



Greetings from Salt Spring Island

It was a busy and fun fall with two conferences followed by a trip to China and Vietnam.

China

In China we visited three of our suppliers and numerous factories. It is always good to see how our various products are made so we can better understand the process. This gives us more control in designing and making suggestions of how we want items produced specifically for us and you. We were wined and dined with interesting dishes of food that just keep appearing on the rotating lazy susan in the center of the table: whole stork complete with legs and beak, crunchy jelly fish, dog rump with curly tail, etc. Having been treated as special guests before in China, we went as the "interesting" vegetarians. When space permits we will give the fascinating details of the journey many of your yarns and fibres take before they reach us.



Terry, Karen, Mr. Lu & Shi Bin

Vietnam

This segment of our trip was textile research. Our time was rich with lots of hiking to see some colourful people, great silk, hemp, spectacular rice terraces in the mountains, the romantic city of Hanoi and Terry exclaims-"the best gelato he has ever had".



Son & Karen

I am starting this newsletter in the snow covered mountains of Vancouver Island. A cup of tea and a good sense of peace after a good cross-country ski on a sunny day is where we are wishing you a peaceful, healthful and creative 2004.

Newsletter on Our Web Site

The newsletter is posted on our web site for you to view. We send everyone who requests the electronic version a short e-mail message when the new newsletter is posted.

We urge you to give us your e-mail address if you have one so you can help save trees and postage. View the newsletter on our website and you will see everything in colour and 2-3 weeks earlier than the newsletter by mail! Contact us at silk@treenwaysilks.com to make the change. Please include your full name and address.

If you have not placed an order in the last year and receive the newsletter by post, we remind you the subscription fee is \$5 yearly to help with printing and postage costs.

Silkster's Gallery

We have a new gallery of very creative pieces on our web site.

Please take the time to have a look: www.treenwaysilks.com and click on Silkster's Gallery. Congratulations to all for sharing your creativity.

Faye Deer from Whitehorse, Yukon has incorporated

silk fusion into a stunning quilted landscape based on a photo taken in the 1950's when she and her husband lived in the eastern arctic.



Faye Deer

Jan Ede from Pender Island, BC won first prize for her crazy patch block in the "Silk Ribbon Embroidery Only" contest hosted by Crazy

Quilting newsletter. The delicate and intricate work with the pretty ribbons makes a person want to take up needle and do ribbon embroidery.

Continued on page 8

Call for Entries

We encourage all of you to send photos of your work using Treenway silks. It is fun and inspiring for all of us and you are rewarded with silk product from Treenway.

See our web site for details of what we require from you to participate in this fun and exciting gallery. We so look forward to your entries.

Treenway Silks is located at 501 Musgrave Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, V8K 1V5. You can reach us toll free at 1.888.383.SILK (7455) or at 250.653.2345 or by fax at 250.653.2347 or by email at silk@treenwaysilks.com. See our website www.treenwaysilks.com.

New Products

Our visit to China introduced us to some new products we looked for and some we discovered by accident. The accidents are waste or by-products that excited us with yet undiscovered potential. We have only had time to experiment with our samples. The shipment will not arrive until mid-February as the shipment will be arriving while this letter is at the printers.

Bleached Tussah Oblong – also known as Laps in Britain

Waste cocoons, often cut to remove the pupa for food, are used to make oblong. The degummed cocoons are carded on a large carding machine to make large "batts" approx 36" x 82"



and weighing approx 400g. The fibres look stretched, similar to a hankie, but are actually carded. These great lofty oblongs are great for felting as well as silk fusion.

We are selling them in their full 400g weight or we will cut one in half, weighing approx. 200g. The price is \$16.50 (approx. \$13.20 US)/200g.

Degummed Throwsters Waste

We currently have Throwsters Waste in the gum. The degummed Throwster's Waste has soft kinks. It is ready to incorporate into your spinning or silk fusion. The texture is extreme and fun!

We are selling it in 100g (approx 3.5 oz) packages for \$7.50 (approx \$6 US)/pkg.

Discontinued Items

13mm Dyed Ribbon in 5 yd pkg

Currently we dye our 13mm ribbon in our 100 colour range. We will no longer be dyeing this size ribbon for the smaller 5 yd packages as stocks run out. Our stitchers use it for ribbon embroidery, fusers incorporate it into their silk fusion and doll makers use it to make fabulous clothes.

The cost is \$6.90 (approx \$5.50)/5 yd pkg.

