A GERMAN WEAVER'S
PATTERN BOOK
1784 - 1810
Cover: Draft #1 p.1, Tie-up #5 Row 2 p.15.
A GERMAN WEAVER'S PATTERN BOOK

1784 - 1810

Edited by Nellie L Galvin
INTRODUCTION

Perhaps in 1784 Christian Morath was turning his weaving business over to his apprentice or just giving his patterns to Joseph Murllman to start a business of his own in another town.

He copied his drafts (in short form), the technique of which Joseph Murllman probably knew. As tie-ups for double weave and double twill appear many times through the book, they may have been woven in either manner. Then he copied the tie-ups with a few notes of explanation in the back of the book. The statement on page 71 followed. He may have drawn some of the pictures, but from here on much of the work seems to be done by a different hand. The book then passed on into other hands as other names appear with later dates. Now, after over one hundred and seventy-five years, it comes to us to interpret in our own way.

About two hundred and fifty of the tie-ups have been woven on point and straight twill threadings and they are all handsome. This does not necessarily mean they were meant to be woven that way. And now it is for you to try the drafts and tie-ups in any combinations or techniques you choose. The possibilities are endless.

I wish to express my appreciation to my friends for their help in translating the text, weaving the samples, and for their encouragement.

Nellie L. Galvin
June 1961
Eine Zeitung gesucht zu Geld für 303 Reichsmark
und fünf Zentner Zucker ist
Datum den 23. Mai 1809
Gefolgt führte unter Mitte des absehnenden
anordnung, gehalten und einer besonderen
Anordnung, unterzeichnet in anno 1809
auf zwei Jahre und ein halbes jahr, dem
vornehmsten, und ein halbes jahr, der
bezahlt fünf und halb, bis bezahlt wird. Weitere
fünf und halb, bis bezahlt sein und hundert
und ein halbes jahr, bis bezahlt
und hundert und ein halbes jahr, bis bezahlt
Dv. 8. 8. Stilling Zög und Gommarvno jinfa boj in ßg
Dv. 12. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 16. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 20. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 24. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 28. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 32. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 36. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 40. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 44. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 48. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 52. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 56. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 60. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 64. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 68. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 72. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 76. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 80. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 84. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 88. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 92. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 96. Stilling baýn ßğ
Dv. 100. Stilling baýn ßğ
TRANSLATIONS

Page 71 1784 13th January I, Christian Morath from Offeringen gave this book to Joseph Murllman from Endingen. This book for only 5 (coins?). He is my employee (i.e. apprentice or underling).

Page 77 This is a draw (draft?) and belongs to picture No. 303 (p. 105) where is shown how it is made (how it fits together).

Page 80 This is the _______ way for the picture of No. 7 (p. 81).

Page 109 Date 23rd May 1809. Joseph Hular, Weaver master, Offeringen has made an agreement with an apprentice, Otmar from Unterschneifinger, in the year 1809 for two and a half years, so that Otmar is to be paid in the time from 27th of May till Christmas with five and a half taler (old German coin, approximate value one dollar) payable at Christmas, the next wage he will get at Christmas 1810 _______ _______ _______ _______.

The translators had only the German script pages to work from and they gave me the word by word translation. For the sake of clarity on the technical pages 110 and 111, this is a free translation.

If the terms "straight" and "crooked" mean straight and point twill, they do not coincide with the drafts drawn in at the ends of some rows of the tie-ups on pages 15 through 33.

Page 110 Here / 8 shafts are used in drafts and tie-ups marked #1
Here / 12 shafts #2
Here / 16 shafts #3
Here / 20 shafts #4
Here / #6 with 8 treadles and 16 shafts produce fancy(?) stripes. Page 18, and possibly fifth draft on page 12.

On page 15, the four 8-shaft tie-ups marked 7, and the ten 8-shaft tie-ups marked 7 produce patterned "stuff" on the "straight" draft for Koelsch and table material. (Koelsch is a product from Cologne and was no doubt the name of a fabric from that city.)
Of the fifteen 12-shaft tie-ups on page 16, those marked 10, and one which is not marked, are made on the "crooked" draft.

