

We are afraid that if too many weavers will take seriously this "arty" trend in handweaving, the whole movement will go through another crisis similar to the one produced by the industrial revolution. Already now many handweavers after trying this apparently easy and modern trend give up in despair, and our numbers are dwindling.

But there will be always honest craftsmen who will see this crisis through. There will be always honest artists as well, but it is not the artist who preserves the knowledge and technique of a craft. Artistic standards and requirements change from decade to decade, when the craft develops in terms of centuries. Art gives satisfaction to the selected few, when craft is a really democratic movement which satisfies the needs of millions.

But of course the worst is the "arty" weaving which is neither art or craft, but an escape for those who are not gifted enough to be artists, and too lazy to become craftsmen.

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The role of a craftsman in weaving is becoming more important than ever. Industrial weaving does not preserve the tradition of handweaving, because their methods are getting more and more involved, mechanised, and specialised. An industrial weaver or rather operator has hardly any idea about the mechanics and possibilities of a hand-loom. We know experts in textiles who take up handweaving as a hobby! Thus the craftsman has the whole responsibility and perhaps the mission of preserving for the future generations the science of handweaving. There is nobody else, who could do it, and this science may be badly needed yet.

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## FROM THE CLASSICS

"...Mrs.T.Chamberlin, related to me on her 100th birthday this remarkable account of her grandmother:

"My grandmother was a woman of remarkable energy, determination, and skill. One time when my father received a summons to appear in Court in Montreal, and there were only three days before he must start, and he had no suitable pants in which to appear, she went to the pasture and caught and sheared a white sheep, then caught and sheared a black sheep. She carded this wool into rolls, spun it into yarn, quilled the necessary quantity of one colour for the woof, then, taking the other colour for the warp and placing it properly in the loom, she wove some cloth into small black and white checks. When she judged that she had a sufficient quantity of cloth she took it from the loom, cut out and made the required pants for my father, working without sleep for three days and two nights that he might go suitably clothed to the city."

History of Brome County - Rev.E.M.Taylor.

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