

## DICTIONARY OF TEXTILE TERMS.

(Continued from May issue.)

- Biebrich Scarlet:** A brown-red powder, easily soluble in water, forming an orange-red solution. It dissolves with a green color in concentrated sulphuric acid; diluted with water, the color changes from blue to red, and a red-brown precipitate separates. Like congo and primuline, Biebrich scarlet is the sodium salt of a color acid. Hydrochloric acid precipitates the free color acid from solution in the form of a flocculent, dark red precipitate, unless the solution is very dilute. Biebrich scarlet is a direct dye for silk and wool. It colors cotton to a certain extent, but the color washes out very readily with water. Silk and wool are dyed with Biebrich scarlet in an acid bath; in a neutral bath the dyeings are less bright, and the bath is not exhausted.
- Biggin:** A kind of a skull cap with ear flaps once in common use for men. Also written *Biggon*.
- Biliment:** An ornamental attire for head or neck for women.
- Billey:** A machine used in the early days of the spinning industry for the preparation of yarns for the jenny. In the machine the slivers are fed on to a fixed framework and the spindles are traversed to and fro on the carriage.
- Billiard Cloth:** A fine, heavily fulled woolen cloth, piece dyed green, from 72 to 81 inches wide, manufactured from a rather soft spun yarn, finished with a short velvety nap, used for covering billiard tables. The plain weave is used for the better grades, the 3-harness twill for others.
- Binche Lace:** Fine pillow lace, without cardonnet. Ground resembles a spider-web with small dots. Made in Binche, Belgium.
- Binder Warp:** Extra warp-threads added for giving strength to a fabric: if used as an interior warp, it is not visible in the finished fabric.
- Binding:** The securing together in the process of weaving two separate cloths, or extra material used for figuring or other purposes on ordinary single cloth.
- Binding Cloth:** A muslin, dyed and stamped, used to cover books.
- Binding Pick:** The pick or filling, in double cloths, which connects the face and the back plies of the structure.
- Bindings:** A species of narrow fabric of silk, worsted or cotton, for binding the edges of garments, the bottom of dress skirts, etc.
- Bing:** The stack of cotton or wool built up in layers, and raked vertically down for mixing purposes; sometimes called *Bink*.
- Bird's Eye Crape:** A thin fabric, manufactured specially for the East Indies.
- Bird's Eye Linen:** A honey-comb or diamond figured linen fabric, used for towels and fancy work.
- Bird's Eye Pattern:** A term originally applied to a peculiar small pattern produced on eight harnesses, but now applied to any similar weave the special feature of which is a small dot in the centre of each (repeat) figure.
- Birrus:** A thick, coarse woolen stuff, used for making storm coats.
- Bisette Lace:** Coarse, narrow French peasant lace in simple designs. Name often applied to cheap bordering laces.
- Bishop's Lawn:** A lawn fabric, a little heavier than Swiss mull and somewhat lighter than India linen; it has a kind of a Swiss finish.
- Bishop's Length:** A term applied to canvas of certain dimensions, 58 inches by 94 inches.
- Bismark Brown:** A coal-tar product used for dyeing cotton, silk and wool in brown shades. It is used in cotton finishing for tinting, to give regular (white) cotton the appearance of brown Egyptian.
- Bister:** A brown pigment prepared from wood soot by extracting the latter with water. Also written *Bistre*.
- Bisulphate of Soda:** See Sodium Bisulphate.
- Bisulphite of Soda:** See Sodium Bisulphite.
- Bitartrate of Potash:** See Tartar.
- Bitting:** The process of drawing-in additional warp-threads in the harness and reed, at the side of the fabric, provided its width on the loom has to be increased.
- Bivoltins:** Those races of silkworms producing two broods in one year.
- Bixin:** A red coloring matter contained in arnotto seeds.
- Black-faced Sheep:** A somewhat small, but robust sheep of the mountain type, native of Scotland, yielding a useful fleece of fairly lustrous, medium length wool, usually more or less kempy, but felting well.
