



# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • January 2021 • Vol. 68, No. 1

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## January Guild Meeting

**What:** Jacquard Looms and Their Historical Significance, by Deanna Baugh

**When:** Thursday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom Meeting



At our meeting this Thursday, Deanna Baugh will share her experience with visiting a Jacquard Weaving Studio in Italy. She will talk about jacquard looms and explain how they work and their historical significance.

Jacquard looms were the precursor to today's computers. They were the first machines to use interchangeable punch cards to perform automated tasks. The use of the punch cards enabled the looms to produce intricate patterns such as tapestry, brocade, and damask.

The contributions Deanna makes to our Guild are so important – she keeps new weavers coming into the Guild! Deanna has studied and taught weaving (and almost every other fiber art) for years and is currently running the weaving program at the Pioneer Craft House. She has helped and encouraged so many new weavers, and she is always available to help older weavers as well! We are very grateful to her and look forward to hearing her presentation on December 10.

### Zoom Meeting Information

Zoom meeting ID: 299-956-0221

Passcode: 1z0n1T



## President's Message

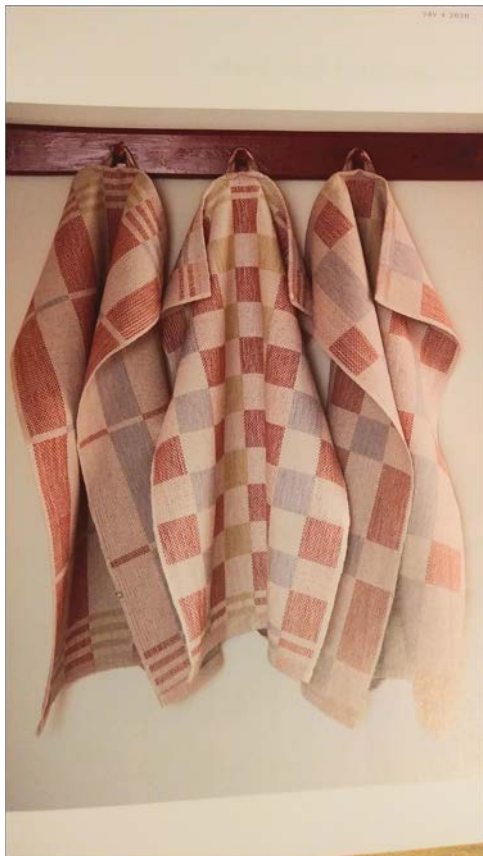
Here is hoping that 2021 is a lot more fun for everyone!

We will continue to hold our monthly meetings on Zoom. This month's program will be led by Deanna Baugh, who will present a slide show from her recent trip to Italy a couple of years ago. It should be very inspiring from a textilian point of view. I am looking forward to a virtual tour and seeing everyone on Thursday night!

*Sonya Campana*

## Guild Challenge

For our Guild Challenge for the 2020–2021 year, we will be weaving dishtowels — one of our favorite handwoven projects! Each person who is interested in participating will weave one dishtowel to give to someone else in the Guild. For information about the Challenge, go to our website, [mmawg.org](http://mmawg.org), and click on the “Events” tab. We hope that many of you will participate.



*From Juliette Lanvers:* I hope you had a wonderful break. Ours was very pleasant; we learned to bake Christmas log cakes and profiteroles. I wasn't able to do much weaving as my studio was transformed into a guest room but I enjoyed the new VAV magazine very much and immediately knew I would choose the draft for “striped and checked rustic hand towels” for my challenge-exchange. I have started the math and am slightly stuck now on how to thread the color repeat but hey — it's a challenge, it shouldn't be too easy!

## MMAWG 26<sup>th</sup> Biannual Fiber Exhibit

COVID allowing, we will be celebrating the Guild's 26<sup>th</sup> Biannual Fiber Exhibit during September through October 2021, so we hope that everyone will have lots of wonderful things to enter!!!

In conjunction with the exhibit, we will also be holding a workshop with Robyn Spady (more to come on that). After our last, highly successful exhibit in 2019, we were invited back by the Utah Cultural Celebration Center for 2021, which, as I know we all realize, is quite an honor.

The Guild usually holds the Exhibit in the spring. However, we were asked by the Cultural Center to postpone our exhibit until the fall, due to a scheduling conflict on their part. As things turned out with COVID, this was a lucky break as we all hope life will be more normal by then. Intake will be right after Labor Day and the Exhibit will be open for six weeks.