Cashmere 20%/Silk 40%/Merino 40% Fibre

Scrumptious in feel and colour, this combination is wonderful. The cashmere is a dark colour



swirled in with the creamy silk and merino. It is packaged in 100g (3.5 oz) packages at a cost of \$39 (approx \$31.20 US)/pkg. When our supply runs out, we will not be carrying it again. Order now so you won't be disappointed.

Large Size Mini Skeins

We currently have the 20/2, Fine Cord and 8/2 wound into 50 yd, 30 yd and 50 yd amounts for those of you who need smaller amounts of yarn for your stitching, quilting and sampling projects.

The size of the mini skeins is changing to 10yd each. Over the next year as the larger skeins run out, they will be replaced with the smaller sizes.

Rise in Silk Prices

Prices of the last two orders of silk from China have increased. We have held tight, but our next shipment has higher prices again. After our visit to China this fall it is apparent why. China has been moving forward at 8.5% financial growth for the past five years. This is unprecedented anywhere at anytime in history. It is evident in the ultra-modern city of Shanghai. There is high-rise after high-rise and store after store of big name brands from the US, Australia and Europe. New cars fill the streets and consumerism is on the rise. Everything we saw points to China becoming the next world financial giant. With this comes a huge middle class, people moving to the cities, the same scenario of N. America in the 50's.

We had many conversations about the prices of silk. We were assured not to be alarmed or worried. The government understands the necessity of the family farm, which is how the majority of silk is raised. But there are

some factors which will continue to see the price of silk slowly rise. These are all good and legitimate reasons: farmers are getting a higher wage and the last 2 crops were not good due to poor weather conditions.

We were told the prices will stay at this current elevated price for some time. This means we will have to pass it along. Feb 1st all of our silk prices will go up 10%.

NOTE

1. Prices do not include shipping.
2. Specials end May 31st, 2004.
3. Regular 10% Discount: If silk specials are ordered in bulk, totaling over \$150.00 CDN, our normal discount for orders over \$150.00 CDN does not apply.

New Season's Fleeces from New Zealand



Lincoln sheep from New Zealand Sheep and Their Wool

Rowena, who hand picks our fleeces, tells us, "We have had perfect wool growing conditions this year. Not too much snow in the winter and mild summer weather, so the fleeces are better than ever. Every year the wool

selection changes as some farmers retire and new ones come along. All breeders have a 'line' of characteristics they aim for which adds a different dimension to what we have."

Do not wait to order! We have ordered a large number of these outstanding fleeces again, but don't wait because we always have many disappointed people. We are thrilled to say the prices remain the same as the last 3 years. The purebred merino is \$28.80/kg (\$13.10/lb,) approx \$10.50/lb US. All other fleeces are \$22.50/kg (\$10.25/lb), approx \$8.20/lb US. There is no limit on the total number of fleeces ordered

- A PW means the fleece has won a prize or there is some factor that makes it exceptional.
- The Gotland sheep have once again been frolicking around in the thistles, so watch out for some thistle heads that may be hiding in the wool.
- The Lincoln fleeces are magnificent with very long strong staples in an array of colours.
- Badgerface is very rare, the sheep are related to Perendale and have a black and white face and a dark grey stomach. The wool is very dense and is always cream with grey fibres throughout.
- The first 70 fleeces came from one large farm. The sheep are separated carefully into their separate breeds. The rams go out to the ewes in late summer and when they have done their job all the flocks are rounded up together. But last season something strange happened! They



New Zealand Romney sheep from New Zealand Sheep and Their Wool

can't have finished what they had to do, as when the lambs were born there were some strange mixtures. It was obvious when we looked at the wool there were some unusual but beautiful combinations. Polwarth X Leicester, Perendale X Merino???

• Number 287 (white English Leicester) was a prize winner at the Christchurch Show 2003.

Explanations:

Where we say "greys and brown", the wool is a mixture of greys with some brown

Where we say "grey and brown" the wool is just one colour of grey with brown

Where we say grey/brown the wool is blended from grey to brown

The Crimp

The crimp is very different in all breeds. A defined crimp (Corriedale) means there are definite ridges along the staple.

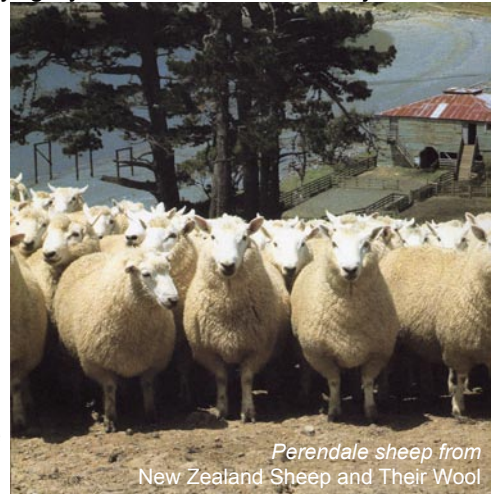
A wide crimp is very flat and the curve from side to side is very wide (Lincoln, Gotland). Some Perendale and Borderdale is open and bouncy with almost no crimp. It is very easy to spin and needs no carding. Lambswool has a more defined crimp.