- Blackjack:** A term used when referring to leafy cotton, where the refuse of leaves present are of such a size as to give it a blotchy appearance.
- Black Liquor:** See Pyrolignite of Iron.
- Black-moss:** The Spanish moss of the southern United States, used as a substitute for horsehair in mattresses, etc.
- Black Seed:** A name applied both to Sea Island varieties and to Upland varieties of cotton having a smooth seed.
- Blancard:** A linen fabric made in Normandy of half bleached linen yarn.
- Blanc Fixe:** Artificial barium sulphate or heavy spar, prepared by precipitation of barium salts with sulphuric acid or sulphates. It is usually sold in the form of a paste containing from 25 to 50 per cent. of water; it is rather finer and freer from the harsh, gritty feel of the natural barium sulphate, and can therefore be used for softer finishes where the natural mineral is unsuitable. It is now obtained as a by-product in several chemical processes, and can therefore be bought at a cheap rate. Also called *Barium Chloride* or *Barium Sulphate*.
- Blandola:** A proprietary article of prominence, made in England. It is a highly concentrated vegetable gelatine, and is used as a stiffening and binding material in cotton finishing, giving superior lustre and fulness to the cloth.
- Blanket:** A large oblong piece of soft, loosely woven, heavy woolen cloth, usually having a nap, used for a bed covering, to cover a horse, etc. The lower grades of blankets contain cotton, either as a solid cotton warp and a wool, or wool and cotton mix filling; or wool and cotton mix are used for both the warp and the filling.  
Any piece of cloth used as a sample by which to sell goods. Selling blanket.  
A section range of patterns woven in one continuous length of cloth.  
The word *blanket* is derived from Thomas Blanket, an Englishman, who in 1342, under the reign of Edward III, was permitted to carry on that manufacture in Bristol, England, against the wishes of the mayor of that town.
- Blaze:** Flock silk, or the loose web of the silkworm, inside of which it forms its cocoon.
- Blazer:** A bright colored, light weight jacket of cotton, wool or silk and worn by men or women in outdoor sports.
- Bleach:** Any bleaching agent; bleached cloth.
- Bleached Cotton:** See Boiled-off Cotton.
- Bleached Flax:** That from which the natural coloring matter and the incrusting pectic matter have been removed by boiling-off and subsequent bleaching on the grass or by means of chloride of lime. Linen yarns found in trade are classed as "full white," "three-quarters white," and "half white."
- Bleachery:** An establishment for the bleaching of textile fabrics.
- Bleaching:** The process of freeing textile fibres and fabrics of their natural color, in turn whitening them. The ancient method of bleaching was to expose the materials to the action of the sun's rays while frequently wetting them. Now bleaching is carried on by means of either chloride of lime or sulphurous acid, or peroxide of sodium. The sulphurous acid is employed more specially in the case of animal fibres (silk and wool), while cotton, flax and other vegetable fibres are still largely treated with the chloride, the bleaching in both cases being preceded by the proper cleansing processes. Peroxide of sodium, however, is the bleaching agent par excellence, as it closely imitates the action of the sun, being non-injurious to any textile fibre. Chlorine was first proposed as a bleaching agent by a French chemist, Berthollet, in 1786. In 1798 a Scotchman by the name of Tennant patented and first produced the bleaching powder known as chloride of lime. The sulphurous acid is employed either in the form of the fumes of burning sulphur, or in the form of the liquid bisulphite of soda. The peroxide of sodium was first made commercially available under the process of Hamilton Y. Castner and is now produced on a large scale at Niagara Falls. Other peroxides, such as hydrogen peroxide, have largely gone into disuse on account of their cost and instability.
- Bleaching Powder:** See Chloride of Lime

