



The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • March 2023 • Vol. 71, No. 3

March Guild Meeting

What: Weaving Legacy of Mary Atwater and Flossie Goodwin,
by ReNee Page and Susan Hainsworth

When: Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Where: South Valley Unitarian Church, 6876 Highland Drive, basement



Mary Atwater teaching in her Salt Lake home. Her inkle loom is now owned by ReNee Page.

Our Guild has the remarkable honor of having been named in honor of Mary Atwater, one of the most important names in American handweaving. It is also remarkable that looms and weavings from Mary Atwater and her good friend and fellow weaver, Flossie Goodwin, are owned by Guild member ReNee Page.

At our meeting, ReNee is going to share with us many of the wonderful weavings done by Mary Atwater and Flossie Goodwin. These women were true artists, who experimented with techniques and pushed the boundaries of their art. It is a great privilege – and very inspiring – to see and study these weavings in person.

Show and Tell will begin at 6:30. Please bring the things you have been working on. ReNee's presentation will begin at 7:00.



Flossie Goodwin at the Macomber loom she purchased from Mary Atwater's estate. ReNee now owns this loom.

President's Message

I had trouble figuring out what to say for my message this month until I came across the poem "Inscription for Katrina's Sun-Dial," by Henry Van Dyke. Part of the poem reads:

Time is
 too slow for those who wait
 too swift for those who fear
 too long for those who grieve
 too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who Love
 time is not.

I hope that everyone is using their time for growing and progressing and becoming who you want to be. Enjoy your TIME. *Beth Myrer*

Zoom Meeting with Daryl Lancaster on March 13, 2023

The Southwest Branch of our Guild is hosting a Zoom meeting presented by Daryl Lancaster on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. All Guild members are invited! Daryl Lancaster is a well-known weaver and teacher, who has extensive experience with creating beautiful clothing out of handwoven fabric. Here is the information:

Color and Inspiration

Build color confidence no matter what your favorite fiber technique. In this presentation, we will start with the basics of color and discuss inspiration from color forecasts and online color tools. These can help stretch the imagination of anyone who is color challenged. PowerPoint slides will illustrate a series of fun exercises to create easy color references using yarn, photos, and Color-aid papers. And for the handweavers, we will learn what to do when introducing a weft! Lots of inspiration!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86161546028?pwd=WcTMSm5WaVFSYWNwEjVbTZXBmpvUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 6154 6028
Passcode: 804658

The Threads That Bind Us: A Celebration of Textile Arts

Our Guild show will be held from **September 7** through **October 18, 2023**. The drop-off date for artwork will be **September 2**, and the pickup date will be **October 19**.

We are so fortunate to be able to hold our Guild shows at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center every other year. The gallery there is so beautiful, and the textiles, which come from textile artists all over Utah, are hung beautifully. Please start preparing now for the show! The Call for Entries is now available on the Guild website.



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Intermountain Weaver's Conference (IWC)



Workshop Registration Now Open

IWC just published a newsletter with everything you need to know to attend the 2023 conference. Registration for the conference opened on February 1. Register early so you can get the workshop that you want. You can access the newsletter at this link:

<https://www.intermountainweavers.org/resources/Documents/202301IWCNewsletter.pdf>

IWC will be held July 27–30, 2023, at Utah State University in Logan.

Volunteers Needed

The IWC board is looking for volunteers to help us during the day on Wednesday, July 26, and Thursday, July 27. We will need help setting up the classrooms and getting the registration packets ready for everyone. If you can help on one or both days, even for a few hours, please contact Nancy at registration@intermountainweavers.org. We would really appreciate your help – we want to make this a great conference!

IWC Bookmarks

Join the Southwest Branch of our Guild in weaving bookmarks to give out at IWC! You can use inkle looms, card looms, regular looms, kumihimo – whatever! Contact Nancy Crowley (LudmillaLilly@outlook.com) with any questions. *Nancy Crowley*

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Weaving Afghan Blankets

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletins covered in this article are from November 1936 and 1942. These Bulletins are on the Guild website (mmaawg.org) under the Bulletins Tab.

Mary Meigs Atwater defined an afghan blanket in the November 1936 Bulletin as a soft, lightweight blanket to be used on a couch or to lay over a sleeping child. She called it a “useable and agreeable article.” According to <https://www.greenprophet.com/2012/08/afghans-roots/>, the term “afghan” when referring to the knitted or crocheted blanket went mainstream in America in the early 1800s.

The most popular afghans that Mary wrote about were made of a coarse worsted yarn, lightly woven, and done in weaves known for color and texture. This was something that could be woven quickly. One yarn Mary recommended was Germantown, sett at 10 ends per inch (epi). This yarn was available from Bernat at the time at 1200 yards per pound according to a Handicrafter ad from January 1928. The Interweave Master Yarn chart <https://www.interweave.com/wp-content/uploads/Master-Yarn-Chart-2014.pdf> lists a 10 epi plain weave sett recommendation for 6/2 wool. Vavstuga carries a comparable 6/2 blanket yarn: <https://store.vavstuga.com/product/yarn-garn-woo-blau.html> .

Simple weaves were recommended. Dark, rich colors would be best for a living room or a study done in dark colors. Lighter shades would be better for a bedroom or morning room. Many colors may be combined in a plaid arrangement, for example, as this one woven by Catherine Marchant, in Susan Hainsworth’s collection.

