

Churchill Weavers Collection: 40,000 Textiles Uncovered

Interim Report Additional Documentation
1/28/2014

Progress is made....these are boxes of fully processed textiles. Items are cataloged, re-housed, and viewable online!



Here are a few collection highlights....



Cloth for NASA's Spacesuits (1962)

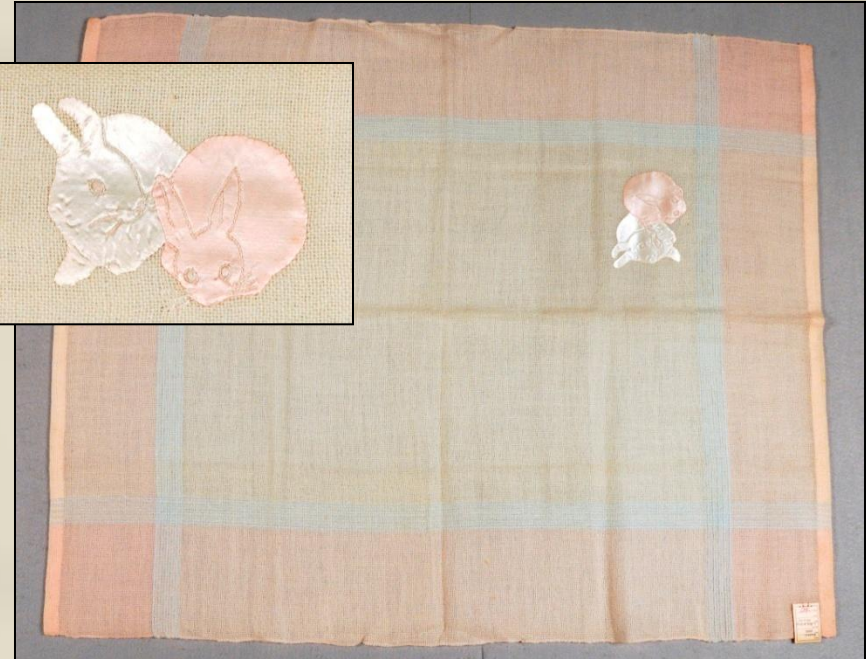


Upholstery for Toledo Museum of Art's Peristyle (1932). **Still in use as of 2013!**

Collection Highlights

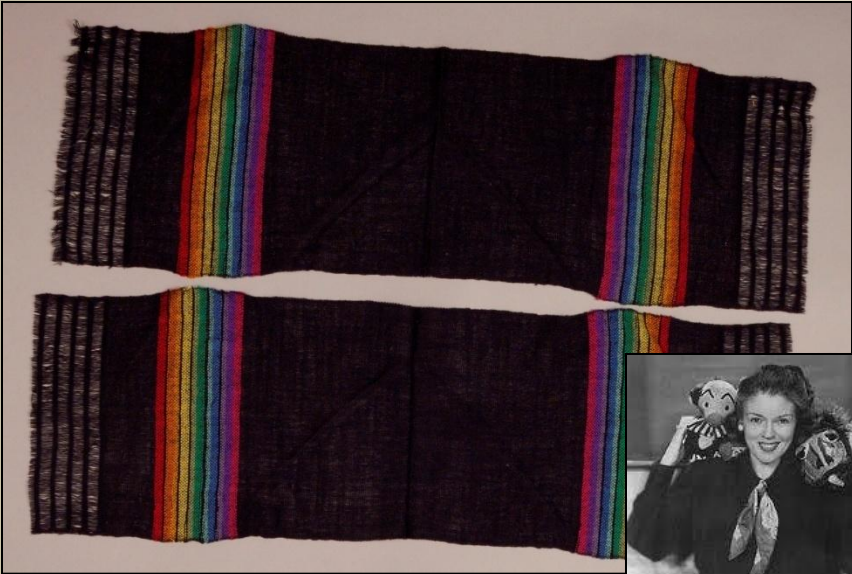


Throws for Johnny Carson Productions with "Happy Holidays" tag (1982)



Churchill Weavers baby blankets with appliqué by Lorraine Studios, another Kentucky business (1940)

Collection Highlights



Scarves for “Kukla, Fran, & Ollie” T.V. Show (1950)



Throws for Greyhound Scenicrusiers Passengers (1952)



10 Weavers View the Collection



"I greatly enjoyed the visit and was inspired by the collection of work."

"[impressed by] collection storage system and organization. An Amazing Challenge!"

"Wish I were close enough to volunteer!"

Colloquy Weavers Group Survey, Updated 11.4.2013
Compiled by Jennifer Spence, Churchill Weavers Project Coordinator

1) As a researcher and weaver, how would you use this collection? (e.g., for inspiration, to write about it, to create draw-ups, etc.)