**Bleaching Solution:** Mix one part bleaching powder to a perfectly smooth paste with three parts water, and dilute with three parts more of water; after settling, the pure solution is diluted to the desired strength.

**Bleeding:** A term applied to cloth or yarn from which (when subjected to the scouring or fulling operation) the color runs, and which usually stains white or light shades present.

**Blended Colors:** The effect obtained by the passing of one color or tone to another, by means of imperceptibly graduated shades or tints.

**Blending:** The mixing together of various qualities or kinds of materials in either the raw or semi-manufactured state, in order to modify color, quality, or price of the resultant bulk.

**Blindstitch:** In needlework, a stitch that does not show on either side of the work.

**Blister Cloth:** A fabric (usually a double texture) designed to produce a blistered, raised (embossed) effect.

**Block Printing:** The printing of fabrics, or warp, by means of blocks having patterns worked on their faces. This is all hand work; as distinguished from printing with rollers.

**Blocks:** The wooden blocks, engraved with patterns, which the textile printer impresses upon the cloth or warp.

**Block System:** By this term is meant those means which are adopted in each headstock of a mule for preventing two contrary motions being at work at the same time. For instance, the drawing-up friction and holding-out catch must never be engaged at the same time. Also called *Safety Locking Arrangement*.

**Blonde Lace:** Originally a bobbin lace made of unbleached silk, though now shown in black, white and colors. Made with two different sizes of thread; fine thread for ground, coarse for the design. Usually takes some floral form. Very lustrous.

**Blood:** "Full blood," "Half blood," "Three-eighths blood," "Quarter blood," are terms used to denote the proportion of merino blood in a sheep. They are at present used arbitrarily to designate particular grades of wool.

**Blood Albumen:** Has much the same properties as egg-albumen, and is used in printing and fixing colors, also as a mordant. It occurs in blood-serum. Care must be taken in its manufacture, otherwise the red corpuscles will break and spoil the color of the product, which would injuriously affect the colors in printing.

**Bloom:** The bright, lustrous finish on silk and pile fabric.

**Bloomer:** A woman's costume consisting of loose trousers, drawn close at the knee under a short petticoat. Originated by a Mrs. Bloomer of New York in 1849. Now used by women in gymnasiums, out door sports, etc.

**Blooming:** The addition of an agent, usually stannous chloride, to the dye bath towards the end of the dyeing process, having for its object the rendering of the color lighter and brighter.

**Blotch Grounds:** Printed patterns, in which the ground is printed in black or color, instead of being left white.

**Blouse:** A garment for either sex, which fits the body loosely, and as a rule is belted.

**Blowing-room:** The scutching department of a cotton spinning mill.

**Blue:** One of the grades made in sorting a fleece for worsted spinning. The finest, most elastic and strongest staple in the fleece.

**Blue-bender:** A variety of Bender cotton containing a coloring matter which cannot be bleached by bleaching powder solution.

**Blue Flannels:** Army and navy regulations require twill weave, and to be wool, indigo dyed.

**Blueing:** The tinting of yellowish wool with, say, aniline blue or violet, with the idea of neutralizing the yellow and producing a neutral white appearance.

**Bluestone:** See Copper Sulphate.

**Blue Vitriol:** See Copper Sulphate.

**Boa:** A long cylindrical wrap, worn by women for protecting their necks, usually made of fur or feathers.

**Boardy:** A term applied to fabrics which handle hard and cakey.

**Bobbin:** A slender spool, used to carry the filling in a loom shuttle. A flanged wooden cylinder for holding yarn or thread.

**Bobbin Creel:** Any frame which holds bobbins supplying yarn.

**Bobbinet:** A perforated fabric produced by a series of threads crossing and partially twisting around each other in the shape of hexagonal meshes in imitation of pillow lace.

**Bobbinet Frame:** The machine originally invented by Heathcote for making bobbinet.

**Bobbin Lace:** Lace of which the threads are plaited or twisted together without use of needle. Imitation of pillow lace. Made in England and France.

