

INTERNATIONAL MUSHROOM DYE-GEST

Volume 2, Issue 1 A Newsletter of the International Mushroom Dye Institute Fall / Winter 2001

10th INTERNATIONAL FUNGI AND FIBRE SYMPOSIUM and EXHIBITION ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

by Carol Lee

This was a special year for the Symposium, being 20 years ago that the first one was held. Finland was the country that hosted this special Symposium, under the able direction of Kirsti and Martti Palmén with the generous help of the Mycological Association of Lapland, Lapin Sieniseura ry.

For those of you who might not know, every two years this group of people meets somewhere in the world to hold a Symposium of



Fungi and Fibre. We search the local woods for mushrooms, identify them, cook them up for our dyepots, dye wool, silk, and sometimes other fibers with them, make paper with them, crayons and watercolors with them, and sometimes eat them.

This year we had 11 countries represented: Australia, Denmark, England, Estonia: Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, & USA.



Day 1... We arrived in Rovaniemi on August 15, 2001, to find ourselves immediately lost. *And anyone who ventured out of the area of the University of Lapland that we held our Symposium was immediately lost.* We never could figure out what the problem was. You could see where you wanted to go, start off in that direction and end up somewhere else. Backtrack and start again. Finally a small brochure identified the problem. Rovaniemi was burned terribly during WW2 and an artist designed the new town in the form of "Reindeer Antlers" That simply meant that no street went "straight" anywhere. Once you figured out the curves...or where the identifying stores were, you could get back to our dorms and the Rovala Institute of Adult Education without too many extra blocks. Registration and finding dorm rooms took up much of the afternoon. Cleaning the car of mushrooms gathered along the way took up a little more time. You could be driving along the roads at 90-110 km and see and identify mushrooms all over the woods. **STOP!!!!** was heard frequently. Lots of old friends, much hugging and hand shaking and cries of "they're looking for you!" It is always great to meet up with old friends, especially in unusual places around the world.

(Continued inside...)

The IMDI was established in 1985 for educational purposes in order to advance knowledge in the field of mushroom pigments, dyes, and inks
In 2001 the IMDI continues to fulfill its commitment!

INSIDE:

- Report on The 10th International Fungi & Fibre Symposium
- IMDI Travel Award presented to Estonians at 10th Symposium
- "Explorations with the Dyeball"
- Colourful Letters from our Members and Fungi & Fiber Instructors



In the case of Symposium students, many languages from 11 countries ring out, though Finnish and English were the "official languages. But, not all speak them, so you resort to finding someone who can translate, a lot of attempts at the language, hand signals... else fails, shrug your shoulders and laugh a lot! We checked in any fiber arts items we might have brought along for the sales and also hung our exhibition items. Such an array of brilliant mushroom dyed items!

Our generous Finnish hosts, under the expert direction of Kirsti and Martti Palmén, produced an exceptional Exhibition for the 10th Symposium. What a pleasure it was to see the offerings of the 140 participants producing the artwork and to meet and exchange ideas with them as well. Our collective "hats off" to the weavers, dyers, felt and paper-makers who produced such a lovely array of fabrics, hand-knit sweaters, hats, and socks, paintings, rugs, tapestries, silk scarves, polypore paper products, research papers and so much more: - a veritable feast of Mushroom Dye color to nourish our eyes and souls! (Editor)

A fast lunch was eaten and we rushed out the door to board the buses to go out on our first foray. On first glance, this area they took us to did not look at all promising. I would have never chosen it for a mushroom hunting place. It was on top of a hill, quite dry, little undergrowth, young pine trees, and at the edge of a gravel quarry. We were looking for *Pisolithus arhizus* (= *Pisolithus tinctorius*). I had never seen such a mushroom, but was assured it looked just like a nicely rounded rock... a gravel quarry and we are looking for a "rock" that is really a *mushroom*. I have to admit that when I heard a voice in the distance shout "*Cortinarius semi-sanguineus*" the "rock" was out of my mind. I was off and running... in all directions...having never seen a *Cortinarius semi-sanguineus* growing. They were there-*everywhere!!!* Pick and pick we did. In an hours time we had 1/2 gal. of these lovely little red gilled mushrooms, as well as a smaller amount of *Cortinarius croceus*, and a beautiful blue-violet *Hydnum* mushroom. We did see one of the *Pisolithus* sp. growing along the trail, and several others had found some farther along. Horns were honking, and we were due back at the school.

