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warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

We are now working on both our February and March issues, and hopefully, we will mail these two together, and then we will make a great effort to stay on schedule in the future. I hope it is more than wishful thinking this time.

I suppose that most weavers would like the Christmas present that we received here at Robin & Russ Handweavers.

On December 23rd, Friday at 4:00 in the afternoon, a truck arrived, and the driver came in and said, I have 98 cartons or 6,000 pounds of yarn that just came in by air-freight from England. It was about 15 degrees outside, really cold and windy, and there was 3" of snow, with 2 inches of ice on top of this. Can you imagine a truck line sending out one man, with all this, and no dolly, no lift-gate to get the cartons out of the truck, and expecting him to unload all this by himself. This is what happened. We had to fill the whole downstairs, and also part of the upstairs with cartons, so we could close the doors that evening. So, on Saturday morning, the day before Christmas, we started unpacking, and putting away in bins, and rearranging bins, so we could put the yarns all away. We had been working on making room for all of this, but really, we were not quite ready for it. I ended up taking a bale and some cartons to the warehouse, as we had no room in the shop. I have gradually been putting the yarns away in the warehouse also.

There was about 60 to 70 lbs. of a nice 3 ply CASHMERE YARN that I ordered in Scotland. While in Scotland, I went next door to the mill, where there was a company doing knitting of sweaters for custom orders I furnished the 2 colors of Cashmere, and just about 5 days ago, I received two of the most beautiful cashmere sweaters from this knitting firm in Scotland. They also wrote and said they had enough yarn to make 2 more sweaters, so I'm thinking about what I would have to have made.

There was about 10 lbs. of grey in this cashmere, and it has been received with much enthusiasm, and it is all gone, and we have two shades of light and dark beige. We are selling this at one of the most reasonable prices you will find for cashmere, at \$24.00 per lb., while it lasts.

And, there are some beautiful loop mohair-wool blends in purples and some most unusual, very nice quality 3/9's metric count, Tussah silk. There was a nice 12 ply camel hair yarn, some exceptionally nice 3/45's spun silk from Switzerland, some most interesting berbers, and really, about 20 other nice yarns. It was like opening Christmas presents to open the cartons of yarns, and seeing the various textures and colors.

And, then, about 3 days later, low and behold, 3,000 books, which had been shipped in July on a boat that lost it's rudder, and was stranded at sea and then in South America, finally arrived with the books we had been waiting for for 6 months. You can be assured that we are now over stocked and there is no more room in the shop, and if anything else does come in, it had to go to the warehouse. We are still rearranging shelves in the shop, to try and put out all of these new yarns on display. It is a tremendous job.

Enough for now. See you next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

This month's cover photograph is an ikat piece by Lydia Van Gelder of the Redwood Empire Build. It was shown at the 29th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento in May 1982.

Lydia Van Gelder is well-known for her work in textiles. Her articles have appeared in several weaving magazines. In this piece she has used ikat technique, a form of resist dyeing.

In ikat, the warp is chained and then dipped in dye before being placed on the loom. Areas of the warp chain that are to remain undyed are bound tightly with string or other material. When the yarn is placed in the dyebath, the tightly wrapped areas prevent the dye from penetrating. At the edges of the bound areas, however, the dye seeps under just a little producing a feathered edge. Both the warp and weft of this piece were ikat dyed as shown by the feathered edges in both the vertical and horizontal directions.

This piece consists of two panels seamed together. In each panel the warp was made in two sections with the bindings in alternate places on each.

The weft was also resist dyed. It was probably skeined the exact width of the weaving and then one end of the skein was dyed. When it was woven the edges of the dyed area lined up vertically row by row.

A structural detail contributes to the bold effect of this piece. The color of each dyed area is made more intense by using warp-face and weft-face twill rather than

plain weave. The loom is threaded on multiple harnesses to allow the left side of each panel to be woven weft-face twill while the righthand side weaves warp-face twill and vice versa. This detail is difficult to see in the photograph except for the misalignment of the dyed areas on the right side of the piece.