The Tip

The fleece wool has the inside that was cut from next to the sheep and the outside that is exposed to the weather. This outside area is the very end of staple. We refer to this as the tip of the staple. The Gotland wool has a distinctive long curly tip. The Lambswool often has a lighter coloured tip that enhances the shades in the hand spun yarn. The Merino wool is packed very tight on the sheep so the grease is captured in the tip of the fleece. Open up the wool and separate out the staples and wash carefully in hot soapy water before spinning.

The Colour

In a multi coloured fleece the colour change happens down the length of the staple. When the fibre is spun it forms into stripes in the yarn. The colour in some of the Gotland fleeces is very dramatic. The colour changes form a line of colour across the fibre. When the fibre is spun it gives a tweed look to the yarn. Number 275 is a perfect example of this colour change. We have some really beautiful chocolate brown fleeces this year, which are usually almost impossible to find.



Perendale sheep from New Zealand Sheep and Their Wool

New Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

#	Kg	Breed	Description	(PW indicates a prize winner!)	#	Kg	Breed	Description	(PW indicates a prize winner!)
216	2.6	Borderdale	dark grey		312	1.5	Gotland	lovely grey with caramel tips, soft and silky	
221	3.0	Borderdale	rich toffee brown, short staple, handcard		281	1.6	Gotland	white and beige/ grey/ brown soft and bouncy	
217	3.6	Borderdale	medium grey		292	1.6	Gotland	silver greys, soft and silky	
164	1.1	Coopworth	rich brown		297	1.6	Gotland	silver and cream short shiny fibres	
161	1.5	Coopworth	dark brown		315	1.6	Gotland	lovely shades of grey, short staple	
135	1.8	Coopworth	cream with black and brown spots		322	1.6	Gotland	cream and silver with a curly tip	
134	2.4	Coopworth	beautiful multicolour greys and caramels		325	1.6	Gotland	mostly dark charcoal grey with touches of cream, curly caramel, lovely colours	
129	2.8	Coopworth	unusual colours light to dark browns long staple		233	1.7	Gotland	mostly cream with beautiful beige brown tones	
136	2.8	Coopworth	rich dark chocolate long staple		241	1.7	Gotland	light cream/ beige long Gotland tip	
130	3.0	Coopworth	mid-brown/greys		296	1.7	Gotland	soft, light and medium greys, unusual bouncy staple	
181	2.6	Corriedale	beautiful colours, super fine, slightly tender, card commercially, perfect for felting		299	1.7	Gotland	beautiful, lovely colours, cream with grey&brown -loved being in the thistle patch-watch out for any prickles	
195	2.7	Corriedale	smokey dark grey and brown, open bouncy fleece		307	1.7	Gotland	even charcoal grey, unusual colours, soft and silky	
219	2.7	Corriedale	multi light and dark grey		318	1.7	Gotland	soft cream and silver, medium length staple	
218	2.8	Corriedale	medium grey		237	1.8	Gotland	unusual dark grey with caramel tip, thick bouncy staple	
224	2.9	Corriedale	caramel browns		264	1.8	Gotland	warm beige and silvers, fine crimp	
208	3.0	Corriedale	multi colour cream and mushroom, long staple		265	1.8	Gotland	silver greys with a very curly tip	
203	3.1	Corriedale	medium caramel brown		295	1.8	Gotland	silver and light and dark greys, lovely contrasting colours	
179	3.2	Corriedale	pale cream/ light brown		230	1.9	Gotland	cream to beige grey along the staple, long and silky	
180	3.4	Corriedale PWx2	beautiful multi colours very fine		240	1.9	Gotland	fine lambs wool rich cream colour	
178	3.7	Corriedale	multi colour fine crimp		263	1.9	Gotland	striking colour contrast, cream and grey beautiful fleece	
190	3.7	Corriedale	multi all colours, long staple		278	1.9	Gotland	colours blend from silver to dark along the staple, silky soft	
177	3.8	Corriedale	beautiful rich silver cream		280	1.9	Gotland	defined colour changes, cream and dark beige grey	
206	3.8	Corriedale	light mushroom/ brown tones, fine long staple		324	1.9	Gotland	dark grey with a stripe of cream, very soft	
198	3.9	Corriedale	browns light and dark, long staple		227	2.0	Gotland	stripes of silver, grey and beige with a dark tip	
