Dictionary of Textile Terms.

Text (for to it): The term given to the process of cutting fustians, i.e., the floats are in this instance not cut in the centre, as is done with silk velvet, but they are severed slightly to the left, in the direction of the weft. This procedure imparts a better appearance to the finished fabric than if the cutting floats in the centre, and accounts for the fact that fustian, produced in this manner, does not fray as readily as that cut in one direction only. (See fra.)

Touchardia: A native of the Hawaiian Islands, a shrubby plant nearly allied to Barbertonia nigra. The plant produces a fibre which is used to make nets and cordage for boats. The fibres are adapted for cordage purposes.

Tragacanth: A sharp square or triangular pin set up right in a block of hard wood, used in roughing flax to break off the loose fibres left in the centre. The operation is used to improve the quality of the fibre by removing any remaining impurities. The name is derived from the Swiss town of Tragacant, where the plant is grown.

Tournay: A printed worsted upholstery material.

Toué: See India Shawl.

Town: The name of a lowgrade linen and is used for fabrics containing less than 50% wool.

Towing: Loose, woolen, twisted yarns of cotton, wool, or linen, used for making mill-ends and yarns. It is used in the production of tow, which is subsequently spun into yarns for weaving. The name is derived from the process of toweling, where the wool is towed (or pulled) to remove the knots and impurities.

Towel Embroidery: A type of embroidery using long, loose, tassled loops or fringes. It is used to decorate towels and other textile items.

Tow Linen: A coarse, rough cloth, made from tow or tow flax in Philadelphia, about 1788.

Tow England: English towed goods with blue and black checks. An 18th century fabric woven by women in England made of all worsted or mixed with silk.

Tracery: Name for the raised work in Honiton Bobbin Lace.

Tracing Cloth: A smooth, thin, linen fabric, either raw or with aum, used for making tracings and drawings, etc. Also called Tracing Linen.

Tracing Thread: In lace-making, a bobbin thread thicker than most of the threads of the fabric, usually indicating the pattern; a group or cluster of threads used for such bordering.

Trafalgar Croisette: The crossing of silk threads with 30 or 40 turns upon itself in the reeling of the silk thread from the cocoons.

Tragacanth: The same is the dried exudation of Astragalus gummiger, which grows in Spain, Syria, Central Asia, and America. The gum occurs in two forms: (1) leaf gum in small, irregular curved strips with a crimson spot and (2) vermicelli gum in cylindrical sticks. It varies in color from white to yellow or brown and grey. When boiled with water, it gradually swells and forms a thick jelly-like mass which forms a partial solution on warming, settling to a jelly when cooled again. Its solution has a very high viscosity, greater than that of gum arabic, and only exceeded by Iceland moss. It does not form a clear jelly, but is somewhat opaque with white specks scattered through it. Though tragacanth exudes spontaneously from the stems of these plants, the yield of gum is considerably increased by making incisions in the stems. The best grades, which consist of foliaceous pieces, are the result of artificial incisions. The inferior, lumpy masses being spontaneous exudations. Tragacanth is used as a stiffening material in the finishing of cotton and woolen fabrics, but is too expensive for general use, and the cheaper grades are generally adulterated.

Tragazan: The same is made from the seed of the twist bean, the fruit of Ceratonia siliqua. The seeds are split and the gum extracted and mechanically separated into husks and cotyledons. The inner tissues of the latter contain the gum, which is extracted by careful kneading with hot water. The solution is strained and filtered, and used as a preservative. The gum forms a stiff, whitish, transparent jelly, somewhat similar to tragacanth, but containing no starch, and a considerably higher amount of nitrogen (equal to 24 per cent. of albuminoids). It does not dissolve in water, but, when stirred with it, appears to take up the water remaining as stiff as before. It mixes most readily with water at a temperature of 100 deg. to 140 deg. F. It is important that the threads be thoroughly mixed with the water before use. It is a valuable binding agent for mineral fillings and starch, and gives the cotton cloth, where used in the process of its finishing, a smooth, tough, lustrous feel.

Trait: A term employed in needlework to indicate the two short seams made on each side of the front of a bodice, whence small gored have been cut which make the slope required, so as to cause the dress to fit in closely under the bust.