Every host country always serves up special things from their country fare, and Finland served lots of mushroom dishes. After our first wonderful meal, we all boarded buses and took a short ride over to an auditorium where we were served local wine made of birch sap and cloudberry, had a lecture and slide show on "Everyman's Right" (to pick berries and mushrooms on private and public lands). Kirsti Palmén's husband, Martti, was Master of Ceremonies, making all announcements in both Finnish and English. A fine musician played a variety of instruments, (including a carpenter's saw!) for a lively evening.

Day 2... on the following morning, while some made lunches and departed for a Nature Preserve to view an assortment of mushrooms growing there, (photos only). The rest of us were searching for teachers and classrooms for the mushroom dyeing venture. Color was everywhere along with ideas, funny words, lost students, and smells. We got the fibers dyed, labels put on all, and wandered in and out seeing what the other classes were up to. Wool yarns, silk scarves, reindeer skin, all in the dyepots. After the evening meal, a fine presentation of paper-making using *Fomes*

fomentarius polypore. Paperwork containing directions was included as well as a glossary of Finnish words used.

Immediately following the paper-making presentation, a spirited discussion on the future of the **International Federation of Fungi and Fibre** was held. With 11 countries represented, lots of ideas floated through the crowd. It was agreed that some sort of a record of each Symposium was needed. Possibilities of a book of papers, a video, etc. were suggested. We still preferred to shy away from a formal organization, preferring to continue meeting as a group of like-minded persons. Since we travel from great distances, we will continue to accept offers from each country in turn to host the Symposium every other year. The country that chooses to do so, is responsible for arranging for classrooms, hunting areas, housing, and splitting all costs incurred among participating attendees. A big job! We will continue with our "Board" overseeing the proceedings. One person is chosen from a country's delegates to meet with the other "Board" members at the Symposiums, as well as keep in touch between Symposiums. That person is responsible for getting IFFF news out to other persons in his own country via whatever means work. Board members will continue to be chosen by their fellow countrymen at each Symposium.

Day 3... of the Symposium found us out hunting mushrooms once again, and unusual ones were put together for an exhibition at the **Arktikum**, (the Arctic Centre and Provincial Museum of Lapland) a special museum and lecture hall not far from the University of Lapland. The evening provided a guided Cultural Tour of the city and a lively welcoming Reception for the Symposium attendees by the city officials at the lovely City Hall.





Day 4 offered a tour of **Santa Claus Village**, more mushroom dyeing, or free time to walk about the town. After lunch we were off to the **Arktikum**, a very unique glass domed building, with grass covered earth covering the side walls. The museum exhibits were underground, with glass up and over, forming the ceilings. A lecture on "Mushrooms and Radioactivity" was presented, as well as a lecture and slide show on paper-making with mushrooms. We waited at the museum to watch the special "Northern Lights Show" and when we came out, found a person waiting to give us a ride back to the school. for the farewell dinner.

They called it a "cottage" this place we went to for the "farewell dinner", but it was huge. A beautiful log dining room in the middle of a sports complex, in the middle of the forest. The food was excellent and speeches, songs, and lots of laughter, and some tears. Australia opted to offer their country for the 2003 Symposium and it was accepted. A lovely evening was had by all, we loaded the buses and back to the dorms we went.

Day 5...Sunday morning was check out time... getting all that stuff back into the suitcases, saying goodbye to old friends, and lots of new friends too. Plans to meet, talk, write, and see each other in two years time. If you have not been able to attend these Symposia, open that bank account now, and start saving money. Australia is sure to be a special place to hunt mushrooms in 2003!

Fiber artist and teacher Carol Lee was elected USA representative to the International Fungus & Fibre Federation at the 9th Symposium in Honefoss, Norway in 1999

Miriam C. Rice presented her latest exciting discovery: "MYCO-STIX" - a new drawing medium (similar to conte crayon), using mushrooms for pigment with a variety of other materials as the binder. Miriam never ceases to amaze us: from discovering mushroom dyeing in the early 1970s, then, polypore papermaking in 1985, mushroom watercolors in 1992, and now MYCO-STIX drawing media in 2001! **BRAVO MIRIAM!!!!**



FROM AN OCTOBER LETTER BY MARTTI PALMEN

"Today, wondering if the world will ever feel the same as before, we find some comfort remembering those happy days we could have together.

