

Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Weaving Pillow Covers

In September 1932, the eighth year of the Shuttlecraft Guild, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote on weaving fabrics for pillows. She noted that we do not make enough of them. Of the three elements weavers consider in their work: texture, color and design, Mary considered texture to be of highest importance in weaving pillows. She thought that if it does not have a pleasing texture against one's cheek or bare arm, color and design really do not matter.

For this reason, she was against using wool, recommending linen, cotton, silks and rayon yarns instead. The fabric should be light, firm and smooth and so she ruled out overshot patterns with long floats. The woven design should be on both sides, not just the front and she suggested a size of 20" square. Elaborate finishes are not needed, though if desired, she recommended an ornamental braid or card woven border at the seams and wrote that it was hardly necessary to say that fringes were out of favor!

She gave 11 drafts for pillow fabric in overshot, Summer and Winter, and Crackle. For the last structure she included the top portion of a screen panel design from the Recipe book that has the appearance of a geometric sunflower-very attractive (Series VII, number 1), and a new design written for this Bulletin, with 6 treadling variations. This last draft has a striking geometric pattern and would make a very interesting set if all treadlings were used. She recommended a variety of color combinations. Most all of the drafts were for 600+ warp ends and a sett of 30 epi is suggested for the 20" pillow. So the warp assumed to be a finer material. Most of the drafts could adjusted to the yarn weight and pillow size desired-weaver's choice. She wrote that the last draft offered could also be used for rugs to complement the pillows.

In the Nov/Dec 2015 issue of *Handwoven* magazine, Madelyn van der Hoogt and Suzie Liles mentioned a project to weave 11 pillows on one warp. It includes overshot, boundweave, lace, honeycomb, petit point, and more and can be woven with 4 shafts. Check them out at this link:

<https://www.interweave.com/article/weaving/weave-eleven-pillows-on-one-warp/>

And, weave up some pillows!

