



PETERBOROUGH HANDWEAVERS' AND SPINNERS' GUILD

P.O. Box 781, PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO K9H 6X8

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January/February

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Happy New Years to you and yours! As your substitute Chair for January I am happy to bring to you two important reminders from this month's executive meeting.

Many thanks for participating, in many ways, to the Guild's presence at Autumn Treasurers. Nineteen of you had your handcrafted items purchased at the sale. Due to the high level of participation this year's show was a financial success. Congratulations to you. Obviously your exquisite design and craftsmanship was much appreciated by the public. Congratulations are also due to all those who helped organize and set up the show. Due to the willingness and efficient participation by committee members, and good division of jobs, the behind-the-scenes work was well organized, and set-up and take-down at the show went very well. Our Guild-designed-and-made items were an important part of this year's revenue. Your executive congratulates you and suggests that we collectively create more eye-catching items for next year's sale. Since we had fun creating these items together they are a win/win item for us to offer for sale. We will need new ideas for next year's sale so put on your thinking caps and send any ideas to the Executive.

During the next month Ethel Smedmor will be offering some of her weaving and spinning books, equipment and yarns for sale. Stay tuned for directions to where, when and what you might purchase from her.

A reminder that the Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild offers its members the opportunity to apply for a monetary scholarship(s) each year. Submissions must be received by the Executive before May 1st for this year. Obtain details from the Guild's library.

Join us at the Guild's General Meeting on Monday, January 17th. We have a terrific program planned, stimulating fellowship and much news to share. See you there.

Mary Lavery

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Guild Meetings*** 3rd Monday of the month at Kawartha Artists' Gallery, 729 Park St. S.
Library opens for 7:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm.
Next scheduled meetings: January 17 and February 21
- Executive Group*** Next meeting is February 1st at 1:30 pm, to be held at the home of Mary Lavery
- Spinning Groups*** ***1st Thursday Spinners and 3rd Thursday Spinners***
Meetings resume for January and February.
- Shadow Weave Group*** Next meeting is January 28th at Maxine's.

PROGRAM NOTES

January Meeting

Beyond the Fringe. This is your chance to show off some of the finishing techniques you use on scarves, shawls, blankets, napkins, etc. Bring in a finished item or one waiting for a finished fringe. As a 'group show and tell' we want everyone to share their best and worst of finishing and maybe pick up a new way of making a new fringe.

February Meeting

Warping on a Shoestring/Theo Moorman. Jo will be demonstrating a simple warping method using shoestrings! This method will be incorporated into her program on the Theo Moorman technique which she studied at Haliburton School of the Arts this past summer.

LIBRARY

The library is open from 7:00 to 7:30 prior to each guild meeting.

Thank you to Pauline for photocopying some material which she uses frequently and donated to the library. It is called "Ready Reference Tables" and comes originally from the Shuttle Craft Build. It is a series of 10 tables detailing everything from thread counts to standard sizes of household items. You might want to borrow it to photocopy and have your own set at home.

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Thank you to Pat Battye, one of our honorary members and a very hard working member of the Guild in bygone times. She has donated three books from her personal weaving book collection to benefit the Guild. Since we have all three books in the library already, we will offer them for sale at the January meeting. They are classics which would be an extremely valuable addition to any weaver's book stash....make that two books as one has just been purchased!

1. **Designing for Weaving** by Carol S. Kurtz. A Study Guide for Drafting, Design and Colour. The book is divided into three parts – the technical, aesthetic and personal aspects of woven design.
2. **Handwoven Cover-Ups** by the Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild. This was a large project by our Guild in the 1980's to analyze the weave structure of a number of pioneer textiles at the Centennial Museum and reproduce them for swatches for this book. The drafts are in here and you could use any of these swatches as inspiration for an article for your own home or a unique sale item.

NEW BOOKS

Please let Lois or anyone on the Executive know what new books you would like to have in the library. We will have some ideas for you to consider at the next meeting.

OVERDUES: JO – Handwoven, Sept/Oct 81, Nov/Dec 84, May/June 82

More on Moorman

A Weaver's Book of 8-shaft Patterns

BARB LINDSAY – OHS Bulletin Winter/99

LORRAINE SKIPWITH-Finishing Touches for the Handweaver

PAT EBERLE-The Primary Structures of Fabrics

Fines are \$1.00 per month. Phone Lois Watson if you want to renew.

MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the Guild I would like to thank Carole for her efforts with the membership list. However would all members to make sure the information listed is correct and advise Carole of any changes or additions. This list is the basis for Diane and myself to mail/e-mail the newsletter.

Welcome to new member Scott Duffee who specializes in the almost forgotten skill of finger weaving. Scott is interested in natural dyes and we hope to see him at some of our workshops as well as have him share his knowledge with us one evening.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE/WANTED

For Sale: **45" 4-Harness Fanny Loom with 23" High by 38" Long Bench - \$500**
45" Reeds: 12, 14, 15, 16, 20 dent
Contact Pauline Fanning at 705-743-3424

Wanted: electric bobbin winder, raddles & metal reeds 24 to 60" in all setts but 12 best. Also umbrella swift, 4" styrene bobbins, Dorothy loom/4-8 harness
Contact Meghan Price at pricemeghan@hotmail.com
(if you do not have computer access call Jo)

For Sale: **60" Jack loom, solid maple, Leclerc parts, 8 harness, flying shuttle**
Includes 2 shuttles, 3 reeds, raddle, bench with storage, regular shuttles
Asking \$2000.00 obo (price for new is \$5500.00).
Contact Sabine Scanlon, 705-799-6538 or sabinesews@sympatico.ca



Our Christmas dinner program was enjoyed by ALMOST ALL! If the expressions are anything to go by this will Mary's and Anne's first and last basket.

