

# Winterthur Library

## *An Introduction to Resources*



## Textile Production

The Winterthur Library houses many resources focused on textile production. Printed and manuscript sources document fabrics as well as changes in textile technology. The library's holdings of related materials on design, clothing, interior decoration, and fancywork are equally strong.

### Dyeing

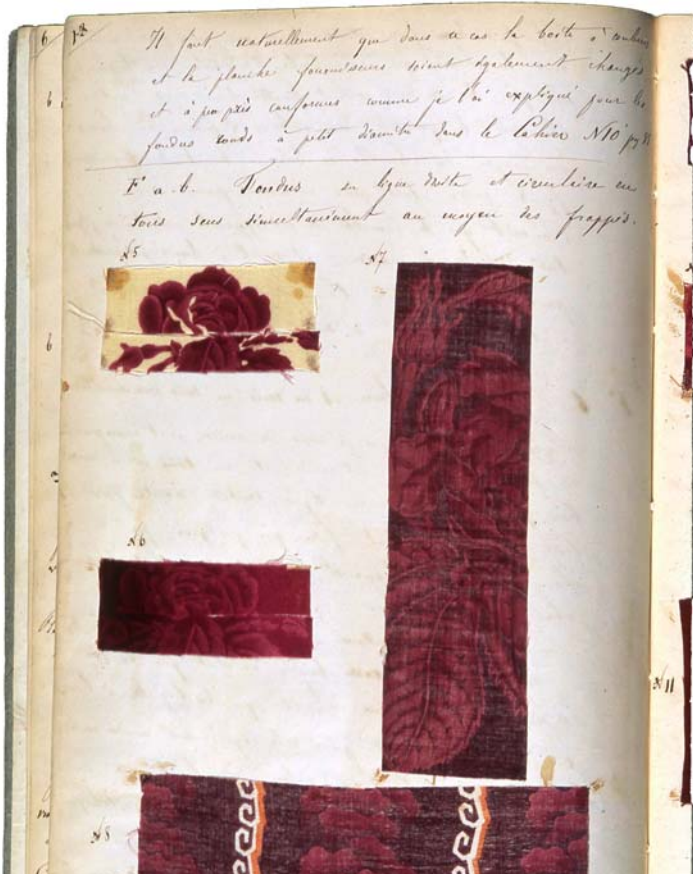
The library has a number of manuscript account and recipe books that describe the dyeing of cloth. "The Dyeing Book of Georg Timmich," dated 1754 to 1768 and written in old German script,

contains recipes for dyeing yarn and textiles. Many are accompanied by swatches dyed to show the resulting colors. The account book of Joseph Edwards records work performed in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, between 1786 and 1797. Edwards dyed and stretched cloth and animal skins often in exchange for spun wool, shoes, and other products. The records of Auguste Zindel (1825–1902), a chemist from the Alsace region, consist of ninety notebooks of dye recipes, tests, and fabric samples with dye analysis. Among the twentieth-century manuscript holdings on dyeing are the records of the Byrdcliffe arts and crafts colony. The notes, which contain recipes that feature natural materials, may have been done by western New York weaver Marie Little.