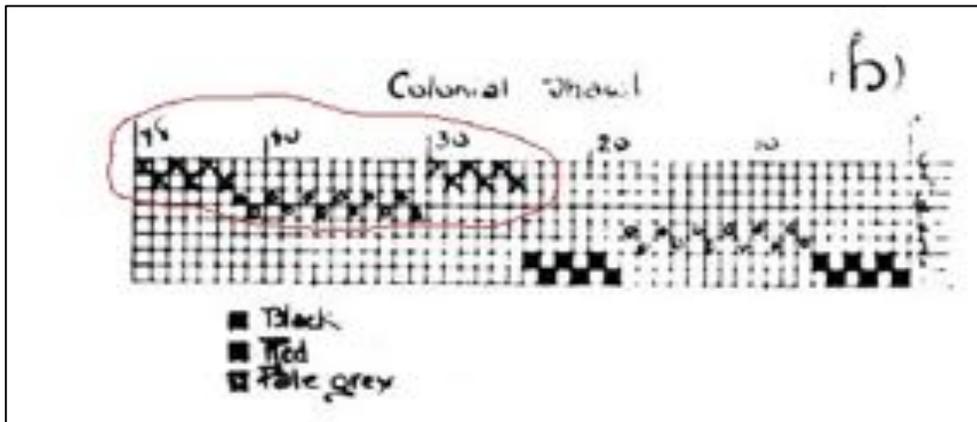
Mary thought that crackle weave, especially woven without a tabby (in the Italian method) would be suitable. She listed many options from the *Recipe Book* (see Series III for blankets), including projects in crackle, summer and winter, a fancy six-shaft threading, Finnweave, and more. She wrote that all of these were of the fabric type and if done in coarse worsted knitting yarns would be excellent for an afghan blanket. From the *Shuttle-Craft Book on American Hand Weaving*, she recommended several summer and winter weaves, Bronson, and what she referred to as “fabric” threadings. In total, she referred to over 50 projects or weaves that could be used.



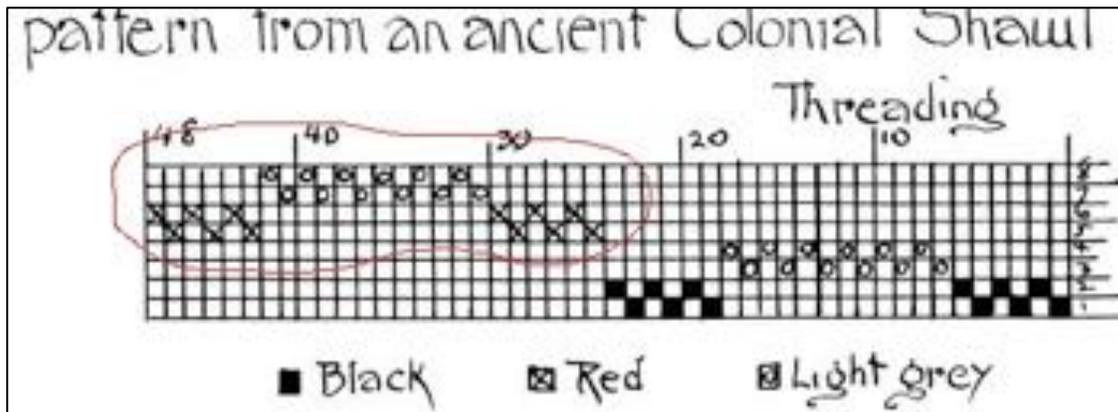
In November 1942, Mary provided new blanket patterns in response to requests. The first was a three-shaft warp-faced blanket weave from an Indian piece from Mexico. The original was done in handspun wool in three colors. She found the combination of yellow, blue, and red to

be extremely handsome. Mary wrote that a coarse knitting yarn sett at 24 epi (quite a bit denser than recommended above) would make an excellent automobile blanket. Done in finer material, sett closer, it would make a good couch blanket.

The second draft (b) was from a sample sent from a guild member from a colonial period shawl. The material used was a hard-twisted wool yarn, not well suited to softness. This draft is essentially the one included in the *Recipe Book*, Section IV. Number 14, as a colonial shawl, later identified as first published deflected double weaves. There is a slight adjustment in the threading as seen below, but the treading and tie-up are the same. Mary called the weave very striking and unusual and thought it might make a very handsome wall hanging in coarse rough silk or a lightweight jute. She described it as having a “sort of spider web effect that is quite remarkable” and added that it would make a handsome couch blanket in a worsted weight wool yarn. It is interesting to note that in the *Recipe Book*, revised later, this project is described as not suitable for blankets “as the weave is so open.”



1 Threading (b) from the November 1942 Bulletin



2 Threading from the Recipe Book, Series IV, Number 14

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The remainder of the 2022–2023 Guild year meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group is presented below. The next meeting will be held in April, with the date to be determined, at Catherine Marchant’s home. The topic of discussion will be Color and Color Combinations from the December 1929 Bulletin (PDF pages 80–87).

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater’s work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is an informal group – if you have not participated, try a meeting. The meetings often begin with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater’s biography.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
Color and Color Combinations	December 1929	Apr 2023
Coverlets	February 1930 January 1931	Jun 2023
Pile and Velvet Weaving	March 1930 April 1930	Aug 2023

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published 10 times a year.

To join the Guild send \$30.00 (\$35.00 to
receive the newsletter by mail) to Barbara
Allen, 524 North 100 East, Centerville, UT 84014,
or go to the Guild website, where you can pay
using Paypal.

To join the Guild e-mail list, contact Susan
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Guild Calendar 2022–2023

March 9

Weaving Legacy of Mary Atwater and Flossie
Goodwin; Mary Atwater's Birthday Party
by ReNee Page and Susan Hainsworth

April 13

Finishing Weaving
by Mimi Rodes, Deanna Baugh, Jeanette
Tregeagle

May 11

Challenge Exchange: Finished Weaving
and Drafts