



# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • February 2021 • Vol. 68, No. 2

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## February Guild Meeting

**What:** Weaving Innovations from the Bateman Collection, by Robyn Spady

**When:** Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom Meeting



Robyn Spady, a delightful and extremely knowledgeable weaver, will be teaching our February Guild meeting. Robyn is a well-known speaker and workshop leader, and it is a great privilege for us to learn from her at our meeting.

Robyn and two other weavers published a book about the weaving work of Dr. William G. Bateman. Dr. Bateman, a chemistry professor turned weaver, analyzed traditional patterns and extended them in completely new directions. This book features some of the nearly 1,500 samples created by Dr. Bateman. With hundreds of color draft diagrams and photos, this book was created to help artists experiment with his innovations on their own looms.

At our meeting, Robyn will share some of Dr. Bateman's most innovative work and discuss how he took some weave structures to new heights.



Robyn Spady was introduced to handweaving as a baby with her handwoven baby blanket that was woven by her great-grandmother. Inspired by her blankie, she learned to weave at a young age and has been weaving for over 50 years. She completed HGA's Certificate of Excellence in Handweaving (COE-W) in 2004 with the specialized study *Loom-Controlled Stitched Double Cloth*. Robyn is fascinated by the infinite possibilities of crossing threads and loves coming up with new ideas to create fabric and transform it into something new and exciting. She is committed to turning the weaving world on to double-faced fabrics, four-shaft weaves, uncommon and advanced weave structures, and passementerie techniques. Robyn is also the founder and editor of *Heddlecraft* magazine.

A scarf woven with a Bateman weave

## President's Message

### Greetings, Weavers!

I hope everyone is enjoying their winter and getting lots of weaving done.

I have a few announcements for upcoming events. At this month's Zoom meeting, **Robyn Spady** will be joining us and giving her online class "**Weaving Innovations from the Bateman Collection.**" Our library has her book of the same title, and a book donation from Maureen Wilson: *Bateman Weaves, The Missing Monograph: The Basics and Beyond*, by Linda Davis. (Thank you, Maureen!) These copies are available in the library for anyone interested in learning more about the fascinating weave structures developed by Dr. Bateman.

In March, we will be hosting **Daryl Lancaster** at our Zoom meeting. She will be giving her online class "**Combining Warps and Structures for Wow! Yardage.**" This should be a fascinating and inspiring presentation – I can't wait!

We are planning to hold Zoom meetings for April and May. Hopefully in June we can have an outside picnic and **Guild Challenge Reveal**. Zoom meetings throughout the summer are an option too.

Now jump all the way to next September, and we will be having our next **Biannual Guild Show at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center**. The intake day is August 30, and the show runs from September 2 through October 13, with the 14th as the pickup date. At the moment there are no plans for an opening reception. These plans are subject to change as Covid guidelines for public meetings evolve. I am so excited that we are still going to have a show, and I hope everyone can participate!

We are planning to have a **three-day workshop with Robyn Spady** at the same time as the show opening. It may be an online workshop if need be. More info to come on the upcoming workshop as we get closer to the date.

I would like to let all of you know that our friend Cathy Schutz moved back East late last year. Thank you, Cathy, for all your help and encouragement when COVID came down the pike. As Vice President she worked with me as our Guild's program director.

I would like to inform everyone that Catherine Marchant has graciously agreed to step into Cathy's past role of Vice President for the remainder of the Guild's calendar year (which typically runs September through June). Thank you, Catherine, for lending your help and knowledge planning our future meetings for the remainder of this Guild year.