Tram: From tramé or tramé, the French for filling. It is the union of two or more (generally 3 to 6) single raw silk threads, passed through a comb, and which then have from 2 to 3½ turns of twist per inch put in. This is sufficient to hold the silk together in the dyeing and weaving, and at the same time leaves the thread full and open and so that it fills the cloth properly. Used for filling.

Trama: Name for filling in old Rome.

Tramped Dornorn: See Scotch linen cloth.

Transferred stitch: See Lace Needles.

Trap: Faults in weaving caused by the shuttle becoming trapped, which will break out the threads for several inches in the width. To piece up these ends leaves an ugly place; therefore, if the weaving is continued, this blemish has to be left on the piece as it is. Also called Snash or Mash.

Trap Boards: Lifter boards used in connection with the 2-ply Ingrain carpet Jacquard machines in place of the lifting block, and as used in other Jacquard machines. These boards are made to trap the knots of cords (taking the place of the hooks in the regular machines) by means of slots extending from the holes, through the latter of which a knot can pass if so directed by its mate needle, or the knot is caught in the slot of the trap board and in turn its cord raised simultaneously with the trap board.

Traveling Rug: A rug, plain or fancy, made expressly for the use of travelers.

Traveller: The small loop of finely tempered steel, sprung into the flange of the ring on the ring frame, acting as the wind-up on the warp, which is made to pass through them (one thread to each traveller) on its way to the bobbins. The tension upon the threads while spooled is controlled by the weight or size of the travellers used.

Travers: Stripes running in the direction of the filling, similar to those in layders.

 Traverse: The distance the builders in spinning and winding machinery ride fall and fall on the spindles.

Tray Cloth: A piece of cloth usually of linen damask, used to cover a tray upon which dishes of food are carried.

Treadles: The levers by which the harnesses are actuated on the hand loom and other similar looms.

Trellis: French term for the net ground as distinct from the pattern in hand-made laces. Coarse, stout French canvas made of unbleached hemp; used for bags, trousers for farmers, etc.

Tricot Work: A kind of fancy work made by cutting out patterns in different materials, and applying them upon a background with needle-work, usually embroidery. The name is derived from the common use of a pattern of vines and climbing plants supported on a trellis.

Tricotage: The cutting instrument or sliding knife in cutting velvets woven double.

Trevolins: Those races of silk-worms of which there are three broods in one year. Sometimes written Tricollines.

Tricale: Sort of raw cotton in Macedonia.

Tricottette: See Jersey Cloth.

Tricot: A woolen or worsted fabric, characterized by plain lines or ribs running either warp or filling ways, produced by a special system of weft threads known as tricot tricot. Originally, a name given to fabrics made of woolen yarn by hand knitting, hence the name. (From the French) Tricot meaning knitting. Later was applied to materials made on knitting frame now known as jersey cloth. Since about 1840 applied to woven woolen and worsted cloth (as previously referred to the word tricot of which is intended to imitate the face effect of a knitted fabric. This tricot line is similar to the rib line in a ribbed cloth except that it is not so pronounced. Warp tricots (and which are the ones most often met with) are constructed with two systems of warp threads and ordinary filling, and are characterized by a texture which while dense is singularly elastic, somewhat similar to heavy jersey cloth. Tricots are commonly dyed in plain colors. Worsted structures are finished with a clear face, so as to show the threads and their interfacing distinctly. When intended for fancy worsted trowsers, neat colorings are used in the warp.

Tricot Cloth: See Jersey Cloth.

Tricotine: A woolen fabric made with black filling and small patterns,
Tricot Stitch: See Rail Stitch.

Trinidad: Variety of raw cotton from the West Indies.

Trinitrocellulose: Gun cotton.

Trinitrophenic Acid: See Picric Acid.

Trunk: Length of silk fabric, made with three-ply warp.

Trolley: In English lace-making, lace, the pattern of which is outlined with thread on a flat narrow board made up of several such threads.

Tronadora: Durable bast fibre, yielded by a species of abutilon plant in Mexico, used for ropes, nets, etc., by the Indians.

Tropical Cloth: Very light men's wear fabric, used for summer clothes, made usually with cotton warp and mohair filling, showing various colors and designs.

Tropical Weight: Suitings weighing from 9 to 11 oz. per yard.

