

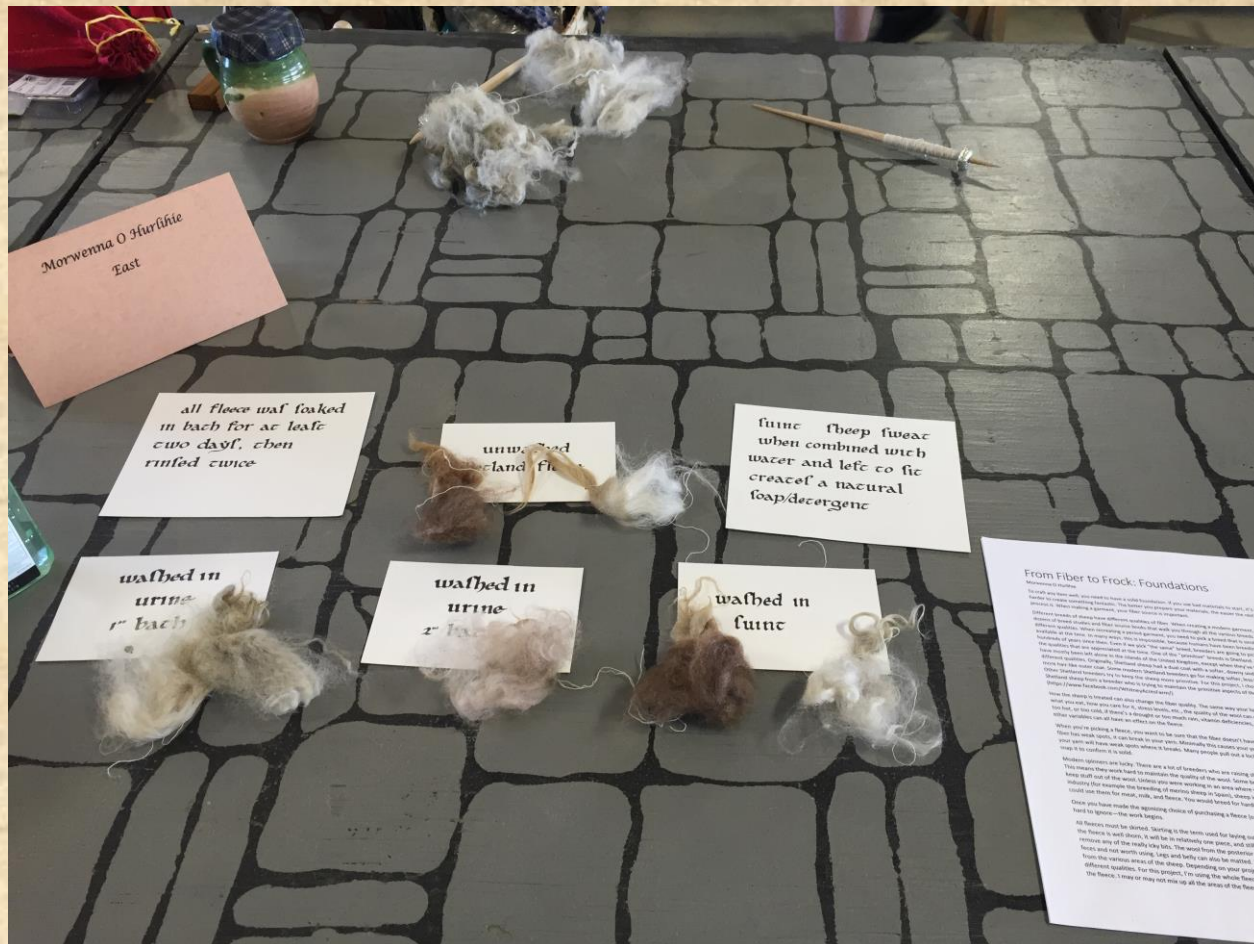
a sample for a dress

making a pair of winingas

morwenna o hurlhie

barony of carolingia

from fleece to frock



I am slowly working towards making a garment starting with a wool fleece and ending with a dress, i.e. a frock

previous projects:

- ♦ washing a fleece (pennsic and st. elegius 2016)
- ♦ weaving a medieval draft (laurel's tourney 2017 and k&q a&s 2018)
- ♦ spinning for a dress (st. elegius 2023)

fleece washed in a period manner, pennsic 2016



morwenna o hurlihie

a sample for a dress

the goal

- ♦ make a “medium grade” medieval dress
- ♦ medium grade = fabric woven at 40 threads per inch / ~16 threads per cm
- ♦ weaving a medieval draft was only 24 threads per inch



the intent

to weave at 40 ends per inch, you need yarn that is roughly 80 wraps per inch.

dress needs ~16,000 yards.

i set a goal to finish spinning the four pounds of wool for the dress and display it here today.



spinning for a dress, st. elegius 2023

a sample for a dress



morwenna o hurlihie

pivot: making winingas

then a friend,
talan ap gueiluirth,
received a writ for the order
of the chivalry and plans
changed

for his early period persona,
i could make some leg wraps
[winingas]

- ♦ i had weft yarn available
- ♦ it would be a great sample of my medium grade yarn woven up
- ♦ it would be good practice
- ♦ weaving something 4 inches wide shouldn't be that hard



project specs

- ♦ as an elevation gift, I asked “what do you wear now?” instead of tracking down extant information
- ♦ needed two wraps of about 4” wide and 144” [4 yards] long
- ♦ 9 yard warp [1 yard of loom waste]
- ♦ 4” at 36 epi [there is some amount of shrinkage, often ~10%, so 36 epi should become 40 epi after washing]
- ♦ 1,296 yards of warp [already spun]
- ♦ equal of weft [to spin]



first issue

- ◆ my loom was busy
- ◆ had to finish weaving the towels i had started in 2021
- ◆ this technically has nothing to do with the project, but i had to weave off many yards before i could begin

i still need to finish hemming these towels



the warp



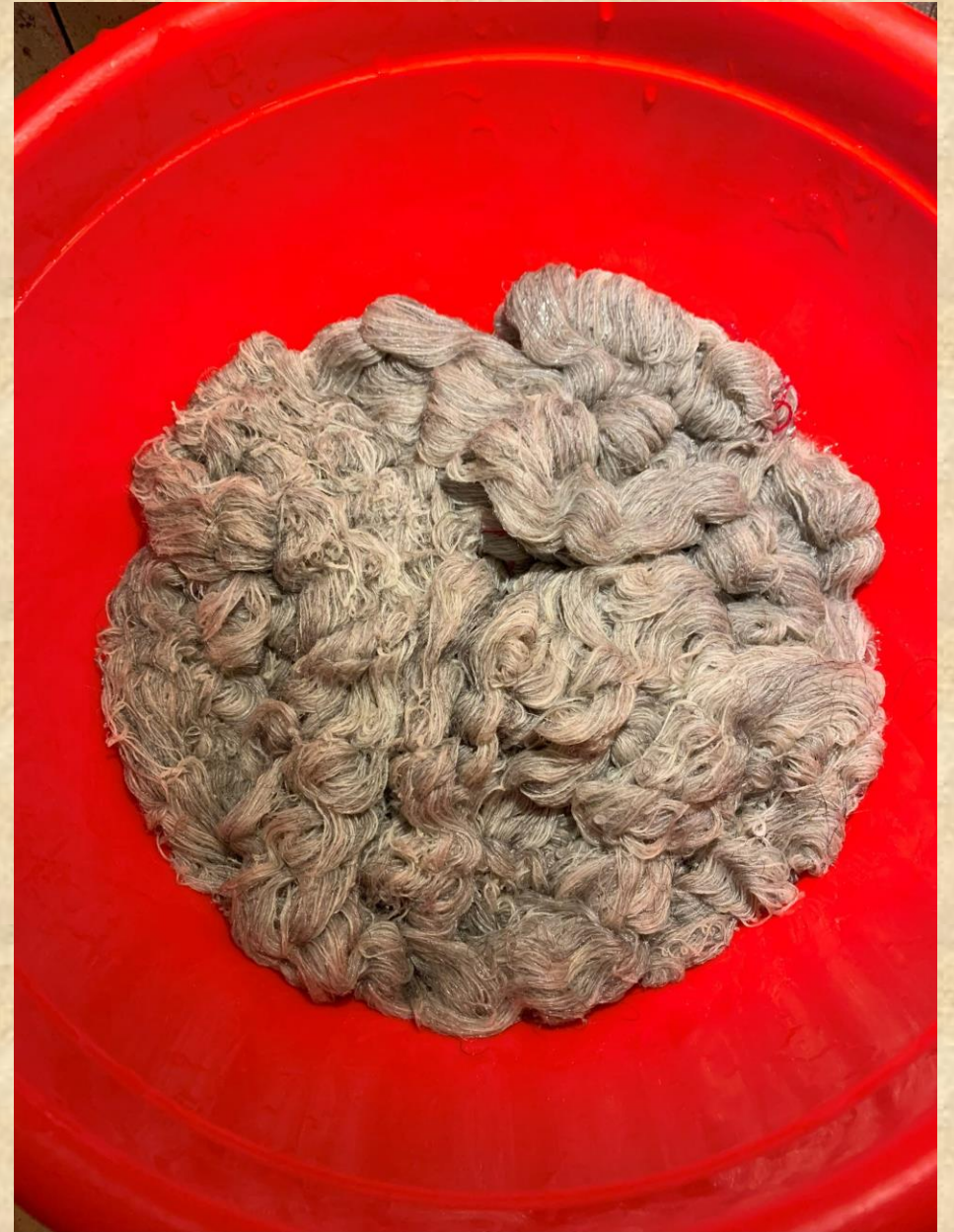
- ♦ I started spinning this shetland ~4 years ago as the first attempt to spin yarn for my frock
- ♦ my father's stroke and eventual passing, plus a moth infestation made it no longer viable for that project
- ♦ But it's decent yarn

