Nantucket Historical Association
Nantucket Craft Culture Research (Nantucket Looms)

April 2021
“One evening the conversation turned to planned projects that might help build the economy of Nantucket. Mrs. Beinecke mentioned the possibility of a weaving workshop on the island, and hoped to find someone who had a knowledge of weaving and fabric design to manage and teach.”

(As reported in a March 1968 Inquirer and Mirror article)
### Brief History of Nantucket Looms’ Early Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early 1960s</th>
<th>1968</th>
<th>mid-1970s</th>
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<td>In the early 1960s, the Nantucket Historical Trust purchased and preserved the iconic downtown building at 16 Main Street and the Old Ocean House hotel at 29 Broad Street. In 1962, the Historical Trust formed the <strong>Cloth Company of Nantucket</strong> and an affiliated division, Nantucket Looms, under the management of Andy Oates at 16 Main Street.</td>
<td>Given the boost in Nantucket’s tourism economy, <strong>Bill Euler and Andy Oates</strong> transformed a local Nantucket weaving studio into an influential arts venture. In April of 1968, Euler and Oates gained ownership of the Nantucket Looms inventory and established it as a crafts-oriented enterprise.</td>
<td>Nantucket Looms offered a range of accessories for the home as well as locally made crafts including <strong>scrimshaw, tapestries, fine woodworking, pottery</strong>, as well as <strong>oil paintings</strong>.</td>
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Source: Right Place, Right Time: The Advent of Cottage-Style Living (nha.org)
Early work of Nantucket Looms

Sources:
The Nantucket Looms Story - Fine Handwoven Goods since 1968
NHA Acquires Collection of Textiles Related to Mary Ann Beinecke and the Early History of the Nantucket Looms
Early work of Nantucket Looms (1960s Linen Collection)

Source:
Nantucket Looms Cloth Co Nantucket 1960's Linen Collection - Collection of Nantucket Looms and Cloth Co. of Nantucket 1960s Linens
17th Century Stumpwork

17th century Stumpwork embroidery (3 dimensional) - made by Miss Rivett with silk and metallic embroidery, there are parts that are padded and raised to produce this 3D work

Sources:
Mary Ann Beinecke’s Nantucket Textile Renaissance with Julie Stackpole
Embroidered Work

Erica Wilson Design Crewel Embroidered Pillows by Mary Ann Beinecke

Bedspread embroidered by the Needlewomen for Nantucket (1964)

Source:
Mary Ann Beinecke Nantucket Textile Renaissance with Julie Stackpole
Susan Ruckstuhl Boardman

- Susan Ruckstuhl picked up a needle when she was five years old, and, with a little help from her mother, stitched her first piece of embroidery.
- Graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1968
- Enrolled in an Extension Course Home Study offered by the Nantucket School of Needlery, founded by Mary Ann Beinecke
- Earned a master’s degree in education with an emphasis in textile arts
- Advanced Professional Study certificate at the American Institute of Textile Arts at Pine Manor College

Source: [Meet Susan Ruckstuhl Boardman](#)
“Sometimes Think of Me:” Notable Nantucket Women through the Centuries, features embroidered narratives by island needlework artist Susan Boardman with text by Betsy Tyler, NHA Research Fellow. The book showcases exemplary Nantucket women whose lives are the subjects of exquisite embroidered narratives and thoroughly researched biographies.
Sometimes Think of Me: Notable Nantucket Women through the Centuries

Wonoma (fl. mid-1600s)
Collection of Christine and Henry W. Harding

Page x

NOTE: This Sketch was provided in the text, it is not student work, found on page 2

Source:
Sometimes THink of Me by Nantucket Historical Association - issuu
Sometimes Think of Me: Notable Nantucket Women through the Centuries

Kezia Folger Coffin (1723-98) and Kezia Coffin Fanning (1759-1820)
“God Save George the King”

Source:
Sometimes THink of Me by Nantucket Historical Association - issuu

NOTE: This Sketch was provided in the text, it is not student work, found on page 17
In one of her more playful embroideries, Susan Boardman has placed the Stone’s house at 9 New Mill Street above a scene of Esta-Lee and family frolicking at the beach. Esta-Lee’s love of cooking and her professional life are represented in the upper right and left corners of the border by a food processor and a bowl of fruit, and a depiction of the human brain. The remainder of the border is filled with icons of the Stone’s many trips to Southeast Asia, while the Hebrew inscription at the top of the piece translates as, “Here, O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is one.”