213	3.9	Corriedale	light shades of mushroom and beige, show fleece		231	2.0	Gotland	cream and grey/ beige very thick bouncy staple	
220	3.9	Corriedale	rich brown, lovely!		239	2.0	Gotland	grey staple with a beige tip fine and bouncy	
214	4.0	Corriedale	honey brown, long staple		259	2.0	Gotland	rich creams, long staple lovely crimp	
215	4.1	Corriedale	multi light and medium mushroom browns		291	2.0	Gotland	mixture of greys, short staple silky soft	
182	4.4	Corriedale	multi beige and chocolate brown		294	2.0	Gotland	cream and silver grey, long staple	
186	4.4	Corriedale PW	steel grey and toffee, very thick bouncy fibre		246	2.1	Gotland	white to mid greys, very striking, soft and fine	
199	4.8	Corriedale	very fine long staple mushroom colour		249	2.1	Gotland	dramatic colour change of silver and dark coffee brown/ greys	
210	4.9	Corriedale	dark brown/ black		252	2.1	Gotland	light grey to dark coffee and grey beautiful	
187	2.2	Corriedale X Merino	dark chocolate brown		260	2.1	Gotland	half cream and half medium grey beige, unusual colours, short fine staple	
183	2.3	Corriedale Lamb PW	very dark chocolate brown, short very fine staple		277	2.1	Gotland	dark brown and white, defined colour change	
162	2.5	Corriedale Lamb	dark brown very fine		234	2.2	Gotland	rich cream classic Gotland fine crimp	
163	2.7	Corriedale Lamb	dark brown with shades of grey		236	2.2	Gotland	silver at the top of the staple shading grey to the tip, long silky and soft	
194	3.6	Corriedale Lamb	steel grey with toffee tips, strong crimp		271	2.2	Gotland	cream with a touch of silver, lovely crimp	
193	3.6	Corriedale Moorit PW	short staple lovely mid donkey brown		272	2.2	Gotland	half cream and half silver grey	
184	3.9	Corriedale Moorit	beautiful Moorit colour, short thick bouncy staple		275	2.2	Gotland	big contrast in the cream and medium grey, gorgeous	
205	1.8	Corriedale X Merino	mushroom lambs wool		309	2.2	Gotland	cream colours, super soft very long staple	
212	2.5	Corriedale X Merino	dark brown		298	2.3	Gotland	cream, dark grey and light grey down the staple, unusual	
223	3.0	Corriedale X Merino PW	steel grey/ dark brown		243	2.4	Gotland	steel grey with caramel tip, super silky feel	
225	3.2	Corriedale X Merino	dark brown		250	2.4	Gotland	fine and curly lambs wool cream and silver	
207	2.2	Corriedale X Romney	dark grey, brown tips lambs wool		305	2.4	Gotland	multi coloured soft and fine with a long curly Gotland tip	
226	1.6	Corriedale/Merino	multi mushroom and brown		319	2.4	Gotland	cream and silver, silky soft	
209	3.4	Corriedale/Moorit	honey brown lambs wool		290	2.5	Gotland	half cream half beige grey, fine and soft	
283	1.9	English Leicester	white strong fleece wide crimp		320	2.5	Gotland	cream, very long staple	
284	2.1	English Leicester	white strong fleece wide crimp		321	2.5	Gotland	soft grey, cream, beige	
287	2.1	English Leicester PW	white fine lambs wool with a curly staple		248	2.6	Gotland	unusual super fine and bouncy, silver grey to beige	
301	1.1	Gotland	soft mid greys, curly lambs wool		267	2.6	Gotland	defined crimp right along the staple length, cream classic Gotland fleece 1/4 cream 3/4 grey with a brown tip	
247	1.2	Gotland	honey beige, light grey half and half, shorter staple very fine		276	2.6	Gotland		
266	1.2	Gotland	the cut end of the staple has a cream line, the middle is rich grey with a real coffee tip		235	2.7	Gotland	1/4 cream 3/4 grey long staple, wide crimp	
302	1.2	Gotland	silver and mid greys, soft and silky		268	2.7	Gotland	cream with warm toffee tones, long staple	
261	1.3	Gotland	medium colours, a very typical Gotland style, long staple with a curly ringlet tip						
242	1.4	Gotland	silvery cream with a beige tip, lovely crimp						
270	1.4	Gotland	1/8 cream, the rest is lovely medium grey/beige						
316	1.4	Gotland	cream and silver grey, very soft						
232	1.5	Gotland	cream and silver 50/50 fine short staple						
251	1.5	Gotland	silver and grey soft and bouncy						
274	1.5	Gotland	lovely long staple with a perfect crimp						
310	1.5	Gotland	silver and various grey, silky soft						

New Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

#	Kg	Breed	Description (PW indicates a prize winner!)	#	Kg	Breed	Description (PW indicates a prize winner!)
289	2.7	Gotland	cream lovely long staple	202	2.9	Moorit/Corriedale X Merino	lovely Moorit brown
323	2.7	Gotland	cream with touch of silver, very defined crimp, strong shiny staple	87	1.7	Perendale	cream/ dark brown spots
306	3.4	Gotland PW	beautiful multi creams to dark brown/ grey, lovely big fat sheep	69	1.8	Perendale	mixed light to med greys
303	1.4	Gotland X Corriedale	cream colours, soft and silky, lovely fleece	83	1.9	Perendale	cream with dark grey spot
288	1.6	Gotland X Corriedale	3/4 cream 1/4 grey, short very bouncy staple	88	2.1	Perendale	cream/ beige, dark and light grey spots
262	1.9	Gotland X Corriedale	1/4 silver grey 3/4 mid grey with honey coloured tips, another favourite	80	2.2	Perendale	cream/ grey
279	2.2	Gotland X Corriedale	fine staple creams, pale and dark greys	86	2.2	Perendale	mixed greys
258	2.5	Gotland X Corriedale	unusual colour change of Gotland with Corriedale crimp, light to dark greys	73	2.3	Perendale	mixed greys beige tips
269	2.8	Gotland X Corriedale	cream, light and dark greys, very fine crimp	85	2.3	Perendale	cream and mixed greys show fleece
159	3.0	Leicester	greys	79	2.4	Perendale	looks pre-carded true Perendale type
160	3.3	Leicester	cream, silver, grey	82	2.4	Perendale	cream, med and dark grey tips
157	3.5	Leicester	mixed greys	74	2.5	Perendale	grey/ cookie beige lovely
158	3.5	Leicester	even mid grey	84	2.6	Perendale	cream with dark grey spot
41	2.3	Leicester Lamb PW	cream with a little dark grey	65	2.8	Perendale	silver and cream
38	3.0	Leicester lamb	medium greys	67	2.8	Perendale	cream
76	3.7	Leicester X Perendale	all colour greys, wide crimp	70	2.9	Perendale	cream/ silver and brown/ dark grey
28	1.6	Leicester X Polwarth	silver and cream	78	2.9	Perendale	mid greys
26	2.7	Leicester X Polwarth	creams, beige, grey, very soft	66	3.0	Perendale	med. Grey
168	1.5	Lincoln	multi cream and dark grey	81	3.3	Perendale	lovely grey with brown
166	2.1	Lincoln	even grey	63	3.4	Perendale	cream to grey
173	2.2	Lincoln	silver grey	72	3.8	Perendale	silver and greys strong crimp
170	2.4	Lincoln	med grey/ brown	92	2.8	Perendale X Badgerface	cream and a little light brown
171	2.8	Lincoln	silver and mid grey	93	3.1	Perendale X Badgerface	cream/ silver, dark grey spot
169	2.9	Lincoln	med grey	90	3.4	Perendale X Badgerface	cream, small patch of brown
172	3.0	Lincoln	mid grey/ beige	75	2.0	Perendale X Leicester PW	mixed grey and beige
175	3.0	Lincoln	cream/ silver/ beige	57	3.1	Perendale X Leicester	mid caramel/ grey
174	3.4	Lincoln	cream/ silver grey	56	3.4	Perendale X Leicester	
176	1.2	Lincoln Lamb	dark grey/ brown, long very curly tip on each staple	61	2.1	Perendale X Merino	black
121	0.7	Merino	med brown with a white spot the finest of them all	59	2.7	Perendale X Merino	light silver and mid greys
102	0.8	Merino	dark smokey brown short staple hand card	60	3.0	Perendale X Merino	light cookie/ grey like merino with no grease
104	0.9	Merino	silver beige	53	2.2	Perendale X Romney brown/ grey moorit	
100	1.0	Merino	dark brown	49	2.7	Perendale X Romney	warm moorit brown/ greys
116	1.0	Merino	rich chocolate brown	43	2.9	Perendale X Romney	cream and brown
106	1.1	Merino	dark brown/ black	51	3.0	Perendale X Romney	med greys with silver and caramel tones
109	1.1	Merino	light mushroom brown	54	3.2	Perendale X Romney	grey mix with cream
113	1.1	Merino	mid grey brown	55	3.2	Perendale X Romney	silver greys
101	1.3	Merino	brown/ black with toffee tips	58	3.3	Perendale X Romney	silver with some dark
103	1.4	Merino	very dark brown with a toffee colour tip	45	3.4	Perendale X Romney	cream and beige
110	1.4	Merino	dark brown superfine	44	3.5	Perendale X Romney	cream, moorit browns, more Perendale than Romney
117	1.4	Merino	chocolate brown	95	2.6	Pet Lamb	med brown/beige
105	1.5	Merino	very even black with dark brown tip superfine	96	3.9	Pet Lamb	light beige/ brown
111	1.5	Merino	dark brown/ black	97	5.2	Pet Lamb	light beige/ brown
118	1.5	Merino	chocolate brown	328	2.4	Poll-Merino	dark chocolate brown with white spots
126	1.5	Merino	rich dark brown slightly tender card and use for felting	37	1.6	Polwarth	light grey, very fine
127	1.5	Merino	chocolate brown	42	2.0	Polwarth	greys + cream
115	1.6	Merino	rich chocolate brown	39	2.2	Polwarth	creamy beige
123	1.6	Merino	soft dark brown longer staple longer for a beginner	40	2.7	Polwarth	beautiful colour mixes, cream, grey, beige
124	1.6	Merino	rich dark brown	14	1.0	Polwarth X	PW light multi greys
128	1.7	Merino	chocolate brown	17	1.1	Polwarth X	mixed greys and silver
112	1.8	Merino	dark brown/black defined crimp	13	2.8	Polwarth X	silver grey/ beige
114	1.8	Merino	mid grey brown very soft	15	2.8	Polwarth X	PW mixed greys with lovely beige tones
108	1.9	Merino	smokey dark brown/ black superfine	16	2.8	Polwarth X	mixed greys with lovely beige tones
125	2.0	Merino	rich dark brown	18	2.2	Polwarth X Leicester	mixed greys and beige
107	2.0	Merino	smokey dark brown, very soft, superfine	22	1.2	Polwarth X Romney	lovely cream with grey fibres
122	2.2	Merino	striking dark black/ brown amazing colour	19	1.3	Polwarth X Romney	shorter staple, unusual mix, softness of Polwarth
326	2.5	Merino	dark/brown black	20	1.6	Polwarth X Romney	toffee beige and silver grey
327	2.8	Merino	mixed greys, dark	24	1.9	Polwarth X Romney	cream with beige and brown
119	1.3	Merino lamb	dark brown soft and bouncy	21	2.4	Polwarth X Romney	beige grey/ cream silver
197	1.7	Merino Lamb	very dark brown, short fine staple	27	2.6	Polwarth X Romney	beige grey/ cream silver
189	3.3	Merino Moorit	unusual to fine a Merino Moorit type, lovely light brown, very fine	34	2.7	Polwarth X Romney	cream/ soft caramel tinges
				25	3.2	Polwarth X Romney	soft mixed creams with beige
				11	2.0	Romney	med beige/ greys long staple fine lamb
				4	2.5	Romney	grey finer crimp
				139	2.5	Romney	multi brown/ beige very fine long staple
				36	2.6	Romney	cream with lovely sheen