a sample for a dress



adding size

- ♦ weaving is really mean to warp yarn
- ♦ while not documentable (because it completely washes out) adding a starch coating to warp helps prevent breaks
- ♦ I use flax goop (cook flax seeds in water until you get snot)





hanging the warp to dry
after sizing in flax goop

fishing weights help stretch
out some of the twist

wound off the dried warp
into a ball to make it easier
to wind the warp

going straight from the swift
to the warping board is a bad
idea and leads to a lot of
breakage (learned via a
different project)



wound the warp
144 ends at 9 yards





sleyed reed

- ♦ the reed spaces the warp evenly
- ♦ this is a 12 dent reed [12 slots per inch]
- ♦ threaded at 3 threads per dent = 36 epi
- ♦ extra off on the side were saved for inevitable broken warp threads



threading heddles



- ♦ warped front to back
- ♦ every thread goes through one heddle
- ♦ using 4 shafts of my 8 shaft baby wolf floor loom
- ♦ draft/pattern:
2-2 twill in a 16 thread
herringbone
[side of v is 16 threads]



second issue

- ♦ I learned why lease sticks are important
- ♦ I lost the cross, so the threads were now in tangled lumps of three.
- ♦ as I tried to wind on, warp threads were already breaking due to the tangles.



Beaming the warp take two



- ♦ after a few days of timeout (and christmas)
- ♦ unthreaded the heddles and passed each thread through a single dent in a second reed
- ♦ rethreaded heddles



Warp Beam

I was successful in beaming the warp with the second reed keeping all warp threads separated

(neon post-it is my threading pattern reminder)



re-sleying the actual reed



- ♦ yes, i had to re-sley the 12 dent reed too, but i got the loom warped
- ♦ warping is a process that is going to have issues
- ♦ learn to accept that you will have to redo things as you warp the loom



only one threading error!

- ♦ after finishing tying on, you can start to weave (yellow weft)
- ♦ this is where you find all the mistakes you made threading heddles and the reed
- ♦ you then untie the warp and rethread and get to try again (BROWN weft)





spinning the weft

- ◆ now that the loom is warped, i need the weft
- ◆ talan's arms are azure and argent, so i planned on spinning some indigo dyed wool



Issue three

- ♦ however, indigo is not colorfast
- ♦ while I could have rinsed it a lot, I was concerned about what would happen if he ever wore them in the rain or dew





to the stash!

