

Dear Laura....

Have just talked with Alice Weber...asking her how much much wool would be needed to weave two long wide capes plus generous hood, with some extra material for good measure.

Never having had any experience with wool from the sheep's back-unspun she could give no definite idea- but asked the following questions ( not as deterrents, for she is keen to try her hand-but merely aware of the unknown elements in the project):

1- Doesn't the wool have to be specially cleaned for as fine a hand loom as she has? Washed- deburred etc.

2- Could the wool yarn for the warp be spun fine enough and uniformly enough to be threaded in her machine (a four heddle, shoulder high hand loom-I can get more dope on it if necessary) The filler- or crossways weaving yarn we are not worried about- that could be varying in diameters in the spinning and would have considerable charm.

3- The whole thing in texture would have to be considerably lighter in weight than a rug or blanket, naturally, to be worn as a woman's cape- as much between a cashmere sweater and a very firm fine blanket as possible- It should feel flexible and drape resiliently, not be stiff or bulky.... part of this would come in the mode of weaving of course- a much looser weave than the normal blanket or rug weaving.. Be like a soft, flexible tweed.....of random color changes.....

Perhaps the Lippincotts would know the answer to the preparation of wool questions. If so I could write to them, couldn't I? Or would anyone else know...or perhaps your friend who raises the sheep would know.

Laura-- don't let this sidetrack anything you are doing.. just tuck it in your purse and when you get back home, whenever it is handy take a look at it. I am merely writing it down while I am freshly thinking of it.....

Again....thanks....

Try to come out once before you go, bringing Brenda..and why not Mr Goodwin.....

*Budora*

6/1/49