Weft ikat is easier to control and align than warp ikat. In the weft, skeins are made to correspond to the width of the weaving and if irregularities occur they can sometimes be adjusted in the selveges. However, in warp ikat, long warps compounded by the elasticity of the yarn make the positions of the dyed areas less and less accurate toward the end of the weaving. Slight variations in warping tension become progressively greater toward the end. Also, the feathering at either end of the dyed area is usually deeper in warp ikat because of the strains put on individual yarns during the warping and threading processes.

This piece shows some of these characteristics. Starting at the top of the left panel, notice how rectangular and well-placed the dyed areas are. Although the weft-dyed areas are consistent throughout the entire piece, the warp-dyed areas gradually shift lower to overlap the weft areas. Then they become distorted into diagonal and zigzag shapes. This distortion occurs at the further end of the weaving as tension variations take their toll.

Although some people would see these distortions as flaws or imperfect workmanship, most craftsmen understanding the ikat process acknowledge instead the difficulty of the technique and treasure these irregularities as an inherent part of its charm and individuality.

TOTAL TEXTURE

This unusual three-harness weave produces a deeply textured surface with two different weights of yarn.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

X - tie-up for counter-balanced looms

O - tie-up for jack-type looms

THREADING DRAFT:

3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Start
2	—	O	—	O				
1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	one dent	one dent						

X - white 2/12 worsted

O - yellow 4-ply worsted

— taupe 4-ply worsted

Warp:

The warp has 2/12 worsted wool in white which forms the background. The heavier yarns which create the effect are 4-ply worsted in taupe and yellow.

Weft:

The weft contains 2/12 worsted wool in white and 4-ply worsted in taupe and white. Notice that this is not quite the same as the warp. The yellow 4-ply worsted is replaced with white.

Reed Used:

A 10-dent reed was used. It was sleyed specially because of the warp effect yarns. Sections of the warp containing 4-ply yarn are sleyed 3 per dent; one 4-ply yarn and two yarns of 2/12. When there is no 4-ply yarn, the warp is sleyed 2 per dent. That means that the 2/12 is sleyed 2 per dent throughout and when the 4-ply worsted occurs it is sleyed one per dent in addition to the others.

SAMPLE:



Treading Sequence:

This is a 3-shuttle weave

1. Treadle 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1—white 2/12 worsted.
2. Treadle 4—taupe 4-ply worsted.
3. Treadle 3—white 4-ply worsted.
4. Treadle 4—taupe 4-ply worsted.

End of one complete repeat. Repeat as desired.

More About The Fabric:

This warp is very closely spaced in the reed to give the 3-dimensional effect. The close spacing makes it difficult for the harnesses to separate and form a clear shed. Because of this we advise against beginners attempting this project.

To cope with the problem of the harnesses not separating we weighted harnesses one and three by taping a steel rod to the top of each harness. We used extra rods which come with LeClerc looms. They are ¼" coldrolled steel rods which can be obtained at a hardware store. They have a special machine for cutting them so know what length you want when you go. Larger diameter rods can be used for more weight.

In spite of the extra weight, one shed was still difficult to get; the shed after the second row of taupe. To get this shed more easily we treadled #3 and beat with no weft in the shed. Then we treadled #1 and threw the shuttle. This is a good trick to remember. If a treadle raising two harnesses together is difficult, treadle one of the harnesses separately, then add the other.

This fabric took about 50 minutes to weave one yard. You can see that we managed to work up a good rhythm in spite of the difficulties.

Both sides of this fabric are exciting. The floats on the underside are shorter and the effect is one of horizontal bands of color. The upper surface with its longer floats is more luxurious and textured. This fabric would be lovely made up several ways. It would be a good baby blanket with its textured surface holding the warmth. Both

sides of the fabric would be seen this way also. It would also be good for an afghan or blanket. Its surface has an interesting look for pillows. This fabric could also be used for garments but consideration should be made for the length of the warp floats. They are long enough that they might catch, especially on sleeves. Perhaps this fabric could be used for the body of the garment and the sleeves could be knited or woven of plainer fabric.

