. Warp: the 20/2 Sky Blue egyptian cotton is \$5.00 per lb., and comes on ½ lb. cones.

B. Weft: The 7½/1 Periwinkle Blue silk is \$4.50 per lb., and comes on cones of approximately one pound.

We set up the fabric on the loom, a full 40" width, and used two pounds of warp. This was enough for 13 yards of warp, 40" wide for \$10.00, or the actual warp cost came to 77c per yard.

For weft on this 13 yards, it took about 2 pounds and 2 ounces of weft thread or periwinkle silk. This is \$4.50 per lb., and so the weft came to about 80c per yard.

Warp cost per yard, 40" wide	\$.77
Weft cost per yard	.80
Fabric Cost per yard	\$1.57

If you would rather use the natural silk douppioni for weft, the price of it is \$3.50 per lb., single end on a cone, or if doubled or tripled, it is \$4.00 per lb.

TIBETAN RUG WEAVING—Continued

large as desired. The implements are primitive, and can be made by many weavers.

The art is a point of contact between the U.S. and a country recently brought to the fore by its conquest by Red China. It is interesting how many books on Tibet have recently appeared. Whatever else the conquest may have done (making the Lamas work for example), the cutting off of the wool trade and its diversion to China are sore points.

The photograph shows the loom used, some of the implements, a rug in process, and the costume.

Mrs. King's son has nearly completed a 32 page book of directions on this form of rug weaving, and we hope that we will soon be able to tell you that it is available.

Mrs. King does some teaching of this particular type of weaving, and I might say that I had the privilege of hearing Mrs. King give a program and tell of some of their experiences in Tibet.

Perhaps if you are ever out towards San Diego, California, you might have some instruction or see some of her beautiful rugs and costumes. Her address is:

Mrs. Edith B. King
122 Second Avenue
Chula Vista, California

BOOK REVIEW—Continued

use of rafia and straw, finger weaving, etc.

There is a quite good explanation of spinning, and some good information on dyeing of yarns and threads, sources of dyes, etc.

Chapters are devoted to the simpler types of weaving, such as box weaving, to loom set-ups, to rug weaving, and other phases of weaving are well covered.

There are some 175 photographs, and about 75 patterns for 4 harness weaves given, with illustrations of most of the 75 patterns.

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Some of the photographs are quite stimulating, and make one want to try out some of the ideas that they give you. Perhaps you might enjoy this book also.

Title: THE WEAVER'S CRAFT

Authors: SIMPSON AND WEIR

Publishers: DRYAD PRESS, ENGLAND

Distributors: CHAS. A. BENNETT CO., INC.

Cost: \$5.75, plus 22c pp & ins.

Available: Charles A. Bennett Co., of Peoria, Ill., or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, Santa Barbara, California.

Two Conferences for California in 1958

In 1958, California Weavers will indeed have a treat. Also, because of the two conferences scheduled, many out of state visitors will perhaps be able to take in one conference or the other.

The 6th Annual Northern California Conference of Handweavers will be held in Santa Rosa, California, about 50 miles north of San Francisco. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 10th, and 11th, 1957. There will be guild weaving displays, commercial exhibits, and a fashion show. For further information, you can write to:

Northern California Handweavers
619 Victor Drive
Santa Rosa, California

In 1958, the First Annual Southern California Handweavers Conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd and 23rd at Long Beach, California. There will be also guild weaving displays, a fashion show, commercial exhibits and lectures by outstanding weavers. For further information, you can contact:

Dorothea M. Hulse
827 S. New Hampshire
Los Angeles 5, California

For out of state visitors, we might mention that our shop, Robin & Russ, is just about half way between these two conferences. Why not come to the Southern California Conference, plan your vacation in the Santa Barbara vicinity, and then end your vacation with a stop at the Northern California Conference?

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A new classified advertising section will be tried out in *Warp and Weft* for a few months, to see if there is any interest or response. 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.

BLEACHED, HEAVY SLUB LINEN. On spools of approximately 1/2 lb. each. 400 yards per spool. Beautiful in heavy mats, in drapes and upholstery. \$2.40 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

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FOR CHRISTMAS, give a subscription to *Warp Weft* to that special weaving friend. 10 issues a year, a sample swatch in each issue. \$2.75 per year. *Warp & Weft*, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SPOOL RACKS—of hardwood, upright, with a 70 spool capacity. Each spool works individually, feet easily removable for storage. \$16.50 each. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

ATTENTION: Teachers, loom distributors, yarn suppliers and distributors. **DOM'S LOOM SHOPPE** will make for your individual needs or stock, any hard to get accessories, shuttles, spool racks, warping equipment, etc. Let them make special accessories exclusively for your studio. **DOM'S LOOM SHOPPE**, 14901 E. Clark Ave., La Puente, Calif.

SPOOL RACKS—of hardwood, upright, with an 80 spool capacity. Swivel type. Feet easily removable for storage. \$16.75 each. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

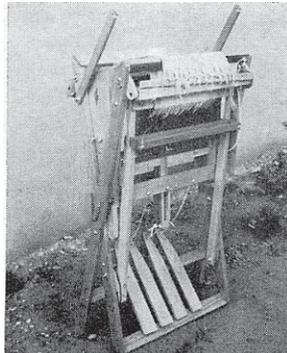
SWEDISH HAND BOBBIN WINDERS—the excellent Swedish winder, with the tapered shaft, and high gears. Considered by many the best hand bobbin winder on the market. \$6.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

LINEN RUG WARP: size 9/3, with 900 yards per lb. \$2.40 per lb. On 1/2 lb. spools. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SLUBBY, HEAVY, SUFORTIFIED RAYON. An irregular texture 8 ply rayon, with about 1000 yards per lb., on spools of about 1/2 lb. each. \$2.40 per lb. **IN BLEACHED WHITE.** Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

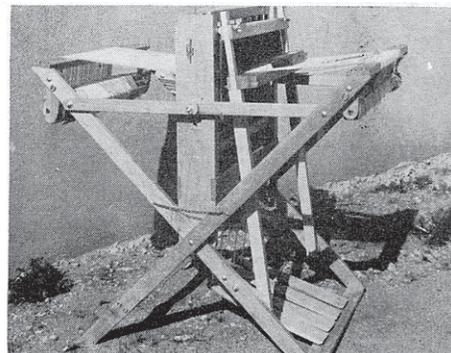
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