

MAJOR WORKSHOP

3 SHAFT WEAVES; SIMPLE AND COMPLEX

By Cindy Ruesink



My formal education includes a BA from Thiel College in English and German and an MS in Library Science from Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia. I have lived 5 years outside the US: 1 year in Germany as a college student, 3 years teaching English in Japan, and 1 year on family sabbatical in Australia. My interest in learning to spin and weave began while we were in Australia (1981-1982.) After we returned, I took weaving and spinning lessons from local guild members, wove for 2 professional weavers (my apprenticeship), and gradually realized that my interest was pattern weaving with fine threads. I joined Complex Weavers to be a member of the Manuscript and Medieval Study Groups. During the past 5 years while living in Southern Indiana, I discovered many 3 treadle looms and worked with a botany professor at Hanover College to identify woods and construction techniques used in these looms. We received a Hanover College Rivers Institute Grant to scientifically date 9 looms currently located near the Ohio River. My research interests are: American and European counterbalance looms, band and ribbon looms, weavers' manuscripts and account books, and handwoven textiles.

Summary: One of the primary cloth weave structures of the past 2000 years is 2/1 twill. As a "simple" structure, it is called serge in silk and wool, jean in cotton and wool/cotton, fustian in linen/cotton, dimity in linen and cotton, and ticking in linen and cotton. If "complex" is defined as more than one warp and/or weft, 2/1 twill is the binder in silk samit and the backing for cotton corduroy, wool plush and silk velvet. This workshop includes drafts for all the above except velvet. A look at counterbalance loom construction, the characteristics of the fibers used, and the uses for the finished cloth help in understanding why 2/1 twill was and continues to be among our most common weave structures.

Where: Penrose House, Colorado Springs, CO

When: February 10-12, 2009

Cost: Approximately \$130. This includes lunch for all 3 days, but not materials. **Deposit:** \$60.00