As you may have noticed, arranging this meeting was quite a challenge for us, the whole group included, and caused in many of us even doubts about how we could meet it. Where our skills failed, we sometimes had to replace them with enthusiasm. For us it may be hard to have an objective idea where we succeeded and what would have been better done otherwise. We got, however, from your feedback - both spoken and speechless - a warm feeling of general satisfaction. A good deal of this is due to the participants, contributing to the good atmosphere. We were also very lucky, having mostly good weather, and having the best part of our short but intensive mushroom period just at the time of the Symposium. Even mosquitoes and bugs we had less than anyone of us remembers." "Once more I want to thank all the participants for your active and positive attitude. Our sincere hope is that after two years we may meet again in Australia."

IMDI 2001 Travel Grant

One of the aims of the IMDI is to provide travel grants to financially enable deserving textile artists to attend International Symposia. This year's grant: was presented to a group of fiber artists from Estonia.....Liina Kool, Uve Ramst, Asta Tuusti and Helle Väärsi to attend the 10th International Fungi and Fibre Symposium in Rovaniemi, Finland. It was a pleasure to have them participate and an additional pleasure for the IMDI to accept their gift of framed handmade paper with stones from their country attached to the frame. It was entitled "Stoney and Windy", paper made of fungi (*Piptoporus betulinus*), RMK Sagadi Training Centre, Sagadi Nature School, Estonia 2001.

We were given information about their Sagadi Nature School which is an environmental center, located in Sagadi Manor and in Lahemaa National Park. Their mission statement is a quote by Artur Toom, creator of the first nature reserve in Estonia in 1910: "The child who takes nature as a friend, breathes better from the soul." The school is a vital part of the Sagadi training center and is financed mostly by the Estonian State Forest Management Center.

The purpose of the school is to improve environmental sensitivity, show how nature and humans interact and are interrelated, and to teach students environmentally sound values and responsibility. They believe that learning by doing, using all senses, group work, cooperative study, and teaching by using different methods, are key to students retention. The center is constantly evaluating the curriculum, teachers and methods to ensure a top quality program. This nature school is the first and only of its kind in Estonia.....and they hope that there would soon be nature schools available to all students around the country to help raise the environmental consciences of the entire Estonian society.

by Miriam Rice & Nancy Denison



EXPLORATIONS WITH THE DYEBALL © Loren Washburn

Pisolithus tinctorius.

Called by some Dead Man's Foot. Looks like one.
Also like troll towers, road apples, giant's turds....
They call it Dye/Ball too, and so do I.
Masquerading as a defunct Puffball,
the disintegrating brown powder is ever first to catch my eye.
Stain the ground brown, blackish, purple maroon.
I've not yet caught all the colors nature shows me with this one,
yet revel in brassy golds, in shining coppers
dipping the cloth, dry and repeat.
How many colors?
Layers like canyon walls,
dark and light building random landscapes.
A mushroom to teach me the excitement of pH
For now it's magic
presto change
a spoonful of lemon in the rinse
copper to brass
soda ash and
sunshine gold again.
(hmmmm will these games cause the silk to rot away?)
Implications to ponder.
OK so how about those blacks and purple browns
left staining on the ground all around?
Intense strength creates my first successful dye printing ink,
with cargeenan to thicken after
steep and filter each different way
I can imagine
to find what works
Beauty in the eye of the beholder.
I love this mushroom!
-Loren

Some dye properties:

extremely concentrated for a natural dye

does not require mordants

responds to variances in pH

very penetrating

can be worked cold

drawing by Loren Washburn



The mushroom

It fruits in late summer and early fall when our local fungal fauna is nearly non-existent.

It looks like a puffball gone bad, brown and powdery nearly from the time it erupts from the ground. It is valued in forestry for making mycorrhizae with a variety of conifer seedlings

It likes rough ground, and disturbed places, roadsides and paths. It will grow up though blacktop and even though it is not specifically a wood grower I have found it once growing in the crevice of a stump. It smells pretty nice, even in an aged dye pot.

Some history:

I have been a printmaker and fiber artist for several decades, but in 1999, I began to combine our family shared interest in mushrooms with my artwork.

