

The Woven Coverlets of Norway

Katherine Larson

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Katherine Larson : The Woven Coverlets of Norway before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Woven Coverlets of Norway:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Award Winning BookBy Robb ShepThis book was selected to receive the R.L.Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award for 2001. The Award is presented annually by the Textile Society of America (TSA) to a publication judged the best book of the year in this field. The purpose of the Award is to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding an exceptional study that fosters appreciation for the field of ethnic textiles.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Weavers and art lovers will love this book!By Happy GothI' ve met the author who weaves coverlets (called okla or akla In Norwegian) and shows her work . Besides the many color photos of museum quality okla to inspire the general reader, there are many technical descriptions of weaving, looms and how your precious baptismal or wedding skilbraegd got to be that

way.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Writing is excellent and photography is great with many close ups of ...By JPThe book was in pristine condition. Writing is excellent and photography is great with many close ups of textiles.

The Woven Coverlets of Norway showcases one of Norway's most beautiful and enduring folk arts. A warm, thick cover has always been important during Norway's long winter nights, but coverlets also decorated the family bedsteads in one-room farmhouses, affording housewives an opportunity to display their talents. Coverlets were a central feature in the important ceremonies of a person's life as well, wrapping an infant at christening, providing a cover for the marriage bed, and draping the coffin as a last offering of comfort to a loved one. To explain the coverlet's importance as the pinnacle of the Norwegian weaver's art, Katherine Larson looks at the role textiles played in the lives of women prior to the twentieth century. She takes readers through the yearly cycle in rural Norway and relates it to the many steps of cloth production in a pre-industrial era. Larson describes traditional methods of preparing, spinning, dyeing, and weaving wool and flax, and the tools with which these tasks were performed. She devotes chapters to the different types of coverlets and their origins: tapestry, square weave, krokbragd, double weave, rya, and overshot. Numerous illustrations show patterns from ages past faithfully preserved in the coverlets of Norway. In addition, the book includes a wealth of bibliographic sources and a complete glossary of weaving terminology. Katherine Larson is a weaver and researcher whose Norwegian-American background has inspired her study of Norwegian coverlets. Her book will appeal to anyone who owns or has ever admired an antique coverlet, and especially to Scandinavians who are interested in their cultural heritage. The historical aspects of her work will be important to textile studies, women's studies, and art history. She lives in Seattle.

From Library JournalCoverlets were woven at home by Norwegian women from as far back as Viking times up until the last century. In this attractive book, weaver and independent researcher Larson presents an overview of the history of wool and linen yarn production and the function of the coverlets in rural Norwegian homes and fishing boats, illustrated with black-and-white photographs and drawings of tools and processes. She then examines various types of coverlets, organized into chapters according to woven structures. These are accompanied by detailed diagrams of the threads and multiple color photographs of each type of coverlet, taken mostly from museum collections. When possible, Larson points out analogous weaving types from other cultures and contemporary American craft weaving. This is a carefully constructed book that provides the fullest presentation of this topic to be published in English. Recommended for specialized collections. Kathryn Wekselman, M.Ln., Cincinnati Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorKatherine Larson is a weaver and researcher whose Norwegian-American background has inspired her study of Norwegian coverlets. Her book will appeal to anyone who owns or has ever admired an antique coverlet, and especially to Scandinavians who are interested in their cultural heritage. The historical aspects of her work will be important to textile studies, women's studies, and art history. She lives in Seattle.