

Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Weaving Your Signature

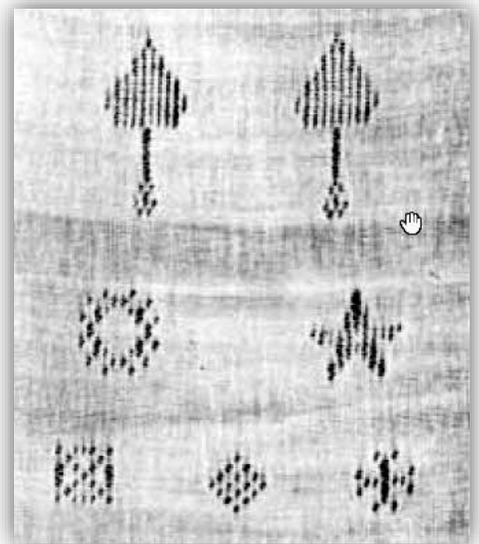
In July 1932, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote that an important part of a work of art is the signature of the artist. In weaving, Mary believed that when weavers make an “outstanding piece, an important coverlet for example, a name or initials and a date should become part of the fabric. She wrote that the Spanish Weave, or as we know it, Spanish Lace, a technique developed by a Shuttlecraft Guild member, Mrs. Gertrude W. Howells is a viable option. This technique was written up by Mrs. Howells in a 1930 issue of the *Bernat Handicrafter*, a periodical published at the time. While there are several issues of the *Handicrafter* online (Link:

Signing your art is an integral part of the creative process. The instant you apply your name to a piece of your art, you declare it to be officially done and ready to go public. No matter what your signature looks like, what form it takes or where you put it, no work of your art is complete without one.

<https://www.artbusiness.com/signart.html>

<https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/handicrafter.html>). Sadly, the May June 1930 issue is not among them. But, Mary provided a detailed description of how to apply the weave, providing a block cap alphabet of 7 spaces, each of which represents one row of holes in the Spanish Weave. I could not find an illustration of this, but did find another article on the Spanish weave used to weave figures, see the illustration here:

Mary wrote about placement of the signature on the piece, depending on how it was to be displayed. She suggested that on a coverlet, a round linen weft, heavier than the warp or tabby be used and to make sure that in making the back shots, the weft be drawn tightly enough to open the holes to develop the letter. It is to be beaten very firmly and it is best to work from a drawing done on graph paper. She also provided a script alphabet and suggested that any cross stitch pattern such as those for samplers could be used as well.



This weave can be done on only 2 shafts. Letters may also be woven on an inkle loom or in Summer and Winter, or taquete using 8 shafts as described on by Lillian Whipple on the Weavezine website in 2009: <https://www.weavezine.com/content/weaving-words.html>

There is also the option of commercially prepared labels to attach to your weaving. Whatever method you choose, be sure to sign your work.