THE NIDDY NODDY COLUMN

Is Your Niddy in a Noddy?

Thanks for all who volunteered to contribute. We are looking forward to reading what you have found for us. Here is the schedule:

March 1, 2005 Barbara Burbidge, Phyllis Lupton, Mary Lavery

May 1, 2005 Meg Russell, Lorraine Skipwith, Joanne Sayers



Finding Inspiration and One of My Stepping Stones

By Dee Jones

Where can I find inspiration for our 50th Anniversary Guild Challenge – *Memories are Stepping Stones to the Future.*

My search started with the Handwoven Index – pulling out back issues, looking at projects and looking for inspiration. Next I decided to look through my folders on tapestry and transparency weaving. It was amazing what I'd forgotten that was stored away for future reference. Inspiration comes from so many places. Sometimes we struggle for ideas, other times we are hit over the head with an idea triggered by a past project, an event, a word or something in nature. It is easy to view another person's accomplishment and think "I could never do anything like that". Perhaps not, but we can do something else, something unique, something compiled from our own experiences. Something will spark an idea giving us an inspiration.

Stepping stones – what are yours? One stepping stone in my weaving journey was experimenting with an Inlay Technique. Inlay is a finger manipulated weave. This is not Theo Moorman, but inlay on whatever threading that is on the loom. Several years ago (I was going to say many!!!) Rickie Oldfield was guiding one of our study groups. She convinced me to try inlaying tapestry into whatever I was weaving. I actually demonstrated this technique at the OHS conference hosted by our guild. I have used this inlay technique many times as it ties in my tapestry interest with the designing of articles with an added touch or focus.

Incorporating simple inlay can be fun and is not particularly difficult, although it does take some care and planning. It usually works best on plain or twill threading but can be incorporated on other threading structures. Each inlay area requires a separate butterfly or bobbin of the colour you are using. It is also advisable to plan all your inlay ahead and work using a "cartoon" to guide you. You can experiment with this technique on the end of a warp with leftover weft yarns. Give it a try and adapt this to your own preferences, producing new and exciting images. A four harness loom can be threaded with an overshoot pattern that has a distinctive motif. The piece is woven plain

weave with the motifs inlaid where you want them to appear. Handwoven, May/June 1994 is a special theme issue on finger manipulated weaves.

I still don't know what my project will be to meet our guild challenge but inspiration is percolating away and my project will more than likely contain some inlay.

Developments in Wool Research

By Deb Vanderniet

I came across the following articles in my Nov/Dec issue of Sheep News discussing new developments in wool research.

The first heading that caught my eye was non-shrink sheep. Apparently scientists in Australia are trying to genetically modify sheep so that the animals produce a non-shrink, washable fleece. These scientists are hoping that if they succeed in this area they will be able to continue their research into related areas. Some ideas they want to research are producing sheep that have stretch wool, softer wool, coloured wool (not natural colours – green pink, blue, etc) and possibly even glow-in-the-dark wool.

The next article was about scientists in Japan who have developed a new process to create washable wool (after it has been sheared). The current process for creating Superwash wool involves dipping the fibres in resin. With this new process the fibre is dipped in protein dissolving enzymes. This makes the wool water repellent allowing it to be washed in a washing machine.

Also, some scientists in Australia and New Zealand are trying to develop thicker finer fleeces through research into wool follicles. American scientists, on the other hand, are crossing Katahdin and Dorper (hairless sheep) with Rambouillets and Dorsets in an effort to produce a good meat sheep which doesn't need shearing.

A further article was about a study on using wool based material for oil spill cleanup. The study found that the wool absorbed significantly more oil than the other materials being tested. It was also found that the recycled wool based material had good absorption, was reusable and biodegradable. That would make it a viable alternative to the synthetics.

And finally, recent studies have shown that people who sleep on top of a wool blanket get more REM sleep, while those who sleep under a wool duvet get more stage 4 sleep.

(Editors note: I can see some of the ideas have great merit but the 'glow-in-the-dark' sheep....someone is trying to pull the wool over our eyes!!)

LOST AND FOUND

At Autumn Treasures-Size 4, metal crochet hook, in a bag with articles for show.
Contact Jo at 749-3323.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Greetings to the Guild from Ingegard de Warga, a faithful member of the Guild in past years and now living in West Haven, Conn., U.S.A. She has written to Pauline over the holidays that she “still often thinks of pleasant times with our Guild and treasurers the weaving experience shared in Peterborough.”

Action from the web site is doing well. We are on regular mailing lists for Camilla Valley, and have links to OHS and others. The request for equipment has also come via our web site and was sent to our e-mail address. I have some work to do on the site but we are getting connected.



To make sure articles get into the newsletter on time, submission dates should be the 1st of the month of the next issue – March 1 and May 1. However I tend to leave a couple of days between receipt of articles and final printing so there is a bit of leeway after the deadline.

Submissions can be sent to me at 210 Carlisle Avenue, Peterborough, K9H 1J6, or you can e-mail your article to jomillsjo@hotmail.com or to jo.mills@sympatico.ca (note...this is a new e-mail address).

You can also telephone me at 705-749-3323 and leave a message if I am not in.



A future spinner, weaver or knitter?