The 12-shaft tie-ups marked 8 are on the "straight" draft.

The 16-shaft tie-ups, all of which are marked 4, are on the "straight" draft.

The 12-shaft tie-ups which are marked 10 are on the "crooked" draft.

The 16-shaft tie-ups which are marked 11 are also on the "crooked" draft.

The 18-shaft tie-ups which are marked 12 are on the "straight" draft. There are two of these on page 30.

The 18-shaft tie-ups which are marked 13 are on the "crooked" draft. There are two of these on page 30.

The 20-shaft tie-ups which are marked 14 are on the "straight" draft. Page 31.

The 20-shaft tie-ups which are marked 15 are on the "crooked" draft. Page 32.

The six 10-shaft tie-ups, three on the "crooked" draft are marked 16, three on the "straight" draft are marked 17. Page 16.

A direct translation of this page is not essential as it tells of the winter of 1788 when he secured a boy to help him peddle his wares. He paid a small sum to the man who secured this boy for him (employment agency no doubt). Then he consulted with the boy and the boy's mother concerning the terms of employment. He was to teach the boy and the boy was also to work for him (apprentice). The boy's name is not clear. He tells of various sums he paid the boy and at what times, so that this account is by way of a ledger, ending in 1790.

This page is very difficult to read as it is very carelessly written. However, the account is most interesting, particularly the old forms and expressions that are no longer in use, but are understood by educated persons. Our own English of Revolutionary War days is quaint, but we have not departed so far from it that we cannot understand it.
The following is the way I matched drafts with pictures: They have not been loom tested, and you may have other ideas.

Page 1 -- draft #1 - p.41(?); draft #2 - p.44; draft #3 - p.43; draft #4 - p.42; draft #5 - p.45.
Page 2 -- draft #1 - p.50; draft #2 - p.51(?); draft #3 - p.48; draft #4 - p.49; draft #5 - p.47; draft #6 - p.46
Page 4 -- draft #2 - p.62.
Page 5 -- draft #2 - p.52; draft #4 - p.53; draft #6 - p.54.
Page 6 -- draft #1 - p.55; draft #2 - p.56; draft #3 - pp.64 & 68.
Page 7 -- draft #1 - p.63; draft #5 - p.70; draft #6 - p.61.
Page 10 -- draft #2 marked No. 304 - p.103. (The little figures after some numbers have a meaning. When they do not match, as in this case, there is a difference in block size or treadling.)
Page 12 -- draft #3 - p.69.
Page 13 -- bottom draft - p.66, see draft #6, p.36.
Page 34 -- bottom draft with tie-up - p.94.
Page 36 -- draft #2 - 3-shaft lace; draft #3 - M's & O's (1st half of figure); draft #4 - M's & O's (2nd half of figure); draft #6 - similar to bottom draft p.13.
Page 41 -- draft #1 - p.1(?).
Page 42 -- draft #4 - p.1.
Page 43 -- draft #3 - p.1.
Page 44 -- draft #2 - p.1.
Page 45 -- draft #5 - p.1.
Page 46 -- draft #6 - p.2.
Page 47 -- draft #5 - p.2.
Page 48 -- draft #3 - p.2.
Page 49 -- draft #4 - p.2.
Page 50 -- draft #1 - p.2.
Page 51 -- draft #2 - p.2(?).
Page 52 -- draft #2 - p.5.
Page 53 -- draft #4 - p.5.
Page 54 -- draft #6 - p.5.
Page 55 -- draft #1 - p.6.
Page 56 -- draft #2 - p.6.
Page 61 -- draft #6 - p.7.
Page 62 -- draft #2 - p.4.
Page 63 -- draft #1 - p.78.
Page 64 -- draft #3 - p.6.
Page 66 -- bottom draft - p.13 & draft #6 - p.36.
Page 68 -- draft #3 - p.6.
There are six 8-shaft drafts on page 1 and six 8-shaft tie-ups on page 16 all marked 1. This may or may not mean they are used together. The tie-ups mentioned are not included in the notes mentioning "straight" and "crooked" drafts. This at least offers a line of study.