

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Christmas Weaving

As the October issue of the Shuttlecraft Bulletin has been dedicated to Christmas Weaving, in 1931 and 1933, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote similar articles on weaving for Christmas, whether it be for gift giving, or for sale (think Guild Boutique, November 16 and 17). Mary wrote that weaving gifts was particularly important on the 1930s for those feeling the financial depression, but wish to delight friends and family with gifts. She thought that the depression had stimulated activity and give a new appreciation of values, resulting in more planning ahead for gift giving.



It was Mary's opinion that gifts should have beauty, combined with utility to carry the message of affection. Consider this when you are weaving items for sale at this time of year. She emphasized planning, by using the same warp for as many articles as possible. She recommended, for instance, a fine natural linen warp as a starting point. With a linen weft, towels, napkins and table linens could be woven. With rayon, pillow tops, runners, wall hangings could be produced, and with wool, upholstery fabric (which would make an interesting gift indeed). A silk weft would make a very satisfactory bag. A cotton warp would be a good alternative and Mary suggested it be tan, old gold, taupe or pearl grey in color, not a stark white. Mary provided several "plans" in 1931 for warps, with a list of the pieces each of them would provide. For example, a 20" wide 20 yard 16/2 cotton warp could weave 5 yards curtain fabric, 6 large bags, 4 square pillows, 4 table runners, resulting in 15 gifts!

The design provided in 1931 could be woven in several ways: a 4 shaft crackle weave, 5 harness Summer & Winter, and a 7 Shaft Summer & Winter in 2 colors. She recommended these weaves for rugs or fabrics that could be used to cover boxes. She also gave a brief description of a card weaving that could be used to cover picture frames. Diagrams of these were included.

In 1933, Mary wrote on gifts of a more personal nature, such as scarves in fine wool woven in Bronson spot weave, neckties and belts. Scarves in large plaid or check patterns were in style as well. She described woven bags as a flat purse type with a zipper closing, and a strap. She recommended Summer & Winter, Crackle and Bronson weaves. She referenced several threadings from the Recipe Book, recommending them for scarves, ties and belts as well as pillow tops, table linens and rugs. She provided a card weaving draft for hat band and matching belt. She also provided 2 drafts in spot Bronson with borders for napkins, one of them is provided here. These would work well for towels too, I think. There are, as always, a lot of options. So, start planning and weaving.