Cost Of The Yarns

The 2/12 worsted is an excellent quality from England. It has 3300 yards per pound and cost \$16.00 per pound. The 4-ply worsted in taupe, yellow, and white is \$6.80 per pound and has approximately 1100 yards per pound. The white has a slightly tighter twist than the other two colors.

Cost Of The Fabric:

The 12 yard, 40" wide warp used 3 lb. 5 oz. of 2/12 worsted in white, 1 lb. 9½ oz. yellow 4-ply and 1 lb. 8½ oz. taupe 4-ply. That comes out to \$53.00 for the 2/12 and \$21.00 for the 4-ply worsted. It totals \$74.00 or \$6.19 per yard.

The weft used 1 lb. 10 oz. of 2/12 worsted in white, 1 lb. 9 oz. taupe 4-ply and 12 oz. white 4-ply. That totals \$41.72 or \$4.12 per yard for the 10 yards 4½" of finished fabric. The shrinkage before finishing was 10%.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$ 6.19
WEFT COST PER YARD	4.12
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$10.31

This Month's Book Review

Weave Structures Used in North American Coverlets by a trio of authors, Clarita Anderson, Judith Gordon, and Naomi Towner, ought to be a good book. The subject is well chosen, extensive research was carried on according to the Acknowledgements, and three authors ought to be better than one. Unfortunately, all the good intentions have brought forth is a hodge-podge of puzzle pieces without the perspective of the whole picture.

Evidently the intention of the authors was to enable museum staff to correctly identify and name various coverlet techniques. Rather than beginning with a discussion of the principal techniques and their general characteristics, and working toward the innumerable variations, the book describes variations of all the techniques in alphabetical order. Beiderwand variations with honeycomb counterpanes thrown in the middle. Minor variations are discussed before major ones, giving a distorted view.

The book seems to assume that the reader knows the information beforehand and wants only confirmation and clarification of the small points. Granted, the small points are important, but they must be seen in perspective.

The book contains photographs of samples woven in most of the weave structures. However, they are not adequately captioned and omit information vital to understanding them. Following each variation is a weave draft. Here, too, the information though probably technically correct, is less than clear. Is Else Regensteiner's Honeycomb Coverlet one she designed or one she owned?

The presentation of each individual variation in the book leads to unnecessary repetition of features common to one type of weave structure while buying the differentiating characteristics. A format proceeding from the general to the particular would have been of more help in identifying individual pieces.

The authors must have realized that their words were not enough. Out of 67 pages they kindly left 14 of them blank and titled them "Notes" so that the reader can have plenty of space to straighten things out.

TITLE: *Weave Structures Used in North American Coverlets*.

AUTHORS: Clarita Anderson, Judith Gordon, and Naomi Towner.

COST: \$9.50

PUBLISHER: The authors.

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

A Second Book Review

Corn Dollies From the Start is an excellent book showing over 50 variations of figures in wheat straw plaiting. The figures include spirals, fans, lanterns, rattles, crowns, crosses, maidens, brides, and knots. Also included are a variety of people figures of different sizes, some containers, and some decorative braids. The directions are not too difficult for the beginner.

TITLE: *Corn Dollies From the Start*

AUTHOR: Emmie White.

COST: \$12.95 plus shipping and handling.

PUBLISHER: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

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.

3/9 DYED, BLEACHED TUSSAH SILK NOIL YARNS:

This 3 ply Tussah Silk is available in Stone Grey, Cinnamon Beige, Light Shrimp, Taupe, Natural, Grigio Blue, and Orangutan Rust. It has approximately 1580 yards per lb., is a good quality, durable silk, and you can purchase ½ lb. or 1 lb. of a color. Should be good warp at 16 ends per inch. We just wove a sample with it at this sett. Price is \$16.00 per lb. All from England. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

SUPER — SPUN, SUPERWASH WOOL, in 30 colors.