We invite you all to participate. Entries must have been created within the last two years and not shown at our 2019 exhibit. We know many have been working like mad during the past year at home, so we know it is going to be a FABULOUS EXHIBIT!!!! *Mimi Rodes*

## Show and Tell



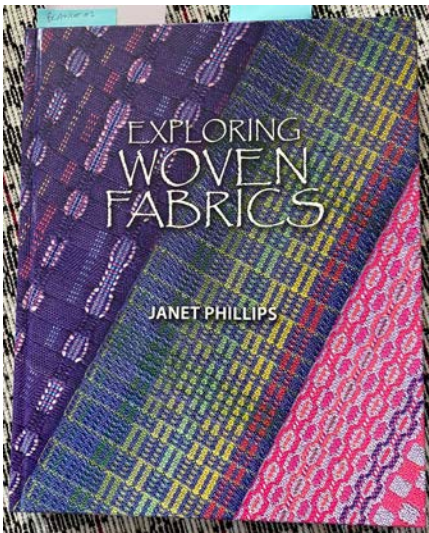
Jeanette Tregeagle, a truly inspiring weaver, has been working for some time on weaving a coverlet. This is a major project for any weaver, and Jeanette has shared some of the thinking and sampling she is doing to prepare for this. We are grateful that she has shared some pictures of her work with us. We are really looking forward to seeing the finished coverlet!





# Exploring Woven Fabrics, by Janet Phillips

## Book Review by Leslie Sieburth



This hardcover book is filled with wonderful glossy photos, so it could easily be seen as a coffee-table book – you know, something you leaf through to take in photos of gorgeous fabrics. But just using this book for its entertainment value would be a mistake – this is a serious book with lots of valuable weaving content.

The foundation of this book is a series of sample blankets, something that could also be called gamps. Each of these samples entails a set of related threadings, which are then woven using a sequence of related treadlings (called weftings in this book) or color sequences. There are seven of these blankets featured in this book, as listed below, with a close-to-even mix of four-shaft and eight-shaft projects. The photos of these study pieces are crisp and well described, and I am hoping to weave several of them. They will be valuable study tools and inspiration for future projects.

### Sample Blankets (Gamps)

Color and Weave: 4 shaft

Log Cabin: 4 shaft

Shadow Weave and Repp: 4 shaft

Block weaves (including Doubleweave and Summer & Winter): 8 shaft

Stitched Double Cloth: 8-shaft

Deflected Doubleweave: 8-shaft

Shadow Weave and Repp: 8-shaft.

However, to me the most valuable part of this book is the author's description of selecting a couple of the samples and then using these to design and weave an original and spectacular fabric. There are 40 of these examples – several after each of the sample blankets, and some that were produced by the author's students. Each of these has full instructions for weaving the same project, but learning the process by which the author develops these

novel fabrics empowers any of us to create our own. I already have a collection of samples, and using my samples in a more powerful way is really exciting to me.

This book would also be a great choice for a study group. The study blankets can fit any size loom, and getting to see other's sample blankets and work together on developing designs (even on Zoom) could be really exciting. I am sure that I will weave my version of a sample blanket over the next few months, and I would welcome working with anyone who wanted to join. Our library has a copy of this book!



***Ikat: The Essential Handbook to Weaving Resist Dyed Cloth***

Author: Mary Zicafoose

Available: [maryzicafoose.com](http://maryzicafoose.com) or Amazon, etc.

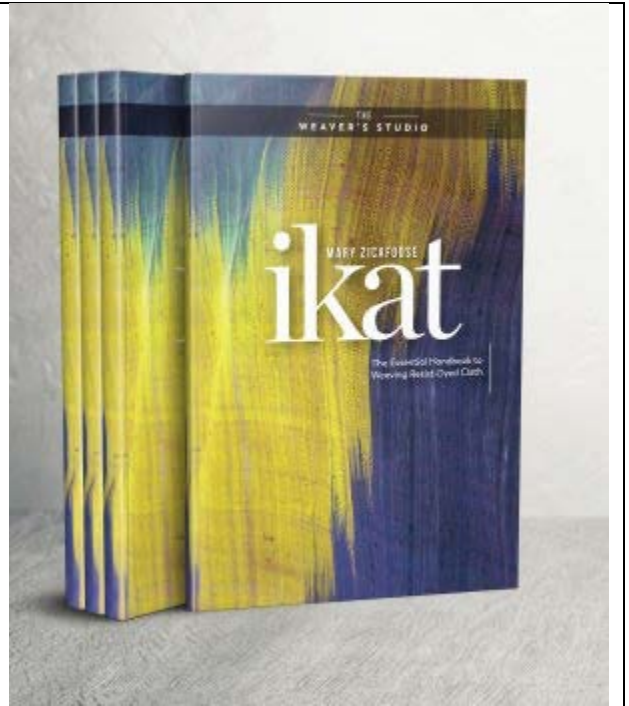
\$29.95 + \$9 shipping & tax

**New Addition to the Guild Library!!!**

This book provides an introduction to the fundamentals of ikat woven cloth. The author, Mary Zicafoose, has spent more than 3 years exploring and teaching the possibilities of ikat.

