

Shuttle-Craft Guild Bulletin on Weaver's Ideas

The Guild Library Collection of the Mary Meigs Atwater Shuttlecraft Bulletins: 1924 to 1949, includes over 250 issues. So far, I have written articles on 12 of them. Looking through them and the Deanna Baugh's index on them, (a wonderful resource in the library and on the Guild webpage) you can see that there are topics that are repeated over time. So, in the interest in covering as many of the Shuttlecraft Bulletins as I can, these articles will now be organized by topics. Starting with the next issue by date, October 1925, Number 13, which Mary names the "Contributor's number." The following issue from November 1925, also is on Guild members ideas, so this article will cover these two.

Ideas submitted include how to weave your name into the heading of your fabric, through the use of a metal comb fabricated to hold down (sinking shed) the correct threads to weave the letter, as first mapped out on graph paper. This may be a faster way to weave what we might use today as pick up, on a rising shed, but requires a custom set of combs made for each name. Another way to weave in would be by a tapestry method, or an embroidery method using a curved needle, such as a sacking needle. Weaving your name or a logo into your fabric is like signing your work and is an intriguing idea that I'd like to try.

"Coverlid" pincushions was an idea given for small articles woven in an all-over small pattern; woven 18" wide and 4" long to make a 9" oblong cushion or 2, 4" square ones. Stuffed and with tufted corners, using a pattern such as honeysuckle. This may be a good use of samples, or leftovers from projects. These pincushions were to be produced on a large scale for Christmas, by Guild members with Mary handling the advertising, including an ad in the New York Times! She gives details on ad costs for those weaving for profit. From the sound of her newsletter, many are successfully doing so. With the cost of advertising spread among many Guild members, it appears that it was to be a successful venture. These small articles are still being sold by weavers today, and online bloggers have great photos.



See for example this pincushion flock from buzybz.com.

Another member recommendation is the use of a heavy wire, 5" long, with a

1.5" end bent at a

right angle, to count metal heddles and lay across the shafts on a *Structo* loom to separate each repeat of the pattern. This helps prevent mistakes in threading. Another idea is to make a large scale draft of the threading pattern for ease of threading—much easier today with copy machines. This is more helpful for small repeats, rather than a very long one. Also included is instructions for a bed jacket fabric, woven in spot Bronson, with Fabri yarn (5600 yds/lb, like a 20/2 wool), set at 20 epi and woven 19.5 inches wide, and 45" long, making up the 2 halves of the jacket, which would have a seam down the middle, and made up in a kimono pattern. The 2014 March/April *Handwoven* issue has a project for a Japanese Shirt in log cabin that uses a 20" wide warp.

Mary also recommended ways to use patterns from the Shuttlecraft course: For example, Monk's Belt, with 6 harnesses, may be woven in the warp well as the weft for a border all around a plain piece. Diagram 29 of the Shuttlecraft weaving course shows this. See: http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/monographs/amm_cour.pdf. An alternate way of using the Monk's Belt stripes in the warp is described using Diagram 4 of the Course. One member is weaving table runners in the Lisbon Star pattern (see figure) in Summer and Winter, another is weaving rugs in Lee's

Surrender overshot, something

I'd like to see. There were many great ideas, and I'm sure that there are more among our own membership and you are all encouraged to submit them to the *Weaver's Bag*—

Maureen Wilson 