Since I already was printing on hand dyed silk I thought learning to dye the scarves with mushrooms would be a great place to start. I got Miriam Rice's book 'Mushrooms for Color' and read it cover to cover. Mostly she is talking about dyeing wool, but the process is similar for silk. I hoped to take a class with her, and located a class by Miriam at the Mendocino art center. The class was 'Paper & Pigment from Mushrooms', but I wasn't going to miss out on a chance to study with this artist who has done such groundbreaking work. The class opened up new possibilities for me.

I was able to arrange with Andreyka Marks for a 'studio day' after the workshop, to study silk dyeing with mushrooms. Andreyka has been exploring mushroom dyes with both silk and wool for many years and I was privileged to explore some of her many sample notebooks. I couldn't have found a better teacher as she has put special focus on silk and mushroom dyes. We worked with The Dyers Polypore, *Phaeolus schweinitzii*, the Dyeball, or Dead Man's Foot, *Pisolithus tinctorius* and *Dermocybe semisanquineus*. The first two dyes continued to produce nice results in the after bath, but the *Dermocybe* was quite weak and pale.

To increase the color we added some logwood and walnut dye bath that Andreyka had. I was fascinated that the nuts could just float there in their hulls without all the mess and stain of hulling them. (We also discussed the possibility of developing ink from mushrooms for my printing techniques.

The Demos : I have a booth at Northern California Renaissance Faire and when it moved to the Nut Tree in Vacaville, California three years ago, I dyed up some silk from the nuts off the walnut tree in my booth. My craft coordinator was thrilled that I had embraced the move which was necessary, but not popular. I was promptly asked to demonstrate. Within two weeks of that first faire opening I discovered that *Pisolithus tinctorius* made frequent late Summer and Fall appearances near my office at Cabrillo College and promptly added them to my demo. I continue to do natural dye demonstrations on weekends at the Renaissance Faire for the two month run in the fall. I've been doing a lot of experimenting with this mushroom!

Stirrings from the Dyepot –Classes and Upcoming Events in Sweden...

At Umeå University starts a new education "Svampars färgämnen A, 5 p. (Mushrooms pigment A 5 point). 6 december 2001. I, Hjördis Lundmark am a headmaster and Mattias Andersson takes the chemistry part of it. My homepage is, <http://hem.passagen.se/hjordis/>

UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

Inst för utbildning i biologi, miljö- och geovetenskap

KURSPLAN -curriculum

Förslag

Svamparnas färgämnen A, 5 poäng

Mushroom Dyes

Kurskod: MLVA47

Ansvarig institution: Institutionen för utbildning i biologi, miljö- och geovetenskap

Ämne: Miljö- och hälsoskydd

Nivå: A

Utbildningsområde: Naturvetenskap



1. Beslut om inrättande

Kursen är inrättad av Tek-nisk-naturveten-skapliga fakultets-nämnden och kurs-planen har fast-ställts 2001-xx-xx att gälla från och med 2001-xxxx.

2. Mål och innehåll

Kursens mål är att ge grundläggande kunskap om vilka kemiska ämnen i svampar som är aktiva och vilka arter i vår svampflora som lämpar sig för färgning, samt att ge kunskap om hur man utvinnet färgerna, svampfärgningsmetodikerna och olika användningsområden. *Innehåll:* Svamparnas färghistorik. Artkunskap med identifiering av svampar. Färgers kemi och fysik. Färgningsprocessen. Materialkunskap. Färghårdighet. Praktisk användning av färgämnen i svamp. Papperstillverkning

3. Förkunskapskrav

xxxxx. Dispens från kravet i engelska och svenska.:

4. Kursens uppläggning och genomförande

Undervisningen sker i form av föreläsningar, laborationer, grupp- och projektarbeten. Studi-erna sker i form av distansstudier. Mellan sammankomsterna förutsättes självstudier.

5. Examination

Kunskapsredovisning sker dels i form av skriftlig avrapportering av projekt dels i form av prov vid kursens slut. Studerande . som två gånger underkänts i prov har rätt att hos institutionsstyrelsen begära att annan lärare utses at bestämma betyg. Betygskalan består av Underkänd och Godkänd.

6. Tillgodoräknande

Kur-sen kan ingå i kandidat- och magisterex-amen.

7. Kurslitteratur

Se bilaga

Teachers: Hjördis Lundmark and Mattias Andersson



Summary in English:

Umeå University (Biolog, miljö,geovetenskap-institutionen) is starting a new Course of study on December 6, 2001

"MUSHROOMS DYES 5P."

The first group in Sweden.