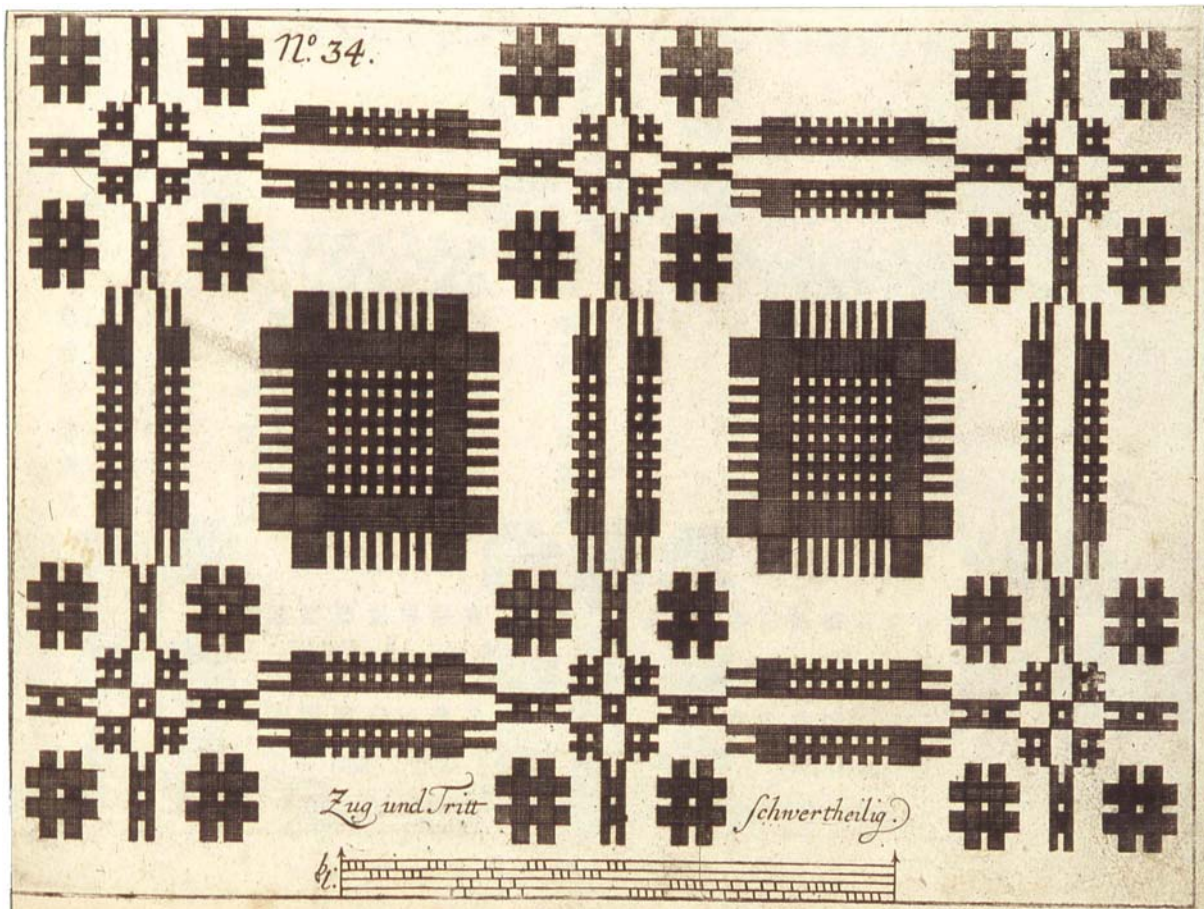
The Printed Book Collection contains many important European works as well as some of the earliest American-produced guides on dyeing. The library's rare, complete set of *Descriptions des Arts et Metiers* includes the monographs *L'Art de L'Indigotier* (1770) and *Art de la Teinture en Soie* (1763). Other eighteenth-century works include Louis Alexandre Dambourney's *Recueil de Procedes et d'Experiences sur les Teintures Solides ...* (1794) and *The Gentleman's Companion...* published by J. Stone (1735). Among the earliest American works is J. and R. Bronson's *Domestic Manufacturer's Assistant and Family Directory in the Arts of Weaving and Dyeing...* (1817), which contains both detailed recipes for dyeing and patterns for weaving.

### Weaving

Three seventeenth-century weavers' account books in the manuscript collection describe the types of fabrics produced and the business practices of early craftsmen in Massachusetts. Several of the



Auguste Zindel, "Notes and Observations," 1849. Downs Collection, Winterthur Library.