- ♦ decided on gotland
the BREED of sheep used to
make the elven cloaks in
lord of the rings
- ♦ later realized that 4 ounces
did not make enough weft
and had to find more
- ♦ thankfully my stash is deep
and i found another BRAID
from the same sheep
[purchased separate years]



spin the weft

- ♦ started to panic BECAUSE I still had to finish spinning what was CURRENTLY on my spinning wheel
- ♦ then REMEMBERED I own 6 functional spinning wheels and I could just use a different wheel
- ♦ warp and weft are BOTH z-spun (clockwise)



winding a skein



in general, don't go straight from BOBBIN to loom, you wind the yarn onto a reel

- ♦ lets you measure the amount of yarn you made
- ♦ helps even out the twist
- ♦ gets the yarn into a state that's easier to wash



wound skein on reel

(this is actually the 2nd skein)



a skein of yarn

- ♦ for weaving, you want a high twist yarn
- ♦ this is a very high twist yarn
- ♦ decided to wash it to help relax and set the twist





drying the weft skein

the weights help take out
some of the over twist as
well

you can see the skein as a
whole has twist

this is not an evenly balanced
yarn (often the goal of
modern spinners for knitting)

there is no size on the weft



winding quills

- ♦ in period you would either use a butterfly of yarn or a stick shuttle
- ♦ I am using a modern boat shuttle which has a quill (BOBBIN) to hold the yarn
- ♦ post period, something like a great wheel would be used to wind the quills instead of a cordless drill





WEAVING!

- ♦ yards and yards and yards of the same pattern
- ♦ I placed red thread when I sat down for a session to measure progress
- ♦ I listened to many audio books



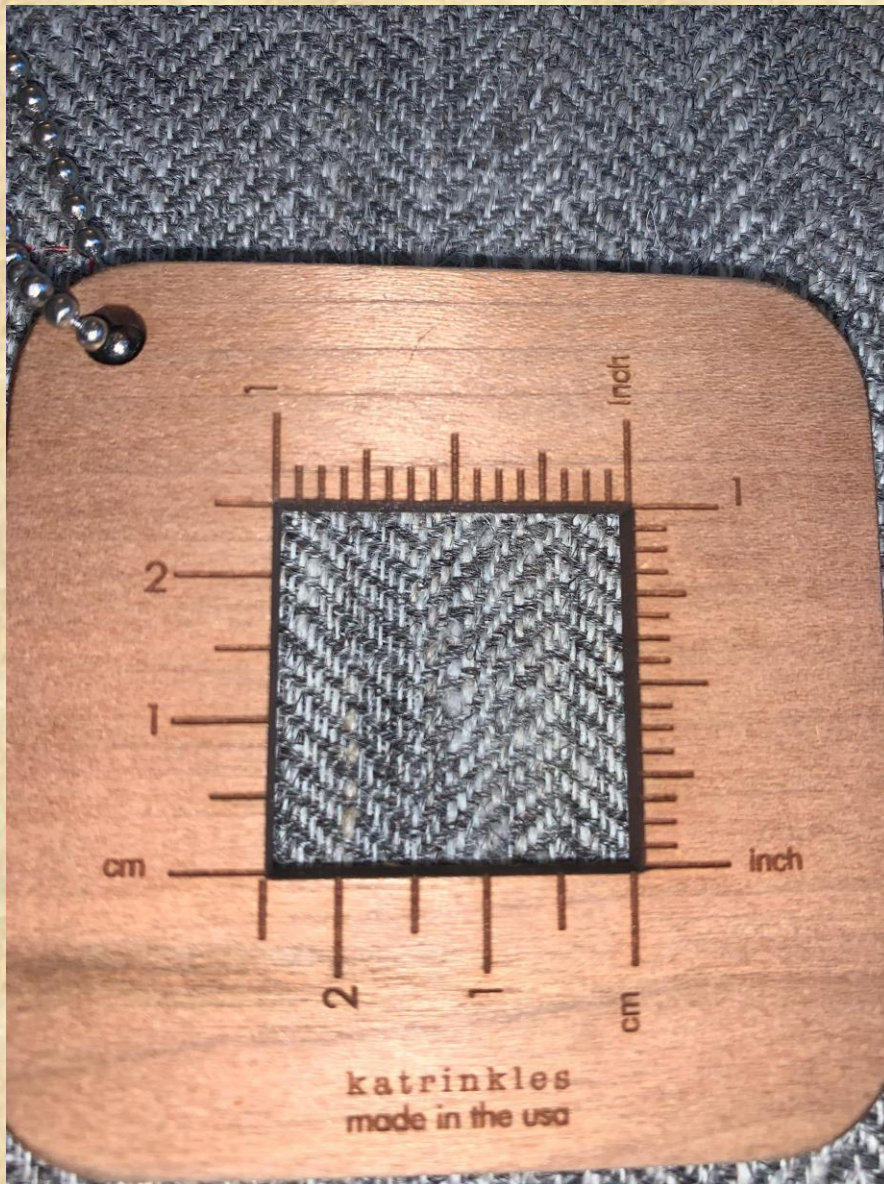
mom! i help!