Aim and contents: To give basic knowledge of the chemical-substances which are active in the mushrooms.

-Kind of species which are useful for dyeing.

-Process and field of application.

-Chemistry and physics of mushroom-pigment

-History of mushroom-dyeing.

-Knowledge of mushroom-species.

-Knowledge of fabric for dyeing.

-Process of dyeing.

-Resistance to light.

-Paper making.

The Course Curriculum:

Lectures, Laboratory works.

Group projects.

Examination: Written examination and project-reports.

(The curriculum can be included in graduation in the Faculty of Science.)

Literature:

Miriam C. Rice.

Mushrooms for Color

(required reading)

Lundmark,Hjördis &

Marklund, Hans. Färga garn med svamp.

Johannesson H. & Ryman,

Sven-Gunnar & Lundmark, Hjördis

& Danell Eric. Sarcodon

imbricatus and S. Squamosus.

Höjland, Klas. Cortinarius subgenus

Dermocybe.

Works of reference. All the written material on Mushroom Dyeing

The fact that neither walnut nor the dyeball require a mordant became a plus when I realized that my dye pots were being regularly raided by the local wild life. Now I use no additional mordants at those demos and the bold squirrels are part of the entertainment. If I want to use mordants there I pre-mordant the cloth at my home studio.

The dye

The first bath of the dyeball is usually golden bronze brown and later baths coppery colored. One weekend I had this gallon jar of pickle juice and wanted to use the jar to take home some dye liquid. We'd finished off the pickles. (read that as 'electrolytes'. It is hot in Vacaville, CA. I'd been thinking of seeing how vinegar and or salt would affect the dye.

I poured the pickle juice into the *Pisolithus* dyepot. Everything turned from coppery colors to bronze. I had discovered the key to controlling that coloration! Experimentation showed me that I could choose bronze or copper by adding or rinsing in solutions of acid for the bronze and base for the copper color. A spoonful of lemon or vinegar (or pickle juice) in the pot or a dash of ammonia or baking soda or soda ash solution is enough to effect the change.

I was impressed while rinsing out some scarves at the amount of color that continued to be released and for such a long time, that I threw some undyed silk in the sink along with the scarves I was rinsing. The color achieved was a lovely salmon pink. And it held. It did not rinse away.

Wicking and Cold dye

I found I could make my demonstrations more interesting by wicking the dye up the scarf. After I dipped it in the pot, or dyed it a base coat at an earlier time. I hang the scarf so that the ends or some portion is in the dye liquid. The dye wicks up the scarf and forms a patterned line at the highest it reaches. As the scarf dries and with repeated dipping and hangings intriguing patterns emerge. A windy day at my outdoor demo created jagged vertical lines I cannot recreate indoors as the scarves fluttered in the pot and dried more rapidly. This is really fun for a demo since the results are very visible, and change through the day.

During a weekend that was considered to be high fire danger, I was asked not to run my demo stove. I put out my pot of mushroom dye and hung scarves in it and was able to have many delightful dye conversations with the patrons. This also works with a strong walnut bath by the way. Both dyes may be effectively prepared by soaking in water. I like to give the walnut, hulls or leaves a week long soak to release the color, but have found I can use the Dyeball solution as soon as it dissolves, or even before it dissolves if speckles where undissolved bits of pigment lodge against the fabric are an acceptable variation.

One technique that is not as effective with the long cold soak is the shibori patterning. The dyeball penetrates so well that in the longer time allowed it might completely seep under the clamping tying or stitching of the pattern! For myself, all variations are pretty much acceptable. I am experimenting with how much variety I can get from the dyes and only occasionally striving for an even consistent color.

(This is part 1 of an article on Pisolithus tinctorius. Loren will explore making textile paint with this fungi in the next issue. Loren presents mushroom dye demonstrations with focus on the "dyeball.")

Loren Washburn
1889 Redwood DR
Aptos CA 95003
(831) 688-4323
loren@cabrillo.cc.ca.us



SOME MORE MUSHROOM DYE & PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP TEACHERS

Andrey Marks - My Goal in the Textile Field.