The book includes sections on:

- The historical background of ikat woven around the world
- Instructions on warp, weft and double ikat techniques.
- Helpful tools and instructions on how to build ikat wrapping boards
- Synthetic and indigo dye instructions and recipes
- Instructions for series of ikat projects that build your skills incrementally



I have been totally delighted with this book. I wanted to explore and better understand ikat techniques since I was not able to visit the ikat (Jaspe) artisans in Guatemala during my March trip. Ikat is a resist technique in which you wrap warp or weft yarns with a resisting material where you do not want the dye to penetrate.

Magically, the day before I decided to start my project, I read an article in *Handwoven* (online) about how to make “Plarn” (plastic yarn) from plastic bags. I cut up and used plastic garbage bags for my resist strips. Following Mary’s instructions, I used my warping board to wind my warp, then wrap plarn around the areas of warp that I didn’t want to dye. I set up my indigo vat and dyed my warp.



Cut “plarn”



Indigo vat



Wrapped & unwrapped dyed warp

Mary’s clear and thorough instructions are great! I’ll share photos of the finished scarf during Show and Tell on Thursday. *Mimi Rodes*



## Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Braids and Braiding

In March 1934, Mary wrote on the topic of braiding or plaiting. She said that it was called Swedish weaving for no reason that she knew of. Here is the link to the original Shuttle-Craft Bulletin discussed in this article: <http://www.mmawg.org/Bulletin/1934Bulletin.pdf>, see pages 9–12.

Braids or plaits are used for many purposes, utilitarian and decorative. They are used as hat bands, bag handles, and various ties or binding materials. They may be joined to produce rugs or hats. Couture braids have been used to embellish clothing and other textiles, such as those used in interior design.

The Bulletin includes 15 braids illustrated in three groups. Unfortunately, after many generations of copying the document, the figures are not helpful in illustrating the techniques, particularly when some of the variations depend on the color combinations.

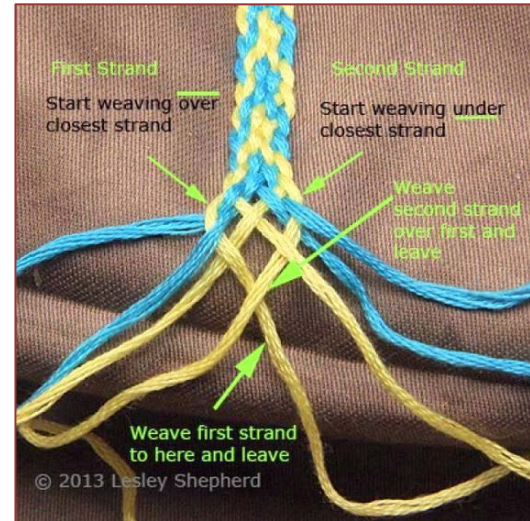
Group 1 includes 7 braids based on an over-under weave in various numbers of strands and color combinations. The technique involves what most of us are used to, braiding from the edges to the center each time. Here is an instructional figure to help:



I have attempted an 8-strand flat braid here in 4 colors of worsted weight yarn and found that pinning things down helps secure the strands.

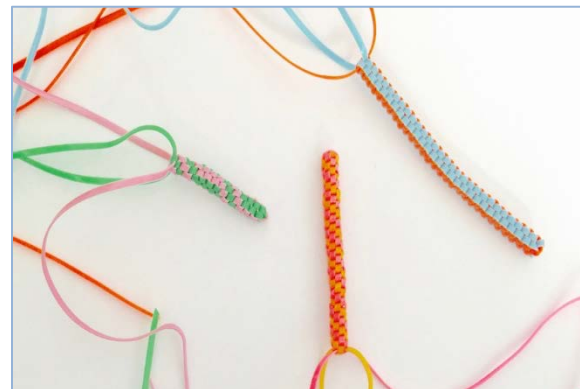
Mary described joining several multistrand flat braids together to form a fabric that might be used in envelope purses, etc.

I did see some lovely hats made of hemp braid at a Utah Arts Fair many years ago, using this braid in a coiling technique.

