

## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins on Coverlets

In the February 1930 Bulletin (No. 65), Mary reported that in winter, when indoors activities are the “most comfortable kind,” it is a great time to take on a large weaving project. Mary had for a few years recommended that such a large weaving project be a coverlet. She said that in February, there is still plenty of time left for making a coverlet before the spring weather calls us out of doors. Those who make the practice of weaving a coverlet every year are well rewarded. She called it a “sort of magic” to take spools of thread and hanks of yarn and turn them into a beautiful and useful thing to last for many years. She recommended starting with careful planning, considering the type and weight of materials, pattern, weave and color. The choices made should be relative to the room size and décor, and the bed for which the coverlet is woven. Coverlets were traditionally woven in overshot, summer and winter or double weave.

Mary listed several traditional overshot patterns for consideration. Color schemes include a basic indigo wool overshot with a natural cotton warp.



Other options can be seen in the photos and include madder red, walnut brown, indigo and madder in combination and other naturally dyed combinations. Most of these apply to the overshot patterns. Summer and winter were traditionally done in indigo and natural. I think that modern versions and uses of alternative color combinations should be considered to move the design from a traditional one. Mary mentioned a coverlet woven by a Guild member in a crackle version of the “Three Flowers” Colonial pattern, from the 1928 November Bulletin, giving it a new expression. Do not discount more basic weaves such as Monk’s Belt. Any of these weaves would produce a beautiful piece. There are many options. Mary also listed standard materials commonly used and the amounts needed, providing a good reference. She closed by mentioning if you are weaving the coverlet in strips, they must be done in a way to match as exactly as possible, measuring each on the loom under tension so that they are the same length. Coverlets done in

summer and winter should be done in three pieces as the seam is not as easily hidden in this weave and two seams along the side is less noticeable than one in the middle.

In January 1931, Mary again devoted the Bulletin to coverlets. She suggested a January coverlet club within the Guild – each member who weaves a coverlet could have the piece photographed and exchange prints with other members. Mary was weaving a tangerine and yellow silk coverlet over a white rayon warp at the time and was ready to enter herself as member #1 in the club. One coverlet a year is one goal she mentioned. This might result in a pile of coverlets as seen here.

She recommended the Bronson weave, summer and winter and crackle for silk coverlets, but not overshot. She provided 5 different coverlet drafts at the end of the bulletin, in overshot, summer and winter and crackle.

