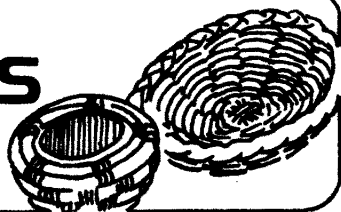


OF BASKETS



by Catherine Ingebretsen

*"On flat paper, the triangles seem simple enough. When woven in root and shades of red, they take in the light at separate moments, they curve, and form a complete basket."*¹

A basket is composed of many components. Color, texture, design, shape, proportion, and weave are the most obvious ones because they are physical qualities. But they are not only physical qualities. They have meanings.

Ask yourself, "why did this weaver use these colors, this texture?" "What does the design mean?" "Why is the basket formed to this shape; in this proportion?" "What is the function of this weave?" The answers to these questions will not always be known to you. Sometimes they are meant to be communicated to others; sometimes they are held only within the heart of the weaver. The same is true of the question "why did someone make this basket?" But, these answers, whether known to you or not, are part of that basket. They are the part that tells the story of the weaver, the part that gives life to the basket.

*"To the uninitiated a fine Indian basket may possess a few exterior attractions, such as shapely form, delicate color and harmonious design, but anything further he cannot see. On the other hand, the initiated sees a work of love; a striving after the ideal; a reverent propitiation of supernatural powers, good or evil; a nation's art expression, a people's inner life of poetry, art, religion; and thus he comes to a closer knowledge of the people it represents, a deeper sympathy with them, a fuller recognition of the oneness of human life, though under so many and diverse manifestations."*²

¹Sandra Corrie Newman, Indian Basketweaving (Northland Press, Flagstaff, 1974), p. 22.

²George Wharton James, Indian Basketry (Rio Grande Press, New Mexico, 1903), or (Dover Publications, New York, 1972), pp. 15 & 16.

Basketry Reading List

At the By-Member For-Member Basketry Workshop, I said I would have this basketry reading list printed in the Minnesota Weaver. So, for those of you interested, here are some books to consider.

Allen, Elsie. Pomo Basketmaking. Naturgraph Publishers, Hearldsburg, Calif. 1972

Aboriginal Indian Basketry. The Rio Grande Press, Glorilta, New Mexico
Barrett, S. A. Pomo Indian Basketry. The Rio Grande Press, (available from MacFae's Indian Book Distributors, Box 2632, Santa Rosa, Calif., 95405. Also published by the University of California Publications, American Archaeology and Ethnology, vol. 8, 1908.

Evans, Glen and Campbell, T. N. Indian Baskets. Texas Memorial Museum, Austin 1970.

Feder, Norman. American Indian Art. Harvey Abrams, N.Y. 1971.

Field, Clark. The Art and the Romance of Indian Basketry. Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, Okla. 1964.

Harvey, Virginia. The Techniques of Basketry. Van-Nostrand-Reinhold, N.Y. 1974.

James, George Wharton. Indian Basketry. The Rio Grande Press, New Mexico 1903. Also by Dover Publications, Inc.; New York, 1972.

Kroncke, Grete. Weaving With Cane and Reed. Van-Nostrand-Reinhold, 1968.

Mason, Otis Tufton. Aboriginal American Indian Basketry. Rio Grande Press. Also Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1902.

Melliack, Donna. A Modern Approach to Basketry with Fibers and Grasses. Crown Publishers, Inc. 1974.

Merrill, Ruth E. Plants Used in Basketry by the California Indians. Acoma Books, Ramona, California. 1970. (P.O. Box 4).

Miles, Charles and Bovis, Pierre. American Indian and Eskimo Basketry. Pierre Bovis, San Francisco, N.Y. 1969. (P.O. Box 26442).

Morris, Earl H. and Burgh, Robert F. Anasazi Basketry. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C. 1941.

Navajo School of Indian Basketry. Indian Basket Weaving. Whedon & Spreng Co., Los Angeles, Calif. 1903. Also by Dover Publications, Inc., 1971 New York.

Newman, Sandra Corrie. Indian Basketweaving. Northland Press, Flagstaff, 1974.

Roseberry, Viola M. Illustrated History of Indian Baskets and Plates. Leo Brown, Orange Cove, Calif. 1915. (Reprinted in 1973.)

Rossbach, Ed. Baskets as Textile Art. Van-Nostrand-Reinhold, N.Y. 1971

Tod, Osma Gallinger. Earth Basketry. Published by Autho, 319 Mendoza Ave., Coral Gables, Florida.