"While I was growing up, I learned early about cotton yarns and their practical application in woven fabrics as my father owned a textile mill. It was not until much later that I was taught how to weave myself. This expanded my consciousness to other components in woven cloth: the dyeing of fabrics. When I started dyeing my own yarns, I realized how toxic most of the dyes were. Having the responsibility of taking care of 14 acres of land made it hard to dump these toxins into the ground. As a student of Miriam Rice, discoverer of mushroom pigments for textile dyes, I learned to dye with mushrooms as an alternative to synthetic pigments. Michele Wipplinger taught me the use of other natural dyes on wool and cotton. My goal is to spread the use of natural dyes to help stop polluting our Earth. Much has changed during the last 20 years since I began working with dyes. The use of chromium for light fastness has been greatly reduced, yet the production of synthetic dyes can still be very toxic to the environment. I have been teaching natural dyeing on cotton, wool and silk for 12 years now and collected much data on the subject. I know that I am just a little wheel in the big picture and I hope that I can make a difference."

Andrey Marks
3900 Cameron Rd.
Elk, CA 9543
(707) 937-4131
andrey@mtcn.org

Dorothy Beebe
PO Box 428
Forestville, CA 95436
(707) 887-1300
dbeebe@sonic.net
available for mushroom dye
workshops & lectures

MORE DYEPOT-STIRRINGS FROM our IMDI MEMBERS



7 November, 2001

Dear Dorothy,

Just opened your e-mail about the IMDI publication; am delighted that it's coming out as planned. My school keeps me busy but not without mushrooms. It's been a great season for *Dermocybe sanguinea*. Next Monday I will be dyeing with our whole school, -22 kids between 5 and 12 years old. I've moved two huge cauldrons out by the lake on the school grounds.

We will be dyeing silk scarves tie-dyed in yellow with *Boletus edulis*, violet with *Hapalopilus nidulans*, red with *Dermocybe sanguinea*, blue with *Hydnellum suaveolens* and we've prepared by experimenting with color combinations mixing food colors to learn about "over-dyeing". I think we will manage 2 dye baths!

Carla Sundstrom Mueller
Grythyttan, Sweden

Letter from Maggie

"I, still never having put hands to dye pot, continue to astound fungally curious audiences with the fungified colors of the wools. Each talk given (about ten, by the end of the 2001 fall season) includes a description of the IMDI troops and passions, our venues, our "products," meaning those wonderful "waving rainbow flags" of woolen color that spark each display, and the little gnomes and shepherds, and the cap "knitted in front of the telly." Soon, a second talk for the Native Plant Society; a couple of high school science classes; several mushroom fairs; the annual classes on "Mushroom Awareness;" and, in the spring, garden clubs: there's someone (often more than one) in each group who wants to know more. It's worth the hauling, unpacking, chitter-chat, re-packing and staggering home to rest! Now if we could just find someone here in the Pacific Northwest who wanted to be a dyeing leader! From the shows and fairs, I'm pleased to report that: 1) I've been generously given dye mushrooms after the show's over, to take home and dry, and 2) several folks have volunteered to bring in mushrooms for me to dry for dyers. So far this year, the hydnums and hydnellums have been coming up nicely - but we'll never have as many dermocybes as can be found in the Nordic countries. Ah, Finland, I miss it every day!

Cheers, Maggie "Have slides and wool and paper samples: will travel!" attended the IFFS gatherings (Scotland, New York, Finland) have written up some of the activities for Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming,

Maggie Rogers
1943 SE Locust Ave.,
Portland, OR 97214 rogersmm@aol.com



Gail Blakeley

"I organized and taught "Dyeing Wool with Wild Mushrooms" workshops and demonstrations and I've made paper using various mushrooms. If folks send me a SASE, I'll send them some small samples to show a few of the colors that can be obtained from mushrooms."

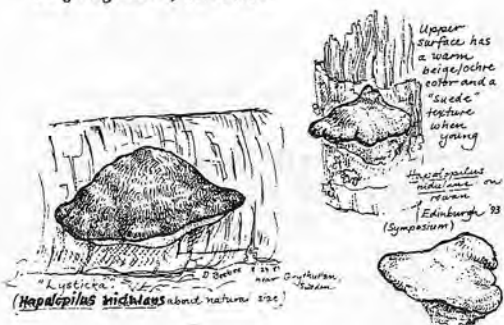
Gail Blakeley
P O Box 222
Wampum, PA 16157
gail2@bellatlantic.net

"Polygal"- Catherine Wesley, RN

I'm a polypore mushroom paper maker specializing in "pulp painting". I have taught at the Sonoma County Mycological Assn. Mushroom camps in CA, at NAMA's 2001 Annual Conference and The California School of Herbal Studies. I use 100% wild mushroom material in my paper-making. I am available to teach workshops and demonstrations. In addition to my paper-making skills I am offering polypore natural bath products including soaps, bath salts "frizzies" and mushroom salves. These products have incredible healing powers.