**Bobbin-stand:** A large frame holding the yarns for supplying the warping reel.

**Bobbin-winder:** A machine for winding yarns from hanks, cops, cheeses, or other spools onto bobbins.

**Bocasin:** A cotton cloth used in the Levant.

**Bocking:** A coarse woolen drugget first made in Bocking, England.

**Bodice:** A tight fitting waist of a woman's dress.

**Bodkin:** A pointed instrument for piercing holes in cloth, etc., for lacing ribbons or tapes.

**Body:** A term applied to textile materials, indicating compactness, solidity, and richness of handle in either the raw, semi-manufactured or manufactured state.

**Boiled-off Cotton:** That from which the waxy and pectic matter has been removed, by boiling in a 1/2 per cent. solution of caustic soda.

**Boiled-off Liquor:** Boiled-off liquor is the name for soap liquors which have been used for the degumming of silk and which thus contain some gum from the silk in addition to the soap. This boiled-off liquor is a favorite addition to the dyebaths intended for dyeing silk, as in such bath brighter shades are obtained and the dyestuffs go more evenly on to the silk than in the ordinary aqueous bath. Contrary to acidified soap baths, the boiled-off liquor, when acidified until showing a weakly acid or neutral reaction, is of

an even mucilaginous condition. As boiled-off liquor is very apt to become putrid, it is not a regular article of trade, and dye houses which do not produce boiled-off liquor in sufficient quantities for their purposes prepare substitutes which may for instance be produced according to the following recipe: 3 lbs. soap, 10 oz. gelatine or glue, 3 to 4 oz. olive-oil and 3 to 4 oz. common salt are boiled up well with 10 gallons water. This solution is used in the same way as boiled-off liquor. For acidifying this substitute, the requisite sulphuric or acetic acid should be added but slowly while continually stirring.

**Boiled-off Silk:** Boiling silk repeatedly in soap baths deprives the silk of its gum or saliva, and imparts to it the softness and lustre so highly prized in silk fabrics. In the process the silk loses on an average 25 per cent., according to the class of raw silk used, as well as amount of boiling-off required. China silk loses more than either European or Japanese silks. Also called *Degummed Silk* or *Ungummed Silk*.

**Boiling-off Silk:** This operation consists in treating the raw silk threads or goods in (at least) two successive soap baths; the first one at a medium temperature, and the second being used boiling. It has the object of developing the lustre and soft feel of the silk by removing the silk gum with which the fibre is naturally encrusted. Silk may, however, be dyed in the gum or only partially boiled-off. If completely boiled-off, losing about 25 per cent of its weight, the silk is then known as *Soft Silk*; if boiling-off from 5 to 12 per cent of its weight, the silk is then known as *Souple Silk*; if boiling-off only from 2 to 5 per cent of its weight, such silk is then called *Ecreu Silk*.

**Bolette Condenser:** The machine used as an adjunct at the head or end of the finisher of a set of woolen cards, for dividing the film or roving strands, as taken from the doffer by means of the doffer comb, into fine ribbons or roving strands, a number of which in turn are automatically wound on long spools. These roving strands are in the next process transformed into yarn by means of drawing out and twisting. This machine is used more on the continent than anywhere else.

The inventor of the Bolette condenser is a Mr. Schellenberg of Chemnitz, Germany, who in 1860 took out a patent to divide the film as leaving the doffer of the finisher card by means of dividing discs. A second inventor was Mr. Ernst Gessner of Aue, Germany, his first patent dating 1861. The third inventor was a Mr. Celestin Martin of Verviers, Belgium, who greatly improved Gessner's invention, his first patent dating from 1868. Next J. S. Bolette of Verviers, Belgium, produced the work by means of toothed discs, which produced the fine films (roving) by means of tearing and not cutting. Following him, Emil Bède, of Verviers, in 1873 invented the condenser with stationary steel ribbons. J. S. Bolette finally in 1879 constructed a condenser with a single ribbon for producing all the divisions of the films and in 1882 made the steel ribbons of Bède's patent movable.