Troughing the Shed: Arranging the shed in a loom to give the fabric, more particularly those wovens with the plain weave, the appearance of fullness and density of face, or what is usually spoken of as cover. It will also be noticed that by it fabrics interlaced with a twill will show the twill line prominently. This is accomplished by adjusting the position of the back roller and breast beam, raising the former so that the bottom shed line of warp is depressed more below the warp-line than the top shed is raised above it. The result is that greater tension is applied to the threads in the bottom shed line than when forming the top shed, and when in this position they are practically free from tension, hence their better covering power.

Trousers: A large variety of woolen and worsted fabrics, also cotton worsted; used for trousers.


Trueness of Wool Fibres: Under true or even fibres are classified those having a nearly uniform diameter throughout their entire length, whereas fibres in which this character is termed untrue or uneven. The latter is the result of two causes, the one atrophy of the fibre at certain parts, the other hypertrophy. Untrue fibres are found less frequently in the fibres of poor and neglected sheep, or are the result of sickness of the animal. In some instances we find a sudden contraction of the fibre at a certain point (atrophy), whereas in others we find a more gradual contraction. With reference to hypertrophy, none of the sheep or shorn wool fibres mentioned variations are found; the fibre begins to enlarge at a certain point, and this enlargement may continue through the length of the fibre until attaining a diameter of even twice the dimensions at other parts. Where these abnormal forms occur, there are changes in the form and size of the terminal scales of the outer layer as well as in the diameter of the fibre, consequently the internal structure of the fibre must be equally affected by the increasing the strength and elasticity of such fibres, and consequently reducing the value of wool in which such fibres are found.

Truitt Premium (Truitt Improved): A spun cotton plant originated by G. W. Truitt, La Grange, Ga. Plants large; limbs long and spreading, prolific; bolls very large, roundish, maturing late; lint 30 to 32 per cent, staple 22 to 25mm. Very similar to Duncan Mammoth and Mammoth Prolific.

Trumpet: Any funnel-shaped gatherer or guide for slivers and yarns.

Trunk: Length of silk fabric, made with three-ply warp.

Tsaiteles: The term is knitted by hand into a compact web of so fine a texture as to occupy two persons three or four months in its completion. The hand-silk hammocks are sold at the web sell for $15.00 each, and sometimes double that amount.

Tuf: Coarse, French carpet, made of stiff hemp tow warp and cow hair filling.

Tuff: A bunch of wool; a lock of fibre.

Tufatafeta: A tuft or shaggy taffeta fabric woven with a pile, like velvet; in use in the 16th and 17th Centuries. One of the terms used then to imply a satin or a silk fabric scraped or cut to produce fluffy surfaces.

Tulip: Figured and painted English cotton velvets; obsolete.

Tulip Tree: A tree of India, formerly used in the manufacture of vegetable dyes for the natives. Also called Portia Tree.

Tulle: A delicate kind of fine and thin silk net with a small mesh, sometimes dotted or frilled, but more commonly plain; used for veils and light dresses. It derived its name from the town of Tulle, France. The Jacquard system has been very successfully adapted to the manufacture of Tulle. Blonde is a narrow tulle adapted for quilting.

Tunic: Originally made with bobbins on the pillow, same as lace, but now woven by machinery.

Tumbler Stop Motions: A class of appliances consisting mainly of a falling lever, used as a stop motion on various textile machines, like for instance in cotton spinning with drawing frames, silver and ribbon lap machines, etc.

Tunca: Canton Chinese name for wrought silk of a very thick kind.

Tuner: An operative who keeps the loom in working order; one of the English names for loomkeeper.

Tunchehow: A better grade of Chinese raw cotton.

Tungstic Acid: The sodium compound of this acid is used for rendering decorative textiles fireproof and as a substitute at one time used for weighting silk, whereby about 15 per cent, can be added to the weight of the material.

Tunings: A term used in Yorkshire synonymous with the term tackling (used in Lancashire); it means repairing, etc., a loom when it breaks down, and keeping it in order. The English for loomfishing. These duties are performed by a special workman, called a turner, i.e., loomkeeper.

Tunic: An undergarment worn in ancient times by both sexes; an undergarment worn by Catholic Bishops when officiating at mass; a coat worn by soldiers and pupils while attending school; also the upper part of a woman's gown. The tunic, as a figure of war, its lengths, materials and fashions, has existed from the time of the Romans to the present day.

(To be continued.)