Contact: Catherine Wesley, R.N.
PO Box 153
Forestville, CA 95436 polygal1@juno.org

Catherine Wesley will teach Polypore Papermaking and Dorothy Beebe will conduct a workshop in Mushroom Dyeing at the 3rd Annual SOMA Camp to be held Jan. 19 - 21, 2002, sponsored by the Sonoma County Mushroom Assn., under the redwoods at Camp Navarro, Mendocino County CA Check SOMA website at: <http://www.somamushrooms.org/>



And some more colourful letters...

From Noel Dingman

"I have designed and had printed a professional poster of fungi with their corresponding dyed wool samples, for \$32.00."

Noel Dingman
1820 Mt. Ephraim Rd.
Adamstown, MD 21710
halfaloaf@accessa.net

from Carol Lee

I just learned that I will give an hour long lecture on: "Love That Red: *Cortinarius semi sanguineus*", as well as two 1/2 hour lectures. "Avocados, food for my dyepot" and "Aphids and other colorful bugs" at the **Colour Congress 2002**, May 19-21, 2002 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. I will also be teaching another workshop on "Cook it for Color". Should be exciting!

Carolyn Lee
PO Box 731
Encampment,
WY 82425

Come on out...We do Fiber Vacations, Wooly Weekends, and Classes. The Academy of Spinsters, The Sheep Shed Studio and Lee's Carding Mill.
<http://www.angelfire.com/wy/academy/>

Connie Nelson

3651 Moscow Mtn. Rd
Moscow, ID 83842
(208) 883-3837

1991 graduate of the "Textile Apprenticeship Program" at Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, CA USA weaver, felter, mushroom dyer and basketmaker; workshops in the above

Colourfull wishes from Finland

This message is sent to all of you whose e-mail addresses were in the list of Rovaniemi's Fungi & Fibre-Symposium. I was in the symposium making the video interviews for the symposium document.

In that meeting (actually when we arrived home from inspiring meeting) we got an idea of an international

Sharing the Colours -project. In this letter there is a short description of the present plan and we hope you to join the working group to prepare the plan to be left to EU before the deadline 30.11.2001. There is a possibility to get for the project quite remarkable funding from EU Culture 2000- program, but at least from five countries should be taking part in the project. *So, lets be active and even try!*

I hope that we could make now intensive co-operation to develop the project idea together more ready.

We give more information of the situation when needed. Be free to forward this message to those who could be interested.

Best for you
Virpi



SHARING THE COLOURS-PROJECT

Short description and request and suggestions for co-operation

Background

The tradition of making colours from different natural raw materials is long. Because of techno-chemical colour production this tradition almost disappeared, but in last decades the situation has changed. Colours from plants, mushrooms and other natural sources are under growing interest. The old tradition and new methods to make natural colours for the needs of handcrafts and textile arts is studied and achieved.

Idea of Sharing the colours- project

In August this year there was the International Fungi & Fibre symposium in Finland, where the mushroom dyers changed their knowledge and experiences. In that meeting there came up an idea to start world wide international co-operation to develop this colourfull work. So, now we represent a plan for co-operation: Sharing the Colours- project.

The idea of the project is

- a) to collect and document the tradition and present knowledge of natural colours in participatory countries and
- b) organize international Internet symposium and co-operation for sharing and developing this cultural heritage

There is possibilities to get funding for this work from "EU Culture 2000 -program" if there are at least 5 countries from EU (+ some other countries) participating the project. The papers should be left to EU-commission in the end of this month! So there is not much time for the preparing work.

We hope that this message will reach the possible actors, institutional and private people, who could be interested in this project. The interested actors should take immediately contact to our preparing working group to get more information and to take part in the preparing process. We shall send a more detailed working plan and proposals to those who are interested.

With colourfull wishes,

Virpi Virolainen, preparing co-ordinator of Sharing the Colours - project

e-mail: elonmerkki@kulma.net
Address: Kihmulankatu 41
74130 Iisalmi FINNLAND



(Note from the Dye-Gest editor: I received this letter just as we were going to press and thought it would interest our members!)