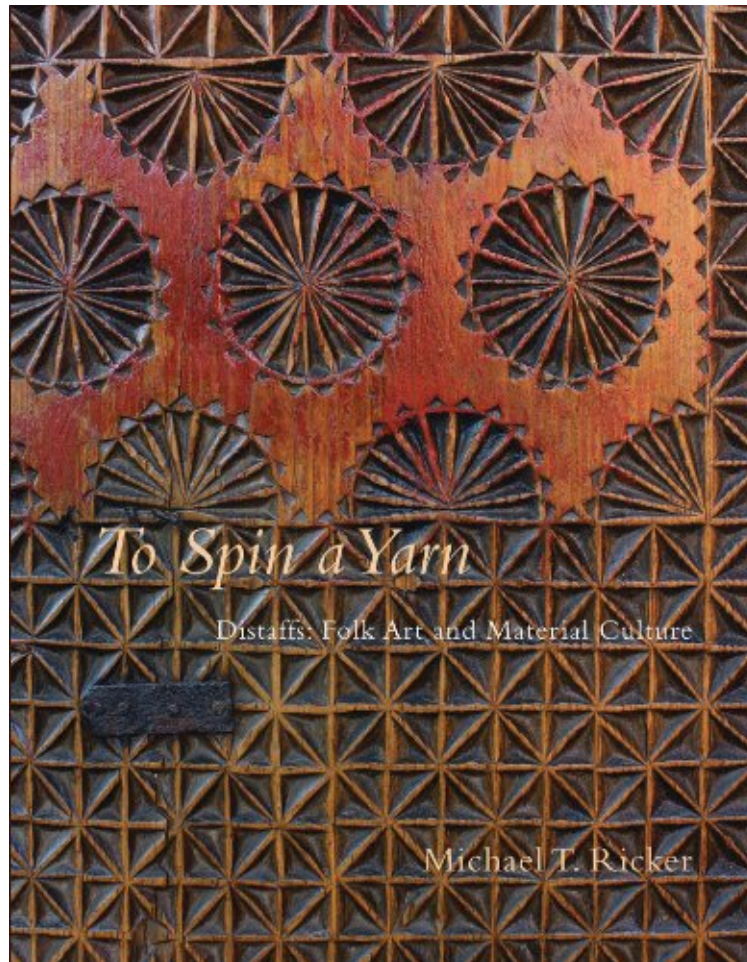




*Michael T. Ricker*

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## **To Spin a Yarn: Distaffs: Folk Art and Material Culture**

**Michael T. Ricker : To Spin a Yarn: Distaffs: Folk Art and Material Culture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Spin a Yarn: Distaffs: Folk Art and Material Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Treat for the mind. By zak Where else can one read a thorough, entertaining and detailed critical inspection concerning the distaff, of course this work is much more than that. The sheer visual delight of Mr. Ricker's work is cause enough to acquire book. I'm familiar with his life and work and can guarantee, you will not be disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully presented By collector Both the illustrations and the history are beautifully presented. A must have for those interested in weaving or for folk art!

Distaffs are simple tools for spinning fiber, forming part of world cultures for millennia. In certain cultures, distaffs

evolved over centuries from plain sticks to surprisingly ornate sculptures. They eventually became important cultural objects, with almost ritualistic significance. During a heyday lasting from the mid 18th century to the early 20th century, distaff production soared. This production was ultimately quashed by the progress of the Industrial Revolution and subsequent availability of ready-made fabric. Distaff use continued, but primarily to honor tradition and create special textiles of cultural and familial importance, rather than make clothes for daily wear.

About the Author MICHAEL T. RICKER is an independent scholar, artist, and collector, who lives and works in the greater Dallas area. Mr. Ricker's areas of interest within the fine arts include livres d'artiste and 20th-century social realism, with a particular focus on Mexican social realism and the legendary printmaking workshop, El Taller de Gráfica Popular (TGP) and its artists. In addition to his research on private press books and the TGP, he has contributed to studies of the American artists Leonard Baskin and Rico Lebrun.