

Convergence, International Weavers' Conference,

Providence, Rhode Island, July 14 - 20, 2014.

As mentioned before, Denny and I miss our friends and customers on the East Coast, so plan to have a booth at the weaving conference in Rhode Island, in hopes of seeing some of you East Coasters again. This, I believe, is the first time in decades that this conference will be located in the north east (since Toronto in 1986!) The Boston Weavers Guild is the oldest in the USA and there are many renown weavers in the area. We're looking forward to meeting some, and to extend our trip to visit family and friends we haven't seen for awhile.

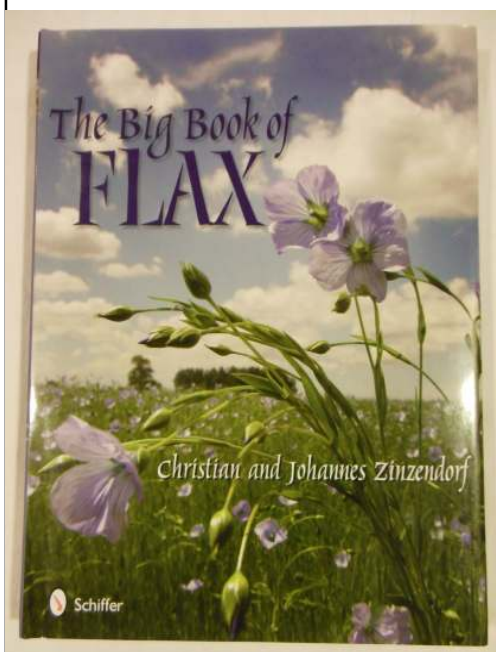
Made in USA

During these times when so many companies, particularly textile mills and printing companies, have been shipped overseas, we just wanted to voice our belief in and support of several Made-in-America companies. Two of our favorite yarn companies, Harrisville Designs and Brown Sheep Company, have been with us nearly 30 years. Both are family-owned and operated businesses, are innovative, and conscious of our environment. Brown Sheep company is operating on family homesteaded land in western Nebraska, passed down through generations, and uses mostly North American wool producers. They have recently gone green, recycling nearly all of the water they use in their operation. Harrisville company renovated and are using one of the oldest continuously operated mills in the country in the lovely historic town of Harrisville, New Hampshire. They focus on promoting the fiber arts among children with their Friendly Loom Products. Remember making potholders as a kid? They continue to promote the sturdy metal looms, and now offer the larger Pro size.

The Schacht Spindle Company in Colorado is another family-owned/operated business which makes some of the finest looms and spinning wheels on the market today. We also carry many of their well crafted smaller tools such as boat shuttles and drop spindles. See a listing of looms and wheels in stock on our web site, or ask for a current physical catalog, \$5.

We have always tried to support the smaller, home-based "makers" such as Al Snipes Weaving Tools, Peggy Ledrich Lucets and Books, Kathy Berlingcourt for weaving picks, Jim and Beth at Rams Horn Pewter Jewelry and Tom at Mountain Forge for brass Jewelry.

Flax Strick and Flax Book



For several years we have been looking for another source for flax strick, the product of processed stem fibers of the flax plant, for spinning smooth linen thread. Combed flax (short fibers) and flax waste have been available, but here-to-fore flax strick was processed overseas and the quality kept deteriorating. We feel fortunate in finding a great Made-in-America source for good quality flax strick from Pennsylvania. AND, a great new book on the subject ***The Big Book Of Flax***, \$59.99, by Christian and Johannes Zinzendorf, who have been raising the flax. Other books we carry on Flax include: ***Flax Craft in America, a collection of Newsletters 1993-1999***, Virginia Handy, \$26.50, and ***Reflections from a Flaxen Past***, Kati Meek, \$48. Previous good books on the subject are long out-of-print (***Linen Handspinning and Weaving***, Patricia Baines, and ***Magic of Linen***, Linda Heinrich) and perhaps can be found on line.

We will again dress distaffs with flax and spin linen thread during our **Spin Special Fibers** workshop April 13 - 14, 2014.