

Coverlets in the Pioneers Museum

217 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 USA

719-385-5990 - www.Springsgov.com

(Documentation completed by members of Pikes Peak Weavers Guild, May, 2008)

Coverlet Catalogue # 55-709

Date of Documentation: March 19, 2007

Pattern Name(s): Sorrel Blossom with Pine Tree Border

Weave Structure: Double Weave

Type: Geometric

Grid: Horizontal/vertical

Size: 90 1/4" length x 38 3/4" width. (Dimensions are an average of at least three measurements in both directions.)

Number of Panels: Fragment

Number of Blocks: 5

Probable Loom Type: 20 shaft treadle loom

Warp Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 15/2

Spun: Z, Tight twist, Plied S, 2 ply, Loosely plied, Hand spun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: Angora, #12-0605 tpx

Ends/Inch: 18-22 per layer, 36-44 total

Warp Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 15/2

Spun: Z, Plied S, 2 ply, Commercial spun

Dye: Dark Blue, Commercially dyed

Pantone Color: Dress Blue, #19-4024 tpx

Ends/Inch: 18-22 per layer, 36-44 total

Weft Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 15/2

Spun: Z, Tight twist, Plied S, 2 ply, Loosely plied, Hand spun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: Angora, #12-0605 tpx

Ends/Inch: 18-22 per layer, 36-44 total

Weft Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 15/2

Spun: Z, Plied S, 2 ply, Commercial spun

Dye: Dark Blue, Commercially dyed

Pantone Color: Dress Blue, #19-4024 tpx

Ends/Inch: 18-22 per layer, 36-44 total

Edge: Bottom fringed, top hemmed

Border: Integrated, pine tree motif.

Weaving: Pattern squared: Yes

Borders mitered: Yes, pattern mitered
Threading errors: No
Treadling errors: No
Even beat: Yes
Panels match: is fragment of original coverlet

Condition: poor

Date Received by museum: December 1, 1955, Gift

Est. Value upon receipt: \$10 for insurance

Donor: Mrs. Helen Donaldson

Museum Note: (includes history prior to museum ownership and other information in museum files):

“Blue and white woven coverlid, 7' x 6' badly worn and piece cut out; note enclosed says that it was made in 1855, date of birth of Ida Smith Thompson.”

Museum History: Storage: 4-2-5-6

Analysis Speculation: This coverlet could have been woven on a 20 shaft treadle loom or on a jacquard or jacquard type loom. Given the perfection of the weave and the number of shafts required it was most likely woven by a professional weaver. The 2 ply natural yarn could have been hand spun by the original owner of the coverlet. The navy colored yarn may also have been hand spun and indigo dyed. This pattern appears to be similar to coverlet 62-102 with treadling variations. Since the donors of both coverlets are Donaldson (perhaps the same person), it's possible these two coverlets were woven by the same weaver. The threading error on the coverlet 62-102 and not on this coverlet, and the difference in the yarns, would indicate that separate warps were threaded.

For further information on the weaver or coverlets with similar motifs or design features see:

Atwater, M.M. *The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand-Weaving*. Coupeville, WA: HTH Publishers. 1986. ISBN 0-016668-43-0. Draft #224

Bress, H. *The Coverlet Book*, Vol 2. Gaithersburg, MD: Flower Valley. 2003. ISBN 1-886388-52-0. pp. 295, 305-308

Davison, M. & Mayer-Thurman, C. *Coverlets: A Handbook on the Collection of Woven Coverlets in the Art Institute of Chicago*. Chicago: Art Institute. 1973. LCCN 73-82570. pp. 62-63, Figures 49-51

Strickler, C. *A Portfolio of American Coverlets*, Vol. 3, 1980. Information Sheet 3.18

Swygart, L. *Heirlooms from Old Looms: A Catalogue of Coverlets Owned by the Colonial Coverlet Guild of America & Its Members*. Chicago: R.R. Donnelley. 1940. p. 142