Looking forward! *Sonya Campana, President and Librarian*

## 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.

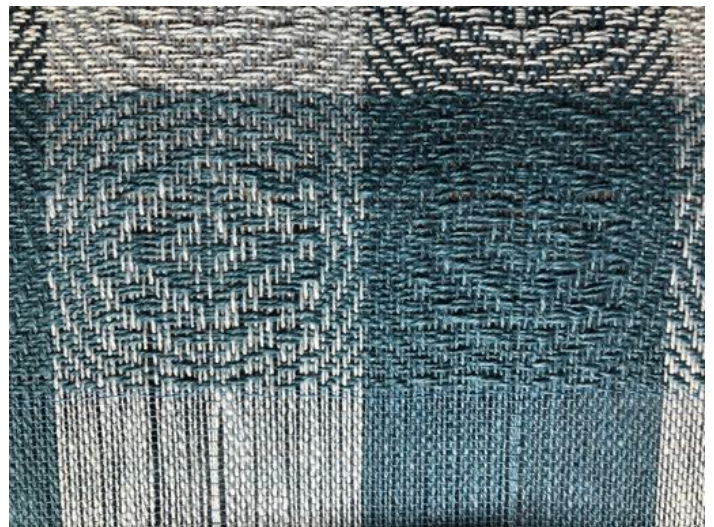


*From Mimi Rodes:* I was so inspired by Juliette’s slide show and passionate presentation of this year’s towel exchange and Guild Challenge! In many of the past years, I have dilly-dallied around and either been forced to weave madly to meet the Challenge deadline or missed it entirely. Since we are all staying home anyway, I decided to pick a project and warp my loom the very next week.

I also gave myself the limitation of working strictly from my stash. As I studied my stash, I came across two spools of 2/8 cottolin yarn in two lovely shades of blue given to me several years ago at the Christmas gift exchange by Charlene Lind. Aha!!! I had also been wanting to weave some towels in the lovely Circles and Diamonds four-harness twill pattern presented by Linda Gettmann in *Handwoven* (Nov/Dec 2019) – another Aha!!! Since I am lazy and like to get the most mileage out of warping and threading, I put enough warp on for four towels.

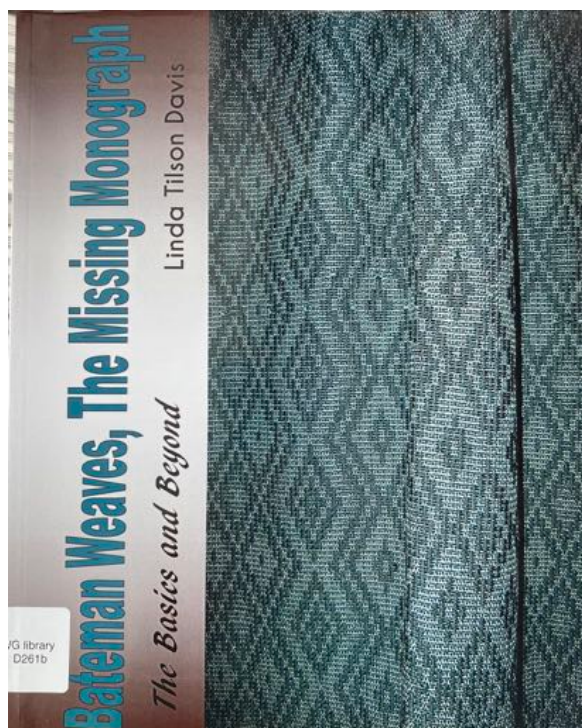
As I was weaving the second towel, a friend looked at it on the loom and wondered whether I needed to use a closer sett (the directions were for 2/10 cotton at 20 epi; see close-up photo of design on the loom). That made me start to worry, but I was already most of the way through the second towel. So when I finished weaving it, I cut off the towels and worriedly proceeded to wet finish, plunging the towel into very hot, then very cold water, and a hot dryer. The towel shrank 20%, the designs stayed square, and the hand is lovely! Whew!! What a relief!

*A note on the hem:* I had used cotton/polyester sewing thread for hem weft along with two picks of fusible thread. The woven hem didn’t shrink as much as the body of the towels (cottolin warp and weft), so it has been a challenge to block it in to get a nice hem. After multiple tries, it is still a little ruffly. I consulted with Judie Eatough the other day, and she suggested I weave basket weave in the hem instead of the pseudo plain weave in the directions. She told me that basket weave has a tendency to pull in more than plain weave (makes sense), so I will give this a try for the next two towels.



## Bingeing on Bateman

by Leslie Sieburth



This month's Guild meeting will feature the irrepressible Robyn Spady, who will be sharing with us Dr. Bateman's most innovative weave structures. Two years ago, I reviewed her book *Weaving Innovations from the Bateman Collection* (Feb. 2019), and you can find that review on [our website](#) (Feb. 2019). Here, I review a new-ish library acquisition—*Bateman Weaves, The Missing Monographs*, by Linda Tilson Davis.

The original Bateman monographs are a set of eight small-sized soft-backed books with fuzzy black and white photos, odd nomenclature, and lacking a sufficient introduction to explain Bateman's mindset. His drafts can be described as block weaves; however, the monographs do not tell us his inspiration, the logic underlying the monograph's set of drafts, nor do they provide suggestions on how to take a threading block and apply it to a finished woven project. Robyn Spady's book was an important advance because a set of Bateman's woven items were presented in sharp full-color photographs, and drawdowns were included so

that the drafts could be reproduced. This was an important advance, but we still lacked a book that provided a conceptual framework for understanding and applying Bateman's novel block structures.

