



Mary Meigs Atwater

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Mary Meigs Atwater : Byways in Hand-Weaving before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **Byways in Hand-Weaving**:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. So much interesting information -By LindaAtwater is always the greatest in researching different fiber techniques, and this is no exception. I love this book so much, and return to it time after time. There is a lot of information and diagrams packed into this little volume for those who are interested in textiles produced in other weaving cultures, and wish to incorporate them into their own work - or for those wishing to be able to identify techniques in labeling them for textile collections.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational and aggravating, and introduces a new way of thinking about how we weave!By Caroline M. AlexanderIf you are interested in pushing the limits of what can be done on a loom, this book will ore than get you started. A pioneer in searching out so-called primitive weaving techniques, particularly for braids and bands, Atwater analyzed thousands of fabrics in museums and purchased on her travels to document the weave structures and techniques found on looms such as backstrap looms, and set about translating them to be woven on a multi-harness loom. What she found was that these so-called primitive looms with their use of string heddles that create pattern sheds that do not conform to the shafts modern weavers are used to are far more versatile and capable of creating fabrics usually associated with massive multi-shaft and jacquard looms and that these traditional weavers pre-programmed their patterns into their looms using heddles and pick-up and shed sticks.Luckily for us, Atwood's hard work has paid off and we can now use our modern looms to re-create traditional patterns on modern looms using at least 8 shafts, and preferably 16. And if you want to see how a more primitive loom stacks up (with two main sheds and lots of little subsidiary sheds to pick the patterns, you can also do that using her instructions and learn how much easier and

quicker it is. Mary Atwood was a woman before her time, and the first of an intrepid band of weavers that have increased our knowledge of how traditional ethnic fabrics are woven and passed on that knowledge to become part of western weaving culture. The book might look old-fashioned, and the printing and diagrams could be clearer by modern standards, but the contents are gold! If you want to learn how to make a band on a backstrap, inkle or rigid heddle loom, this book will inspire, frustrate, delight and amaze you, and turn your thinking on weaving upside down as you learn that its about your fingers and your internal vision as a weaver that is important, and once you grasp that, your loom becomes secondary as all it has to do is hold the warp threads under tension as you weave.

This book brings together material on the art of weaving that is unavailable in any other single book.