(quoted from page 128 of Sometimes Think of Me)
John Carter and Mabel Pugh built a cottage in 1926 at the outer edge of the New Guinea neighborhood, and as far as can be determined, they were the first African-American family to build a summer home on Nantucket. Boardman’s narrative features the era of their granddaughters, Isabel and Florence Carter, and their business, Florabel Carter’s Box Lunches, as shown in the small embroidered sign. Windsor cottage is shown behind them. Names of the Windsor Cottage females frame the image.

(as cited on page 130 in Sometimes Think of Me)
The narrative embroidery of Blueberry Hill, the Ellis’s property in Quaise, features their beloved red oak and tupelo trees, Rhode Island Red chickens, vegetable garden, daughter Sarah reading in a hammock, pet cats, roses, poison ivy, goldfinches and whip-poor-wills.

*(quoted from page 132 of Sometimes Think of Me)*
Additional Decorative Arts (provided by NHA workshops)

“Bandboxes were a familiar form of storage for nearly a hundred years, beginning in the mid-eighteenth century. Also used as an early form of carry-on luggage, it’s now our richest source of historical wallpapers” (quoted from nha.org).

These shell collage souvenirs are an important part of the whaling history of Nantucket. Popular around 1830 until about 1900, these shell mosaics surely enticed many waiting women to welcome home their sailors newly returned from the sea. (nantucketonline.com)

Source: https://nha.org/whats-on/programs/decorative-arts/
The allure of these dyes have captivated cultures and peoples around the world for centuries. The cochineal dye comes from insects that produces a rich range of magentas, and red, and indigo can produce a range of blues, the two dyes work well in combination to produce rich colors and patterns (dying techniques include shibori, stitching, pole wrapping, and batik). Sayzie Carr has been working with art and textiles in a variety of capacities for decades, first as a designer for print fabrics, and then as a product designer for the luxury home furnishing industry. (quoted from nha.org)
Nantucket Looms
Current Shop/Services

Located at 51 Main Street Nantucket, MA 02554
Current work of Nantucket Looms

Source: HANDWOVENS – Nantucket Looms
Nantucket Loom Fiber Types

OUR FIBERS – Nantucket Looms

- Cotton
- Alpaca
- Linen
- Mohair
- Cashmere
- Silk

All fibers are internationally sourced from around the world, except for cotton which is sourced in the US.
Andrew Oates and William Euler worked at the core of this change, placing a personal stamp on a coastal-style design trends based on their love of traditional cottage living.

This exhibition explores Andy and Bill’s vision for a life well lived, epitomized by decades of mentoring local artists and collecting quality crafts as well as fine arts.
Design Elements of Cottage - Style by Euler and Oates

- Pastel or white paint schemes
- Plain wooden floors, board walls
- Open ceilings
- Furnishings tended to be rustic or wicker furniture
- Rooms embellished with fine arts and crafts
- Paintings and photographs (discreet nooks and corners of a room)
- Textiles were handmade in muted earth colors, mixed with fabrics in seaside colors
- Natural fiber rugs and woven or quilted bed covers.
- Small accents included objets d’art (typically collectibles)
- Flourishes

Overall, the space should offer volumes of fresh air and an ambiance of comfort

Sources: Right Place, Right Time: The Advent of Cottage-Style Living (nha.org) & Images: Nantucket Cottage Style
Nantucket Loom Interiors

Nantucket Looms Interiors is a full service interior design business, the team helps clients with every step of the design process in selecting, sourcing, receiving, delivery and installing goods for your home.