*Bateman Weaves, The Missing Monographs* fills this niche. It was written for the weaver who wants to harness the power of Bateman's novel weave structures to develop their own unique fabrics. This book has a chapter devoted to each of the original eight monographs, each of which has a clear description of the block structure and its relationship to traditional block structures.

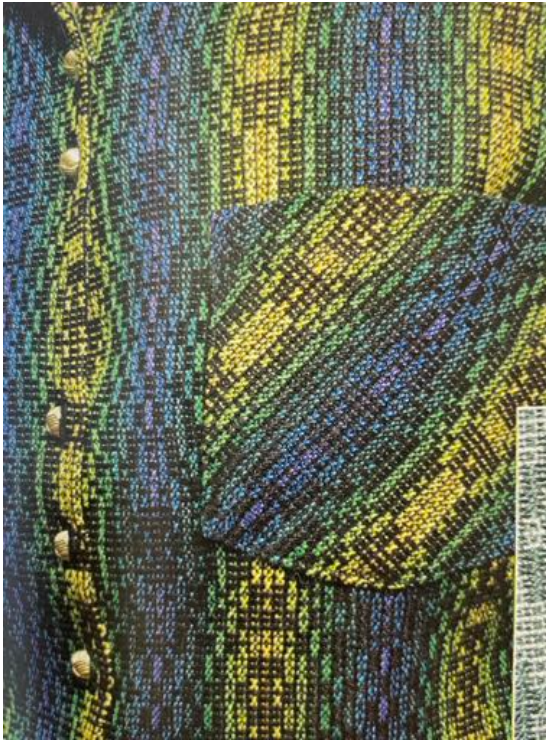
For example, the chapter on Bateman Blends starts by demonstrating the relationship of Bateman Blend blocks to both Summer and Winter and Atwater Bronson Lace and illustrates how Bateman blended these two structures. With clear diagrams of the blocks, the author shows the threads that function as tie-downs, and for the Bateman purist, Dr. Bateman's original nomenclature is also included.

Each of these eight chapters also shows variations on the standard block, for example, how the blocks change if the shaft placement of the tie-down treads is varied. From here, these chapters each naturally flow to how the weaver can extend the



A 12-block chevron pattern was used to create 10-thread blocks, with a Blend XV-C tie-up. To the right is the same threading woven in XIV -C tie-up and alternate treading.

introduced structure to generate novel designs. These sections are advanced and reflect the author's deep engagement with this area of weaving. The examples are mostly shown using weaving software-generated images, which can be easily interpreted and then expanded by users of the book. These sections are highly inspirational, but they might feed one's desire for a loom with 16 or more shafts.



Perhaps the most important part of this slim volume is the final section, which gently takes the potentially overwhelmed reader by the hand and suggests a starting point. It suggests embarking on one's Bateman journey by playing with drafts, e.g. by using weaving software or the tried-and-true graph paper drawdown. The author makes suggestions for playing with threading and treadling and suggests Park Weaves as a starting point, describing it as the most straightforward of the Bateman structures. This section then segues to images of truly inspiring fabric.

If you are a weaver who wants to design their own unique fabrics, this book is a gold mine. The book introduces some little-used block structures, shows how the structure can be varied, and then encourages playful engagement. In fact, there is so much offered in this slim volume that it could be an exciting platform for a study group.

## 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*

## Southwest Utah Weaving Meeting Information

**Monday, February 15, 2021, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Zoom Meeting**

Nancy Crowley will share the amazing fabrics that were discussed in the “Juror’s Talk: Vistas along the Appalachian Trail Yardage Exhibit.” Robyn Spady was the judge for the exhibit. She will either show her notes or she should be able to show the actual presentation. *Description:* Look through the eyes of Juror Robyn Spady as she talks about the craftsmanship and technical abilities fiber artists convey in this yardage exhibit of hanging works that focus on drawing the viewer towards visual, emotional, or intellectual responses.

The presentation took an hour. Originally, the plan was to go through two juror’s talks, but there will not be enough time. Therefore, the March program will be the Juror’s talk on the “Wearable Art Exhibit.” *Description:* Poised at the junction of art, craft, and fashion, artwear has both challenged and blurred cultural boundaries as works of art made to adorn the body. Take a walk through the wearable art exhibit with Juror Dianne Totten as she discusses the impact that color, design, fabric, and construction have in creating designer show pieces.

