



WOOLLEN and WORSTED

woven fabric design

E. Grant Gilligan



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Preface

After a working lifetime of more than forty years in various woollen and worsted weaving mills in Scotland and Yorkshire, plus five years with the International Wool Secretariat, I felt in retirement a desire to make some of that experience available to others.

My work in the weaving mills consisted of marketing, designing, manufacturing and selling womenswear and menswear apparel fabrics for the markets of the UK, Europe and the United States.

During my five years with IWS based at the Development Centre in Ilkley I was employed as Fabric Manager in the developing countries area, travelling extensively to work with the larger woollen and worsted weaving mills in India, Turkey, Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.

It had been my experience in the weaving industry that many students on completion of their studies in design and technology were ill prepared in the practicalities of woven fabric construction, design and development. I found that when they came into industry for the first time, they had to rely heavily on the practical experience of an older generation of fast-disappearing, woven fabric designers and manufacturers to compensate for their shortcomings. Training of this older generation had always concentrated on the technical and practical side of cloth making rather than the aesthetic which appears to be the case today. If not addressed, this situation worldwide could only escalate.

This book is my attempt to improve matters by providing explanations and answers to some of the technical and practical problems encountered in the development, design and manufacture of woven fabrics.

E. Grant Gilligan

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