Nantucket Looms Projects: Projects

Black Fish - Photos: Barbara Clarke Photography; Builder: Clarke Borhters Construction
Derrymore - Photos: Lindsay Freter; Renovations with North Wind Builders.
Here is an interesting source from Nantucket Looms Interiors about designing and decorating a residential interior to reflect Nantucket’s rich maritime history:

Nantucket Nautical; From the Nantucket Looms Design Team

- Start with a Neutral Palette
- Accent with Bold Colors
- Choose Weathered furniture
- Choose light fabrics
- Use natural elements
- Bring the outside in
- Incorporate antiques
- Add nautical artwork
- Add interesting accents
Purpose and Intention of the Loom

“While the loom itself looks somewhat primitive, its parts, when broken down, are actually very delicate. Constructed primarily of wood with some metal components, a loom in motion is quite remarkable. Each part of the process – every manipulation of the fibers – is done with purpose and intention.”

Source: A Tradition of Weaving
Illustrating the Process

Design Concept

- **Synergy** in the composition between the threads and the various parts of the loom
- The **varying shapes materials** involved in this process could be interesting to show through design features
- This could be an opportunity to show the **intricate process** of hand-weaving using a loom, as there are many parts that work in unison with one another to allow for the weaver to complete the work
- As follows, are a few snapshots of from the video provided ([Life Cycle of a Handwoven Mohair Throw](Life_Cycle_of_a_Handwoven_Mohair_Throw)) to show all of the parts of the loom and how they interact with the thread or yarn being used
Snapshots of from Life Cycle of a Handwoven Mohair Throw
Snapshots of from Life Cycle of a Handwoven Mohair Throw
Snapshots of from Life Cycle of a Handwoven Mohair Throw
Snapshots of from Life Cycle of a Handwoven Mohair Throw
End tassels tied to complete woven works
Pre-design: Abstract Forms of the Loom

Sketches by Elizabeth Petitdemange
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Interior with Natural/Painted and Woven Elements**

Drawing by **Elizabeth Petitdemange**
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Bedroom Interior**

**Inspiration Photos**

- View of Fiber Structure during the Weaving Process
- Close up view of a Simple Painting on Shelf
- Spool of Silk Fiber used for Weaving

**Drawing by Elizabeth Petitdemange**

KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: Kitchen/Dining Interior

Metal Plate within the Loom Structure

Nantucket Looms Table Runner

Natural Wood Paneling

Inspiration Photos

Drawing by Elizabeth Petitdemange
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Seating Design**

**Embroidered Leaves in Susan’s Narratives**

**Embroidered Background Pattern in Susan’s Narratives**

**Embroidered Leaves in Susan’s Narratives**

**Nautical Motifs in Needle Work/Embroidery**

Drawing by **Elizabeth Petitdemange**

*KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student*
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Seating Design**

**Inspiration Photos**

- Fibers Wrapping Around Parts of the Loom
- Nantucket Looms Throw w/ Simple Stripe Pattern
- Raw Fibers during the Weaving Process

**Drawings by Elizabeth Petitdemange**
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Public Display Wall for Nantucket Craft Culture**

Drawing by **Elizabeth Petitdemange**

KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Dining Room**

Drawing by **Tyla Daniel**

KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: **Residential Living Room**

- Texture of Looms as Accent on Sofa
- Metal Loom Plate Inspiration

AutoCAD Drawing by **Tyla Daniel**

*KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student*
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: Residential Living Room

Texture of Looms
Decorative Throw

Natural Wood Textured
Nightstands

AutoCAD Drawing by Tyla Daniel
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Ideas for Interior Design and Decorative Applications: Residential Foyer

AutoCAD Drawing by Tyla Daniel
KU, Michael Graves College, Interior Design Student
Sources
(clickable links as shown throughout the presentation)

- Nantucket Looms (general home page) https://www.nantucketlooms.com/
- Nantucket Looms: Our Story The Nantucket Looms Story - Fine Handwoven Goods since 1968
- Mary Ann Beinecke’s Nantucket Textile Renaissance with Julie Stackpole https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f7C3RLV39s
- Sometimes Think of Me: Notable Nantucket Women through the Centuries https://issuu.com/nantuckethistoricalassociation/docs/sometimethinkofme2018_final
- Nantucket Decorative Arts https://nha.org/learn/decorative-arts/