New Season's Fleeces from New Zealand

#	Kg	Breed	Description	(PW indicates a prize winner!)
165	2.7	Romney	white	
10	2.8	Romney	med beige/ greys long staple	
12	2.8	Romney	mixed greys with lovely cream parts	
1	2.9	Romney	light and dark beige/greys long staple	
3	2.9	Romney	silver/ beige greys long staple	
6	2.9	Romney	light grey soft with finer crimp	
32	3.0	Romney	silver greys and beige	
50	3.0	Romney	lovely cream/silver beautiful crimp	
94	3.0	Romney	med beige and grey	
140	3.1	Romney	mid brown mix long staple show fleece	
2	3.5	Romney PW	greys	
64	3.5	Romney	moorit brown/ beige	
137	3.6	Romney	dark chocolate brown long staple	
138	3.6	Romney	dark grey with smokey light grey fibres	
154	3.6	Romney	mid grey mix	
99	4.2	Romney	grey beige mushroom colour long staple	
185	4.2	Romney	beautiful grey and brown, strong long staple use for rugs and upholstery	
211	4.6	Romney	fine crimp mushroom and honey brown	
141	2.0	Romney Lamb	rich dark chocolate very long staple	
144	2.0	Romney Lamb	multi light and dark grey	
204	2.0	Romney Lamb	steel grey/ brown tones	
145	2.1	Romney Lamb	light and med greys	
222	2.2	Romney Lamb	dark steel grey	
142	2.5	Romney Lamb	chocolate browns	
149	2.6	Romney Lamb	mushroom colour very long staple best lamb	

