

Fabric & Products Newsletter



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SUMMER 2010

SPRING QUILT MARKET RE-CAP: NEW FABRIC END USES!



Thompson's Anniversary
"Americana" booth

The Spring Quilt Market in Minneapolis was an up-beat and well-attended show! We were very proud of our "expanded" size booth, and all of the historical textile artifacts and information that was displayed. A special thanks to Sara Loffredo for putting together a creative, colorful booth. We were happy to welcome so many of our loyal customers who

visited our booth-this is very important to us!

Although fabric prints are the main attraction to buyers, the "sizzle" so to speak, we offer the "steak", the profitable building blocks of quilting and related crafts: solid shade Cottons! This Show saw the introduction of our new Fiesta Muslin, a dyed 78x78 construction in 9 shades. This is lighter and more economical than the standard 60x60 solids, but very durable. A surprisingly popular fabric was our Therma-Flec Heat-Resistant Cloth, which is being used a lot now in quilted-type pot-holder and hot pad projects. Our selection of Muslins and Wide Muslins(90"

&108") is hard to beat for price and quality. We carry hard to find 60" Muslin also, much in demand.

Solid Flannels used for quilt-backing is not as popular as it was a few years back, but it still is an important basic cloth for quilters. We always do well with our 45", 54", 90 & 108" Flannels at Quilt Market.

We notice that more Duck Cloth and Buckram is being used by quilt shops, as these are key fabrics in making handbags and decorative totes-a lot of patterns available for this type of product. A small contingent of Rug Hookers at the Show always will stock up on Burlap and 2x2 Monks Cloth.

Thompson's 150th Anniversary Story Part 3

The mid-1970's were a busy time for Thompson. The corporate headquarters was now in "Textile Alley" in the prestigious Kodak Building on Ave. of the Americas. In addition to Mills in Delaware, Valley Falls and Jersey City, our Midwest location in Franklin Park, IL., in the shadow of O'Hare airport, was doing sewing, specialty cutting and warehousing.

The 80's was a decade full

of new product innovation! We developed sewn textiles for the Hotel, Food Service and Audio sectors. Flannel shoe mitts, Lemon Wraps and speaker mesh covers continue to be vital Thompson products. In the fabrics area, we added Flannel, Duck & Canvas constructions and now are Industry leaders with these cloths.

By 1992, our original Mill in Valley Falls, now over 100 years old, had to be closed. We moved some of those

remaining operations to Greenwood, and in 1993 opened our Sewing Plant in Hermosillo Mexico! We moved our offices to the lovely Murray Hill section in Manhattan, where we are today.

Now, in 2010, we continue to change and grow, determined to move forward another 150 years as an American textile company! And yes, old James Thompson would be proud to know you can still buy his Buckram!

COTTON & JUTE IN PRICE AND SUPPLY TURMOIL

2010 has not been the best year for textiles! Due to problems with the Cotton crop last year, prices on greige goods rose to unprecedented levels at the beginning of 2010. I am sure everyone out there has "felt the pain" in higher prices. The situation is similar with Jute, the fiber used for Burlap. Since it is only produced in one country, India, pricing and supply can easily be manipulated. Throw in the fact that China is taking more of the Jute crop for their internal use, and add a 2 month strike by Mill workers, and you will see greige goods prices go up 35% and more! We were very fortunate to cover our needs in raw woven Burlap, and really only had 2 week stretch of no stock. We are now getting caught-up in dyeing stock in all of our colors for the busy Fall season!

FALL STOCK-UP!

Make sure to have 45" Flannel(Black, Tan, Brown, Natural) and 47" Burlap(Orange, Black ,Sienna)for Halloween/Thanksgiving uses!