Personally, I would use it mostly as an inspiration, but doing some draw downs would also be intriguing.

My main research now is in weaving equipment. All the equipment used by The Churchill Weavers was design and built by Mr. Churchill. They also ran a machine shop to keep the equipment running.

If I were using it for research in my own interest areas, I'd be interested in the following:

- *Studying fabric structures. I found the uses of leno very interesting. I'd probably be doing some draw downs (in my case, "draw-ups". I took close ups of two samples in particular to play with when I have time.*
- *As a history major, industrialization, particularly the textile, industry, interests me. What adaptations did they make to hand weaving techniques to increase production? What changes did they make while still maintaining to be making handwovens? Did they make mechanical adaptations to any of their looms, for example, the fly shuttles, and how did these changes compare to the early automatic looms?*
- *What marketing techniques did they use and how did they analyze the market and choose particular merchandise to produce?*
- *Someone else's topics might be vastly different from mine, including Churchill's place in local history; equipment; warping techniques, et al.*

As a hobby weaver and a native of Kentucky, I am most interested in the context and history of CW. A paperback book of the history and scope of this business would be my main interest. I'm thinking you're probably working on such a project, probably for your gift shop and perhaps a few of the state park gift shops. Do you know how and who developed the designs that were considered and adopted? I enjoy the sociology/people aspect of a history collection.

2) What are some things you recommend us doing to promote the Churchill Weavers collection to weavers and researchers? (e.g., gift shop merchandise, exhibits, talks, articles, etc.)

Although quilters and other fiber areas may be interested in this, I think your main focus should be weavers. Handwoven (Interweave Press) and Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot (Handweavers Guild of America) would be great places (magazines) to advertise, however, if you could write an article for them, or have one of their staff write an article would be better. I think it would give you the coverage you are looking for. One of these organizations also has

Facebook, but only to keep up with family

4) What is the highlight from your experience of viewing the Churchill Weavers collection?

I love overshot, so liked that a bunch, but I think the high point was being able to photograph any item of interest.

Viewing the warping reel

The collection storage system and organization. An amazing challenge.

Color and design, particularly in terms of production vs. "cottage" weaving

Specific techniques used to solve issues, such as leno (probably cord doups, not mechanical) to prevent the edges from raveling on items that were woven side-by-side on the same warp or specifically with selvedge fringe

5) Would you recommend visiting in person or viewing this collection online to other weaving enthusiasts?

I think viewing in person is the best, but having access to it on the Internet would be great since not all weavers/researchers live in the area.

Yes I would visit again, viewing the collection on line is nice but can't hold a candle to see it in real life.

Viewing on line before actual visit- narrow down the options to fit researcher's focus. You might need to limit or prioritize visitors to balance your time. We appreciated the effort that went into our visit.

Additional Comments:

I greatly enjoyed the visit and was inspired by the collection of work.

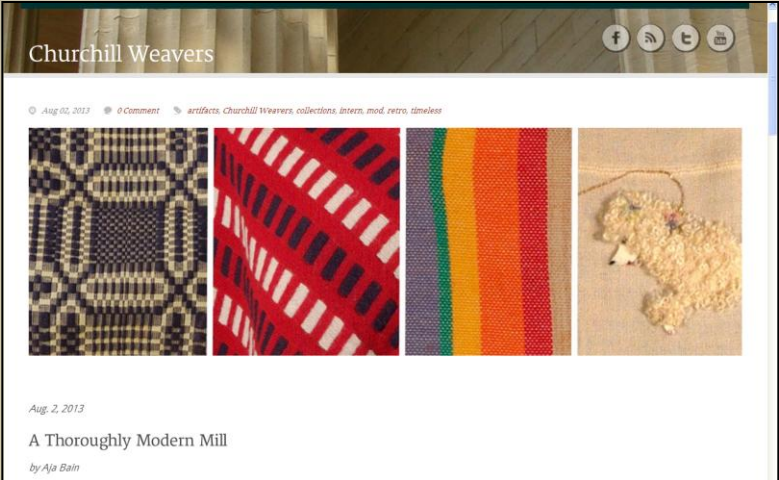
I hope to get back sometime soon with my camera to take some picture of the hemstitching.

I could have used a little more guidance on the museum collections search engine. It took quite a while to narrow down my search, and at first I assumed "log on" meant members only. For some reason, my search for "blanket" also turned up a toy!

Wish I were close enough to volunteer!

Promoting Churchill Weavers

- Social Media
- KHS Programs
- Conference Sessions
- Publications
- Gift shop Products



Examples of Churchill Weavers “inspired” products



Thank You

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