#	Kg	Breed	Description	(PW indicates a prize winner!)
			at show	
143	2.9	Romney Lamb PW	mid-grey/ brown curly beige tip	
147	2.9	Romney Lamb	multi mid-browns greys	
98	3.0	Romney lamb PW	dark brown	
146	3.1	Romney Lamb PW	lovely dark browns show fleece	
152	3.2	Romney Lamb	multicolour	
153	3.2	Romney Lamb	multicolour	
150	3.3	Romney Lamb	grey/ black amazing colour	
151	3.4	Romney Lamb	mid greys long staple	
148	3.6	Romney Lamb	mid grey with coffee patches lovely colour	
196	3.3	Romney X Corriedale	cream and silver with beige tones, open bouncy fleece	
191	3.5	Romney X Corriedale	steel grey and silver with toffee tips, very open fleece spin without carding	
192	4.9	Romney X Corriedale	open bouncy fleece, creams and browns/ grey	
71	2.3	X Bred Mer/ Per/ Romney	narrow staple lovely crimp	

Specials

Reeled Silk Yarn

This exquisite and highest quality reeled, white, shiny yarn was sent to us in error. It was supposed to be our regular reeled 2P yarn at 4,700 yd/lb. The factory produced a yarn twice as thick at 2,350 yd/lb. Set this yarn at 12-13 epi for a firm tabby and 14-15 epi for a twill. It combines nicely with 12/2 spun silk, 8/2 reeled silk, the silk chenille and eyelash for elegant clothing.

It is too costly to ship back to China, so we are offering you a savings of more than half the regular cost of \$21.20 (approx \$17US) per 100g (approx 3.5 oz) skein. Our special is \$10 (approx \$8 US)/skein. It is also available in 200 gm cones for \$20/cone.

Dyed 20/2 Spun Silk Yarn, Colours #2 Blueberry Haze and #56 River Stone

We seem to have an abundance of these 2 colours on our shelves. They look very nice together to make a subtle stripe or mixed warp. We are offering a huge savings on the dyeing charge. We will charge the normal \$20.50/skein plus only \$3/skein for dyeing instead of the normal \$12. We have a limited supply, so order early while supply lasts.

Silk 55%/Cotton45% Fibre

The hand of this blend is creamy and lustrous. It is a perfect combination for those living in warmer climates. The staple is longer than 100% cotton at 4", making it joyful to spin.

Our special is 20% off our regular price of \$16.50 (approx \$13.20 US)/100g (3.5 oz) pkg. The discounted price is \$13.20 (approx \$10.55 US)/pkg.

B2 Cocoons

We have a few of these left from our last 50% discount offer. In this second quality there are some collapsed or stained cocoons. They are still fine for spinning or stretching into hankies or incorporating into silk fusion.

After degumming the cocoons can be pulled apart and fluffed into mini clouds ready to spin or use in silk fusion. They can also



Specials continued on page 8

Degumming Recipe *from Celia Quinn*

- 1 pound raw silk (with sericin 'gum')
- 4 oz washing soda (sodium carbonate)
- 4 oz soap (grated Ivory soap bar)

1. put washing soda and soap into pot with a few inches of water
2. keep at low simmer until soap and soda dissolve
3. add enough lukewarm water to float silk comfortably
4. add silk and simmer until soft (1/2 - 1 1/2 hour) remove a sample and rinse to determine if it is soft enough
5. rinse while hot, to remove most of the sericin, soap and soda
6. add about 1/3 cup vinegar to neutralize alkalinity and soak for 10 min
7. rinse in clear water

The Asian Journal

Bali – Island of the Gods

Our last newsletter gave orientation to the historical, social and ritual/spiritual significance of the cloth of Bali. We visited villages



Geringsing worn at temple dance

producing three distinct types of cloth: Bebali, Songket and Geringsing. Each of these textiles has its own spirit influenced by history, social and ritual

significance surrounding it.

Geringsing – Double Ikat

Bali is noted for geringsing, a double ikat cloth. This extremely complex technique of obtaining design through dyeing warp and weft threads is only done in three places in the world: India, Japan and Bali.



The Balinese treasure this cloth as it is believed to offer special protection against evil powers and is produced only in the village of Tenganan.

The home of geringsing is the town of Tenganan, one of only a few Bali Aga, "original/pure Balinese" villages. Bali lost its independence to the kingdoms of East Java in 1284. The people of a few villages have retained their own religious and social customs since that time. Tenganan is contained within a wall, maintains some aloofness to the rest of Bali and adheres to its own unusual customs. For example, villagers must marry within the community or leave the village and it is closed to outsiders after dark. The cloth, its makers and village continue to be surrounded by an aura of mystery.

