

Reno Fiber Guild Study Group Proposal
November 2017
The Weaver's Draft and Clothier's Assistant by John Hargrove 1792

(You can download a free copy of the publication)
https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/books/hj_draft.pdf

The range of drafts found in this manuscript is suitable for 4 shaft and 8 shaft looms, as well as a few for multi-shaft looms, so all levels of expertise can participate fully in the study. There are opportunities for new weavers to work with mentors and experienced weavers to pass on knowledge to others.

REASON FOR THIS STUDY TOPIC

Exploration of an historical weaving manuscript as part of the American weaving history has many possibilities, challenges, and rewards, such as:

- Reading and manipulation of drafts in this manuscript will ultimately lead to more comfort and familiarity when reading all weaving drafts.
 - Correcting draft errors and omissions in the manuscript and proposing changes to make workable drafts.
- Utilizing modern interpretations of drafts in new fibers and color combinations.
 - Comparing and contrasting the effects of different setts and fibers in one draft or a combination of related drafts.
 - Exploring color and weave effects based on weave structures.
- Researching
 - old methods of cloth finishing including cutting of weft threads for pile weaves, pressing and using a mangle. Experimenting with a variety of ways to weave and finish cords.
 - drafts from other manuscripts in the same time period with an eye to understanding those contained in this manuscript.
 - names given to drafts, such as Ververet, Bumberet, Ducape, etc., to see if drafts with the same fabric names are similar to ones contained in this manuscript. Are there modern terms being used for the same structures?
- Referencing listings of books, documents, and online links where the Hargrove Manuscript has been discussed to round out background information.

STUDY GROUP STRUCTURE

The purpose of this study is to allow each individual the opportunity to tailor participation in line with weaving level, interest, and time available. We want to create a comfortable outlet for creative thinking and weaving, as well as a place to experiment and share. Successes and failures have equal importance in the learning process.

SHARING ASPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Ideas for communication of participants and broader goals for sharing as the study progresses and ends, might include some of these:

- Group meetings before Sage Weavers or Regular Guild Meetings (approx. 30 minutes to an hour).
- Establishing a Yahoo Group dedicated to the Study for the purpose of sharing drafts and photos, and serving as an online communication resource. If any members are from another CNCH guild, Yahoo groups have many advantages for sharing.
 - Files containing drawdowns, photos of samples and completed works can be stored.
 - A complete record of conversations maintained with an index number will come in handy when we want to compile a synopsis of our work.

- Historical research information can be retained.
- Teaching documents can be put forward from any member in the group and posted both on the Yahoo Group and the Blog.
 - Documents might include how to:
 - do a manual drawdown;
 - read the drafts in the manuscript and change them to modern weaving drafts;
 - turn a draft and the reason why you might want to do this; and
 - look at a draft with an eye to color and weave.
- Members can write articles for the “Tangled Web” newsletters to advise of study group progress and to stimulate interest.
- Completed works can be shared through our Blog and posted on the CNCH website via their Study Group Coordinator.
- Possible use of a Facebook page that is restricted to photos and information about the Hargrove Manuscript and open to all weavers and possibly historians. We might glean knowledge about the period from others outside of our small weaving group. (Or we might look at the already existing Historical Fabrics Facebook page to see if this will work for our group.)
- Possibly outreach to the local Reno community by donating sampler Hargrove scarves in the winter months to homeless shelters.

WEAVING OPTIONS

1. Samples
2. Garment Fabric
3. Accessories
4. Household Textiles

END OF STUDY PUBLICATION

In putting together the outline for this study group, I have done a lot of internet searches for information. I find some of the information I’m looking for, but there are lots of holes. So, at the end of our study, I propose that we put out a final publication (probably pdf file) that can be downloaded by anyone and preferably housed on our blog and/or the CNCH website. It will contain photos, modern drafts, and complete information about each item shown such as sett, yarns used, problems encountered, and finishing techniques. With the weaver’s permission, we can include their name and/or a photo.

The purpose of putting out a free publication will be to share in the same spirit in which the original document is shared, and to provide a weaving resource to everyone who has interest.

LENGTH OF STUDY

The length of the study is to be determined by the interest and participation. Probably at least two years.

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Beryl Moody, Program Coordinator