the light colored blob on
the weaving is a butterfly
of warp thread, fixing a
broken warp thread

it is surprisingly difficult to
weave with a cat on your
lap



even herringbone twill



- ◆ my weaving wasn't entirely even
- ◆ ended up ~38 epi
- ◆ picks per inch (how many weft threads per inch) varied because my weft wasn't super even
- ◆ 28 – 42 picks per inch, which averages out to ~36 ppi



fixing warp threads

- ♦ until i learned to only weave in 1 inch sections, i had lots of broken warp threads
- ♦ in one hour session, i had 10 broken warp threads
- ♦ i had ~40 broken warp threads across the project



the sweet spot



- ♦ to avoid broken warp threads, I learned that I had to weave in the sweet spot [GREEN BOX]
- ♦ I still had broken warp threads, but 1-2 every yard instead of 10 in 6 inches.



reaching the end of the warp



off the loom

I forgot to measure the final length, but it was at least 294"





attempting to show the
length, but my helpers helped
too much

dobin is in the front
fitz is by the coffee table



drying the cloth

- ◆ no fabric is done until you wash it
- ◆ used hot water and dawn dish soap, what i use to wash fleeces
- ◆ did not agitate it much to minimize felting
- ◆ stretched it across the warping board to dry



hemming the winingas



- ♦ hemmed the cut ends of the fabric with a blanket stitch
- ♦ used a BRONZE needle and leftover weft thread



ends modeled after talan's existing pair
of winingas



a pair of winingas



random factoids

every inch of the
~2,600 yards
(~1.5 miles)
of yarn
went through my
hands
at least four times

- ♦ spinning
- ♦ winding the skein
- ♦ winding the ball of warp
or winding the quill (west)
- ♦ winding the warp or
weaving (west)



some statistics (all times approximate)

- ♦ spinning 1,300 yards of warp: 18 hours
- ♦ winding warp yarn: 1 hour
- ♦ soaking warp in flax goop: 1 hour
(not counting drying time)
- ♦ winding warp into ball: 1 hour
- ♦ winding warp: 4 hours
- ♦ slewing reed: 1 hour
- ♦ warping loom: 8 hours
- ♦ spinning 1,300 yards of weft: 18 hours
- ♦ winding weft yarn: 1 hour
- ♦ washing weft: 2 hours
- ♦ winding quills: 2 hours
- ♦ weaving: 40 hours
- ♦ washing fabric: 1 hour
- ♦ hemming: 1 hour

total active time: 99 hours



REMEMBER: I cheated

- ♦ I started with wool that had been washed and carded/combed by a mill
- ♦ I spun all my yarn on a spinning wheel
- ♦ I used a modern four shaft horizontal jack loom

as an early period persona:

- ♦ I would start with a fleece that I would need to wash and comb
- ♦ I would spin all the yarn on a spindle
- ♦ I would weave on a warp-weighted loom



for the future frock (estimated)

- ♦ I need 8 yards of fabric
- ♦ 9 yards x 24" wide x 36" epi
= 7,776 yards of warp
- ♦ another 7,776 yards of weft,
plus thread, etc:
~16,000 yards of yarn
- ♦ ~4 pounds of wool

approximately 20 8-10 hour
days of spinning

- ♦ yarn processing (skeining,
washing, adding size): ~20
hours
- ♦ winding and beaming warp:
~24 hours
- ♦ weaving: 60 hours (guess)
- ♦ making dress: 40 hours
(guess)

approximately 20 8-10 hour
days of weaving and sewing