Have you seen Princess Diana of England wearing her different sweaters of this yarn. It is machine-washable, anti-tickle, non-shrinking, elastic, anti-pill wool yard and you can wash it in the washing machine. There are 30 colors available, and we have all in stock. It comes on 400 gram cones, about 13½ oz. to 14 oz. per cone. Price is \$20.00 per lb. It is 4 ply, finer than regular knitting worsted, with 1850 yards per lb. Excellent for knitting and weaving. One of our customers used it for overshot pattern in colonial bedspreads, and she said it was the nicest yarn she has ever used. Ideal for baby-blankets as it is completely machine washable. This is from England also. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128. Free sample card upon request.

HEAVY, BEAUTIFUL SOFT, FLUFFY WOOL BOUCLE:

This was made for a German Sports Wear manufacturer, and he changed his color line, and we were able to get his entire stock at a greatly reduced price. On about 1 lb. to 1 lb. 8 oz. cones, price is \$12.00 per lb. We have about 50 lbs. of all of the colors. It is 60% wool, 40% acrylic, and is so soft and fluffy. Has 560 yards per lb., Free samples upon receipt of your stamped, self-addressed envelope. This, if it were a Stanley Berroco yarn, would probably sell at about \$30 to \$40 per lb. I feel this is an exceptional buy. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HAND-MADE BOBBIN LACE,

by Margaret Maidment has just been republished. A New edition, and a very good and long-popular book. Price is \$22.50 plus shipping and handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

JAPANESE IKAT WEAVING,

by Jun and Noriko Tomita is now in stock. An excellent book, price in the paperback edition is \$11.95. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

7 FASHION COLORS IN WOOL TWEEDS.

There is a dark blue, not navy; a dark teal, a light sky blue, a rust brown, a lavender, and a darker lavender and a nice turquoise. It has probably 900 yards per lb., comes on about 1 lb. cones. The colors are very good. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

2 PLY DYED TUSSAH SILK, IN TANNISH BROWN

This is a nice silk, slightly heavier than many of our silk noils. Have not checked the yardage per lb. yet, but imagine about 1400 to 1600. Price is \$16.00 per lb., and there is about 100 lbs. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

3/20's METRIC COUNT, NATURAL SILK NOIL:

This one is slightly finer than usual, should be an excellent warp, is 3 ply, and has approximately 2,000 yards per lb. This is from China, \$13.60 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

3/45 GLOSSY SPUN SILK, WORSTED SPUN:

This is an exceptionally beautiful, 3 ply spun silk, with about 8,000 yards per lb. Excellent warp or weft. Use at 24 or 30 ends per inch. Price is \$28.00 per lb. while it lasts. A very good buy. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

BEAUTIFUL, HEAVY FRILL WOOL IN SHADED BROWNS.

48 yards per lb. A beautiful wool for rugs. Price is just \$8.00 per lb. Comes on about 3 to 5 lb. cones. We can wind off 1 lb. balls for you. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

8/5 LINEN RUG WARP.

On about 1 lb. to 1½ lb. tubes. 480 yards per lb. Price is \$9.60 per lb. From England. We got 100 lbs. in, but have already sold over 50 lbs. of it so this means about 50 lbs. left. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

INKLE WEAVING,

by LAVINA BRADLEY: This is an excellent little beginner's book that we think you will enjoy. Well written, and especially good for beginners of Inkle Weaving. Price is \$10.95. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

4/1 LEA, BLEACHED DRYSPUN LINEN FROM IRELAND.

On about 1 lb. 4 oz. to 1 lb. 8 oz. cones, this linen is just in from Ireland, and is a very nice one. Should be excellent weft in mats, upholstery, etc. Price is \$9.60 per lb., and there is 1200 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Or 97128.