The designs and layout of the Geringsing cloth are influenced by the Petola double ikat cloth introduced from Gujarat, India. Double ikat designs are all made in the dyeing process and do not become apparent until the threads are woven. Both the warp and weft threads are bound with plastic to resist the dye and make patterns. The greatest skill of double ikat is in planning



Geringsing warps tied & dyed



the design and making exact measurements for the resist binding. The tying and dyeing process of both warp and weft threads are the same.

The yarns of both warp and weft are hand-spun cotton. Before the tying process begins the yarns are soaked in kemeri (candelnut Tree) oil and wood ash water. The threads are alternatively soaked overnight in this liquid and then aired in the sun for 5 – 12 days before dyeing.

The threads are wound on a frame in groups according to the design. The weaver uses charcoal to draw guidelines across the threads to ensure the pattern is symmetrical. This is the only "drawn" aid used during the tying. The weaver uses an already woven geringsing cloth and a discerning eye on the pattern as she wraps the resist ginding.

When everything is tied, the warps and wefts are sent to the nearby town of Bubbug to be dyed in indigo.

Upon return, the yarns are put back onto the tying frames. Here some of the bindings are taken off for the next round of dyeing in the red dye bath of morinda (madder) root. The unbound areas will be bright red. The indigo over-dyed with red will yield a rusty brown colour.



Dyeing with morinda is a lengthy process to make the best geringsing cloth. The morinda roots are gathered from the near by island of Nusa Penida. First the root is crushed with a mortar and pestle. It is mixed with powered bark from the Sumplocos tree which acts similar to alum to fix the pigment to the fibre. These two ingredients are soaked in water to make the dye bath. The tied

threads are soaked in the dye bath at night and aired in the sun for 3 days. When the cloth is dry, it is stored out of the light for several months until enough material has been collected for the next dye bath. This process is repeated numerous times to achieve the desired colour. The dyers say the colour darkens and improves with age which can take up to eight years.

When the dyeing is complete, the ties are removed and the threads laid out to make sure the design is correct. At this time plain threads of indigo, morinda or white are



Asian Journal continued on page 8

Postal Rates Have Increased...

Canada Post rates increased January 8th, 2004.

- US customers can expect an increase of \$2-5 for most parcels. Of course it is dependent on the method of shipping and the parcel's weight.

- Canadian customers can expect a smaller increase per parcel.

Specials Continued...

be pulled and stretched over a 6" square frame to form a hankie for spinning (see our web site Inside Out of Spinning for photos) or use in silk fusion (see Inside Out of Silk Fusion). The cocoons can be partially degummed to make sculptural shapes, i.e. the petals of a flower.

The minimum order is 100g (approx 2.5 oz) which is approx 100 cocoons for a price of \$3.75 (approx \$2.20 US).

Hint: When I was a little girl, my grandma taught me that lemon juice is a good thing to soften hands. When working with silk, it works better than most hand creams. Just squeeze a little on your hands and rub in before spinning with silk or making silk fusion. Reapply when the silk starts "snagging" again.



*flower cocoons by
Therese Deschesne*

Remember

All prices are in Canadian funds. Divide by 1.25 to arrive at the approximate price in US dollars.

Improvements to Our Web Site...

Some sprucing up has resulted in an easier to use format for our web site. The new drop down menu bar will help you navigate your way around the site without as much guess work. Also, the site map describes what each section is. Look for a web version of our newsletter on the site to avoid lengthy download and compatibility issues!

Silkster's Gallery Continued...

Lee Ann Johnson from Gibson's Landing, BC used silk hankies and grasses from her garden to make and fuse *The View Screen* for the window beside her front door. It is a serene, organic solution to privacy with a view.

Ida Marie Threadkell from Salt Spring Island, BC entered the fun and fancy of fairy land using silk fusion and found objects to create the unique party dress called *Something to Crow About* for a fairy.

Maggie Vanderweit from Ariss, Ontario used silk fusion in her framed small quilted and stitched pieces included in her studio tour items. Each beautiful piece evokes something different in your imagination.

Asian Journal Continued...

added to border the ikat pattern. Only half a sarong width is woven at once in a balanced loose plain weave. The weaver takes great care with each weft to make sure the pattern is lined up so the red areas are on top of each other, the rust areas are on top of each other, etc. to make a clear motif. To assist in keeping the exact alignment of threads, a pick is used during weaving to help straighten the threads.

Karen Selk
Newsletter Editor

Rachel Bevington
Lay-out
