*August-18*

Hilltop Cloud

Time Travellers Club

Dear Club Member,

August 26th marks the 250th anniversary of when Captain Cook set sail from England aboard HMS Endeavor. During that 3 year voyage he travelled around the southern tip of South America, to the Pacific Ocean as a scientific voyage to record the transit of Venus across the sun as part of a Royal Society enquiry to find a way of measuring longitude.
This was a major issue for ocean navigation. Mariners could calculate their latitude using a quadrant and taking measurements of the sun at noon. This allowed navigators to calculate the north-south position on the globe. However, there was no reliable measurement for calculating longitude. This often lead to ships hitting reefs or hidden rocks unexpectedly as it was very easy for a ship to calculate its longitude incorrectly. The best scientific minds of the time were trying to solve the problem of calculating longitude. In the end the solution was solved by John Harrison, a Yorkshire carpenter, who was able to develop a clock that was accurate enough to be used at sea.
Once the calculations were made Cook completed his voyage by going on to Australia and New Zealand. They were the second European voyage to reach New Zealand, and the first to reach the Eastern Coast of Australia, they made landfall at Point Hicks, and then went on to Botany Bay. He made an incredibly accurate map of New Zealand, the Cook straight, between the North and South Islands is named after him.
Originally this fibre was going to be inspired by the art that the Aborigine people make, but the Aborigine people are quite rightly protective of such a vital part of their culture. The more I researched the topic, the more uncomfortable I became with using this as my inspiration. I do urge you to go and look at some of the artwork in the links below.
Instead I've drawn my inspiration from the third voyage that Cook made. On this voyage he sailed back to New Zealand, by way of South Africa, and then headed north in the Pacific ocean, hoping to find the North West passage, linking the Northern Atlantic to the Northern Pacific. This way ships could avoid the hazardous journey around Cape Horn and the tip of South America.
On the way north Cook made land at Hawaii, the first Europeans to make land on the islands. From the islands he continued north, mapping most of the north west coast of America for the first time. He failed to find the North West passage, but did manage to map the extent of Alaska for the first time. He set sail for home, and again stopped in Hawaii. A dispute with the local people broke out, and Cook attempted to kidnap the King of Hawai‘i, Kalani‘ōpu‘u. He was killed by the villagers in the resulting struggle.
So the fibre this month is inspired by Hawaii, and takes inspiration from the volcanoes that have created the islands.

Happy Spinning,
Katie

Further Reading-
Account of Cook's first voyage of discovery to Australia and New Zealand
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Endeavour

Why Cook was sent to Tahiti- to measure the transit of Venus.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1769_Transit_of_Venus_observed_from_Tahiti

Cook in Hawaii
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/captain-cook-in-hawaii/

How to measure latitude
http://www.pbs.org/weta/roughscience/series1/challenges/latlong/

Calculating Longitude
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_longitude

Aboriginal Art
https://www.aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQi1NMh9CvA

Hawaii Volcanoes
https://www.nps.gov/havo/index.htm
https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/photosmultimedia/index.htm

Anniversary £2 coins to watch out for
https://www.royalmint.com/discover/uk-coins/captain-cook/