Johann Michael Kirschbaum, *Neues Bild-und Muster-buch* (Hielbronn, Ger.: Johann Daniel Class, 1793). Printed Book Collection, Winterthur Library.

eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century weavers' books from both America and France contain weaving patterns and swatches of fabric produced from the patterns. Heinrich Hautmann's "Calculationsbuch," written early in the nineteenth century, contains instructions for setting up looms to weave thirty-three different patterns of textiles along with calculations of costs and samples of each fabric.

The many fabric swatch books in the collection, often identified by company and date, document the textile industry in England, France, and America from the Revolutionary War era to the beginning of the twentieth century. For example, six swatch books produced in Norwich, England, between 1780 and 1810 contain nearly ten thousand samples of worsteds. Other fabric samples can be found in the library's collection of trade catalogues and in nineteenth-century scrapbooks. Many of the scrapbooks identify the fabrics by use and date.

Early printed guides include two German weavers' design books that reproduce patterns, Johann

Michael Kirschbaum's *Neues Bild-und Muster-buch zur Beforderung der Edlen Leinen-und Bildweberkunst in 74 Kupfertaflen...* (1793), and Johann Michael Frickinger's *Nützlich in Lauter Auserlesenen = wohl = Approbirt = und Meistentheils Neu =Inventirten Mustern Bestehendes...* (1783), as well as Murphy's *Treatise on the Art of Weaving* (1824), Alexander Peddie's *Linen Manufacturer, Weaver, and Warper's Assistant...* (1822), George White's *Practical Treatise on Weaving by Hand and Power Looms...* (1846), and Roland de la Platière's *Art du Fabricant de Veloun de Cotton...* (1780), which has been called the most detailed description of the methods of weaving and the different characteristics of European-produced worsteds. Many books in the collection document the technological developments in textile production during the nineteenth century.

### Textile Printing

Works in the Winterthur Library document the trade and manufacture of printed and painted textiles from the earliest importations of Indian calicoes to England in 1700 until the era of mass-produced textiles at the end of the nineteenth





Archibald Hamilton Rowan, sample book of designs for printed cottons, 1797.  
Downs Collection, Winterthur Library.

century. Among the earliest examples are *A Brief State of the Question between the Printed and Painted Callicoes, and the Woolen and Silk Manufacture ... in Great Britain*, attributed to Daniel Defoe and published in 1719, and Henry Elking's *Interest of England Consider'd with Respect to Its Manufactures and East-India Callicoes Imported, Printed, Painted, Stained, and Consumed Therein...*, published in 1720. Nineteenth-century books and trade catalogues discuss the technical aspects of textile printing and some, such as *Applied Chemistry: In Manufactures, Arts, and Domestic Economy*, written by Edward Andrew Parnell, include swatches of fabric.

Among the manuscript material on textile printing is a swatch book produced in the Delaware facto-

ry of Archibald Hamilton Rowan in 1797. A piece of chintz by Rowan is in the Winterthur Museum collection. Later swatch books for printed fabrics include a book of roller-printed designs produced in Birmingham, England, in the 1830s and a group of swatch books produced by the Cocheco Manufacturing Company of Dover, New Hampshire, in 1883.

### Textile Industry and Trade

The library has a strong collection of materials in the sale and use of textile fabrics. Advertising material, including broadsides, trade catalogues and cards, as well as shipping records document the textile industry. Account books and order books from retail firms give detailed descriptions of prices and amounts of both imported and domestic textiles. Patents, government reports, and indentures provide further information on the history of the industry. Nineteenth-century books on building and setting up looms reflect changes in technology. The textile trade is the subject of many early works, including Sir Edward Baines's *History of the Cotton Manufacture in Great Britain* (1835) and the papers of the Comte de Maurepas from 1743.

The library also holds the papers of textile scholar Florence M. Montgomery, whose books document the many fabrics at Winterthur. Her papers include photographs of sample books, articles on the textile industry, and correspondence regarding the identification of fabrics.



*Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.*

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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