Email me your Show and Tell pictures and I will put them into a presentation I will show at the meeting. Send them to me at [webmaster@mmawg.org](mailto:webmaster@mmawg.org).

Zoom Information:

Nancy Crowley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Southwest Utah Weavers

Time: Feb 15, 2021 05:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85688016275?pwd=M2JDUy9Vc2k0R0dVYjdxWG1CU1h2QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 8801 6275

Passcode: 030179

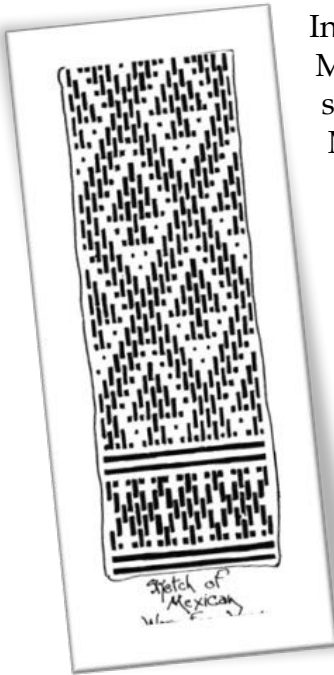
### Web Page

The web page for the branch has the meeting schedule and other information:

[mmawg.org/SWUtahBranch.htm](http://mmawg.org/SWUtahBranch.htm)

Nancy Crowley

## Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Drafting from Mexican Weaving



In the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin from May 1934, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote about warp-faced weaving samples sent to her by Guild members traveling in Mexico. Here is the link to the original Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: [mmawg.org/Bulletin/1934Bulletin.pdf](http://mmawg.org/Bulletin/1934Bulletin.pdf), see pages 17-20. The pieces were woven in linen and wool using backstrap weaving with a slot and hole heddle (see the example from an Etsy shop) and pickup.



Mary found the process of pickup to be somewhat slow and wrote that it could be done more conveniently on a four-harness loom and provided a threading to use. Her threading would still require pickup and suppression of threads to achieve the pattern. She wrote that the best way to do the thing would be on a 10-shaft threading and provided that threading as well. This threading requires so many sheds, and a tie-up was provided with instructions to make the sheds by treading in groups. Mary called this an acrobatic method of weaving, but not difficult as one gets used to it. Mary thought that the weave was unusual and attractive and wrote about this style in her book *Byways in Hand-Weaving*, as well as in the *Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand-Weaving* (see the chapter "Nine Native American Pick-Up Weaves").

There are many beautiful examples of pick-up and Andean pebble weave on Laverne Waddington's blog: [backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/](http://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/) Laverne provides many tutorials, articles, books, and patterns for backstrap weaving. Here is an example from her gallery:



Mary Atwater considered the warp-faced weave unusual and attractive, good for hangings and a possibility for rugs as it makes a firm fabric. She wrote that the main difficulty is the

closeness of the sett and the difficulty in getting a good shed. When she wove these weaves, she removed the reed and regulated the fabric width with the warp tension, which she considered easy with a narrow piece. In her sample piece, she noted that the sett was 34 ends per inch, in linen of about 40/2 and 17 ends of homespun wool yarn, and she suggested Shetland wool as easier to manage. She also suggested using a 40/3 linen and a worsted weight wool.

Mary included another draft of a variation of Summer and Winter, done in 3/2 perle cotton warp and with felted wool strips for the pattern weft. She provided 10- and 8-shaft versions. She planned to use the fabric for portieres, which is a hanging curtain placed over a door or over the doorless entrance to a room. She noted that the weave would be fascinating for combining many colors.



## 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 on Zoom. 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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**Newsletter editor:** Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com. The newsletter is published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to receive the newsletter by mail) to Ping Chang, 7 Courtside Lane, Sandy, UT 84092

To join the Guild e-mail list, contact Susan Hainsworth, susanhainsworth@gmail.com

**Guild website:** mmawg.org

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**Guild Challenge Coordinator:** Juliette Lanvers, 801-860-5481, [juliettelanvers@icloud.com](mailto:juliettelanvers@icloud.com)

## Guild Calendar 2020–2021

### 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.

### April 8, 2021

Mary Atwater and the Shuttle-Craft  
Bulletins

by ReNee Page, Maureen Wilson, and

Nancy Crowley

Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### May 13, 2021

Weaving Swedish Lace

by Charlene Lind

Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### June 2021

Guild Challenge Reveal!