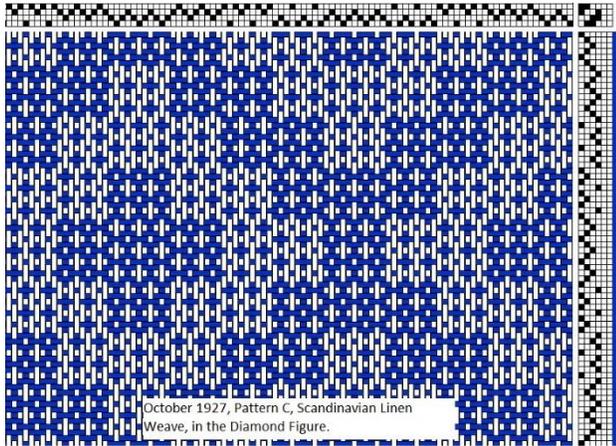
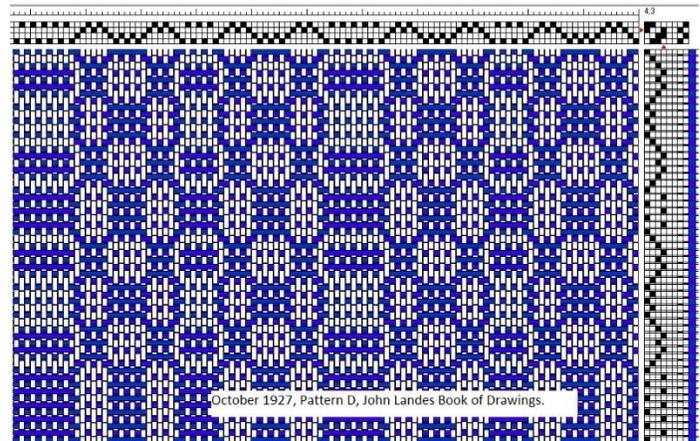


Shuttle-craft Bulletins; Weaving for Christmas

As of today (September 25) there are 90 weaving days until Christmas, and by the time you read it, there will be fewer. Mary Meigs Atwater, in 1928, called time for Christmas weaving in the



October Shuttlecraft Bulletin. In 1927, she gave several what she referred to as “Christmas weaving patterns” (see two of them diagrammed in the article), but it was to encourage weavers to



weave articles to sell, to generate some funds for Christmas. Shuttlecraft Guild members could purchase a Christmas Club loom warped up to weave articles to sell.

In the 1928 Bulletin, Mary suggests the following for suitable gift-giving, stating that things made for Christmas should have something gay and unusual about them, with more value given to beauty and originality than sober worth. But, she admonishes, the weaver should resolve to make nothing useless, no matter how insistent the demand and to hold themselves to the highest standard of workmanship!

“To be a craftsman is a responsibility as well as a joy; it involves devotion to an ideal, and a certain “noblesse oblige”. The craft is what we make it.”

Of warps recommended Mary lists a fine cotton warp as one that lends itself to the greatest variety of items. Woven with a soft strand cotton or linen for towels,

woven with linen for table runners, with strand cotton or mercerized cotton, wool, rayon or silk for pillow tops or bags. Or scarves with a fine wool weft, linsey-woolsey style, but recommends that it would be better to use a wool or silk warp for scarves. A fine linen warp may be used for all types of linens, bags, fabrics for book covers and other items. A wool warp is best for scarves and mufflers, but can be used for bags as well. A silk warp is best for handbags and is handsome for scarves.

Mary also discusses woven rugs as gifts, for a good 2 pages. Small bath mats or a small rug for a bedside, in front of a dresser or at a door way. Bath mats may be made of chenille over a carpet warp, usually woven at 24” wide and 36” long. Cotton chenille weft rugs would work

for a bedside, but for a hallway or elsewhere, Mary recommends a woolen rug yarn weft. Mary mentions overshot rugs, which I have never seen and am intrigued by the idea. She recommends a small figure such as the diamond or Russian diaper, worked with or without a border. Designs mentioned include the single chariot wheel of the Cleveland web from the Shuttlecraft Course book.



She discusses a modern design for rugs woven in wool, with details given for 10 different designs. These are described in detail in the previous bulletin, No 48 as a pattern called “smoke wreath” as the design suggests smoke from a factory chimney. Mary seems to be taken by the pattern as she dedicates almost 5 pages to the draft. They are made up of 4 blocks of color woven in chenille or wool. Treadling for version 4 is shown,

abbreviated, here. These may be woven in Summer and Winter and Mary gives options for weaving different weight warps for rugs, bags and table mats.

She ends the Bulletin by listing linens as the nicest things to make for Christmas: towels, luncheon clothes, table runners, bureau scarves, collar and cuff sets, which one doesn’t really see any more. She recommends brightly colored linens as being very “now” and of course, offers a complete line of colors for sale to Guild members.

And speaking of Christmas weaving, if you were not able to attend the Guild meeting at Pilar Pobil’s house in September, you missed the announcement for this year’s Guild challenge: to make Christmas ornaments. Jeannette Tregeagle made the announcement and passed around several images on her iPad of woven ornaments. If you want to participate, make up 5 ornaments by the end of the Guild year, 4 for exchange. For some inspiration, check out these recent *Handwoven* magazine articles: 3-D Band Ornaments in the November/December 2014 issue for ornaments made of inkle loom bands, Felted Holiday Ornaments, November/December 2007, needle-woven embellished, felted temari balls, and My Space from the September/October 2009 issue has a beautiful tassel made of silk thrums with a silk cocoon topper. There is more to be found online. For example, see the ribbon tree ornament tutorial at this blog: <http://sunshineyellow-stitches.blogspot.com/2011/11/ribbon-tree-tutorial.html>.



So, if you celebrate the holidays at the end of the year and hope to give a handwoven gift, now is the time to get that warp on the loom.