

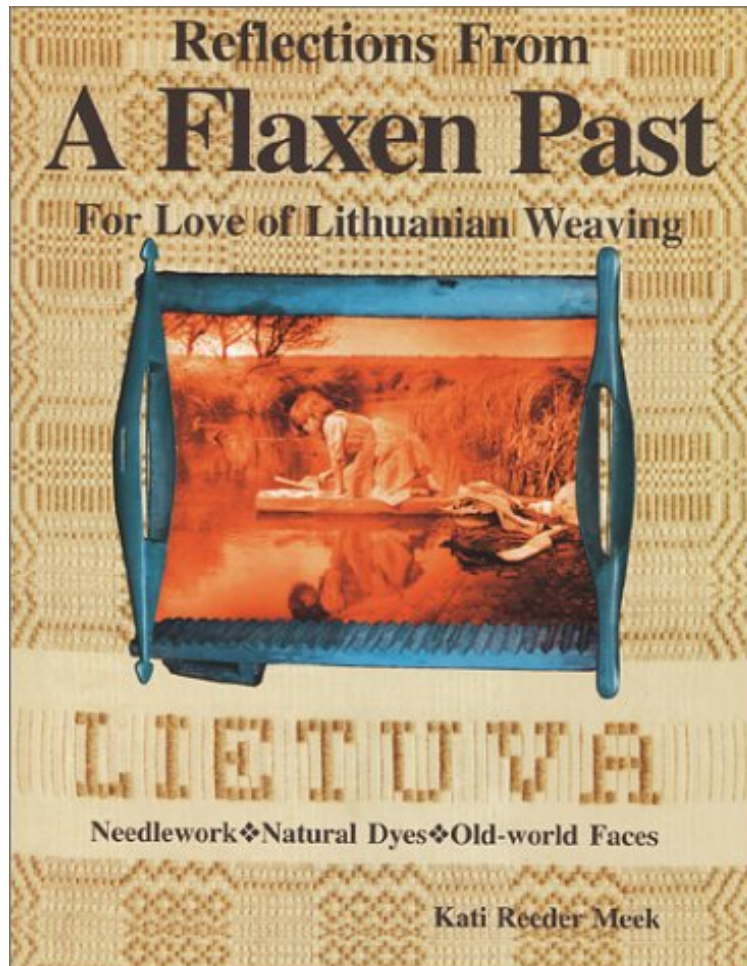
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*Kati Reeder Meek*

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(Get free) Reflections From A Flaxen Past : For Love of Lithuanian Weaving

## **Reflections From A Flaxen Past : For Love of Lithuanian Weaving**

**Kati Reeder Meek : Reflections From A Flaxen Past : For Love of Lithuanian Weaving** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reflections From A Flaxen Past : For Love of Lithuanian Weaving:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Romantic Reflections on Textile TraditionBy Sara von TresckowA Flaxen Past - what a romantic Old World ring this has to it. We have all heard the story of Rumpelstiltskin where a young girl, overwhelmed by the task of spinning a roomful of flax straw in to "gold" or linen thread, is willing to risk her firstborn child to have the work done by someone else. We have all heard stories in our families about the traditions surrounding the old "linens" handed down through families, revered because they were handmade by someone in the family before our time. Who hasn't at some time or another eaten from a snow white tablecloth, awed by its beauty and at the same time worried about dropping something on it that would cause a stain. "Linen" simply conjures up a vision of pristine elegance and timelessness - and there is so little really good information about it. Here is book for all lovers of fine textiles - whether actively spinning and weaving, or just connoisseurs.Kati Meek,

introduced to Lithuania in 1982 by following a weaving pattern she was studying, fell in love with a culture long steeped in working with flax and linen - as are so many around the North and Baltic Seas. While there have been other books portraying linen in the last years, this one stands out in the way it places the growing and processing of flax into the cycle of life of the culture. No detail has been left out - from planting the seed to spinning the thread and weaving fabric, to sewing the clothing. *A Flaxen Past* is carefully "woven" of recent experiences, both with Lithuanian weavers in Europe and with weavers of Lithuanian descent living in North America, carefully researched examples of new and old textiles, examples of tools and techniques and, perhaps most charming of all - a chapter of photographs from Lithuanian museums depicting the processes as they fit into the lifestyle. These photographs capture the spirit of how Lithuanian and other European weavers worked linen for a very long time - the faces, the hands and the surroundings. Accompanying the rich illustrations is a well written account of Lithuanian culture and Ms. Meek's travels to research this book. She speaks warmly and in detail of her experiences collecting the information, and the people she met along the way. As an experienced weaver, she does an excellent job of describing the textiles and how they are made - interesting for non-weavers yet comprehensive enough to enable spinners and weavers to make their own linen cloth. There is a richness of information about Lithuania, its traditions, and the traditional textiles that surround the linen heritage - in picture, and described in great depth for anyone interested in producing similar pieces. Several active weavers of today are depicted along with lovely examples of their work. *A Flaxen Past* has been made possible with assistance from the Lithuanian Foundation, the Lithuanian Folk Art Institute, the Gilmore Foundation and the Upjohn Foundation. All profits from the sale of the book are dedicated to the textile collections in Lithuanian museums.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Not Just for Weavers! By L. Rzeznik  
Being Lithuanian, and having great pride in my culture, I was amazed by the depth of this book. I would recommend it to anyone who has a love of the culture, as it chronicles not just the past, but gives the reader an appreciation for the present, and all that is being done to preserve these beautiful traditions. Just incredible photos as well. "Looking inside" this book on does not do credit to the photos in this book.

Full color, large format 8.5 x 11", 495 photographs, 91 drawings/drafts/charted designs. Nine chapters include maps and regional dress; colorful research adventure; flax tools and faces from archival photographs; textile images and patterns; a gallery of 24 textile people and their work; charted folk designs for weaving and needlework; nine projects beginner to advanced; six contemporary projects; linen workshop: grow it, spin it, weave it. Annotated bibliography, glossary, index. If you enjoy looking at colorful patterned cloth, if you like adventure-travel stories, if history and old tools and photographs interest you, if you like meeting people who are devoted to their textile heritage, if dolls charm you, if you'd like to learn an ancient and simple way to weave interesting patterns on a narrow band, if you are curious about the process of making cloth to wear yourself or to give as a gift, if you are interested in flax and linen, if you are looking for easy and effective ways to deal with linen's or other fine fiber's orneriness, then you will probably enjoy reading *A Flaxen Past*. Publication of *A Flaxen Past* is made possible with assistance from The Lithuanian Foundation, the Lithuanian Folk Art Institute, the Gilmore Foundation and the Upjohn Foundation. All profits from the sale of the book are dedicated to the textile collections in Lithuanian museums.

From the Back Cover "Textile historians will be grateful for this very thoughtful study of an area we've known too little about." - Madelyn van der Hoogt, editor, *Handwoven and Weaver's* magazines. "Her writing style is informal and informative... This is a useful book and 'good read' to boot!" - Sharon Alderman, weaver, author, instructor  
About the Author Kati Reeder Meek first sat at a loom in 1969. She began writing about this new love two years later while working in Gallipolis Ohio, as artist-in-residence through the NEA artist-in-the-Schools program. She has been researching, weaving, and reporting Lithuanian and Scottish handweaving techniques since 1983, and has made two research trips to Lithuania. She is an enthusiastic and inspiring lecturer and workshop leader for local, regional, and international groups of textile lovers. She spins for the sociability of it and stays fit with Scottish Highland dance, aerobics, and weight work, and with walks along the shore of Lake Huron where she, her husband and their three oriental cats now make their home in beautiful Up North Michigan.