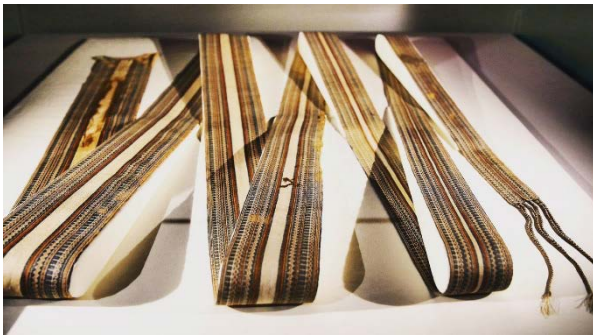


Group 2 includes Braids 8 through 10. They were thicker, heavier braids, more tightly woven over and under as in Group 1 braids. In Group 3, Braids 11 and 12 were identified by Mary as sailor's braids.

Braid 11 was also called a walling braid by Mary, and I could not find any information on it under that name. From her description, a 4-strand braid resulting in a round cord, quite springy and elastic, it reminded me of braids I have made from plastic lacing that are called box braids, or boondoggle, shown here, mainly used as lanyards. Mary wrote that they could be used as bag handles or any purpose requiring a cord. This braid can be seen tied on the website: <https://www.animatedknots.com/four-strand-square-sinnet-knot>



Braid 12 is a square sennet braid of 8 strands, 4 light and 4 dark. I have used this braid for a warp finish on rug warp. It is illustrated in Peter Collingwood's book *The Techniques of Rug Weaving*, in the chapter on rug finishes and warp protectors. You can also see it braided at this website:  
<https://www.animatedknots.com/four-strand-square-sinnet-knot>



Braid 13 is based on the famous Girdle of Ramesses, a square braid done in any number of strands, arranged in groups of 4. The figure is of little help, but here is a photo of the Girdle of Ramesses, a linen belt in the Liverpool UK museum. Mary did provide detailed instructions on how to weave it.

The figures for Braids 14 and 15 are not legible but are identified as the figure-of-eight braid, often used in rug making. Here is an illustration of the braiding, showing that it is done by a single strand woven back and for the around two foundation strands. The resulting braid is easily shaped and was described as sewn into a spiral to be used as chair pads and rugs. An example in cloth strips is shown here. It was taken from this website:

<http://www.rugmakershomestead.com/falsebraids.html>



If you would like to explore the basic braiding further, there are many resources online. Here are a few of them:

- A 5-strand braid tutorial by LaVerne Waddington, backstrap weaver, is available at this link: <https://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/tutorials/tutorial-5-strand-flat-braid/>
- YouTube tutorial on 8-strand braid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfAsLYTH-KA>
- Blog post: <https://howdidiyoumakethis.com/8-strand-flat-braid/>



You may also investigate the Braid Society (<https://thebraidsociety.wildapricot.org/>), an organization dedicated to promoting the education and practice of the art and craft of making constructed or embellished braids and narrow bands. Techniques include Japanese braiding (Kumihimo), Peruvian braiding, ply-split braiding, inkle weaving (narrow band weaving), cord making, loop braiding and other finger-manipulated work, lucet, braiding with tablet weaving, and sprang.

You could even find plaited bread recipes online braids! [Maureen Wilson](#)





## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The remainder of the 2020–2021 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18. The topic of discussion will be weaving fabric for neckties and scarves, as well as the overshot patterns titled Double Bow Knot and Double Chariot Wheel, from the June and November 1927 bulletins. If you are interested in joining our meeting, let Maureen Wilson know ([maureenmwilson@yahoo.com](mailto:maureenmwilson@yahoo.com)).

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater's work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is a very informal group – if you have not participated, try a meeting and see if you want to join. The meetings usually start with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater's biography.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
<b>Neckties and scarves, Double bow knot and Double chariot wheel patterns</b>	June 1927 November 1927	February 18, 2021
<b>Lace weaves, blanket and shawls, and Young Ladies Delight pattern</b>	May 1927 February 1932 August 1928	April 2021
<b>Wheel of Fortune, household items Mary Simmons</b>	July 1927 September 1927	June 2021
<b>Modernistic pattern for Summer and Winter and Overshot, block weave treadlings for Summer and Winter and S&amp;W Palm Pattern</b>	April and May 1928 September 1928	August 2021



## Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah

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published 10 times a year.

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## Guild Calendar 2020–2021

### January 14, 2021

Jacquard Looms and Their Historical  
Significance  
by Deanna Baugh  
Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### February 11, 2021

Weaving Innovations from the Bateman  
Collection  
by Robyn Spady  
Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### March 12, 2021

Combining Warps and Structures of  
Wow! Yardage  
by Daryl Lancaster  
Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.