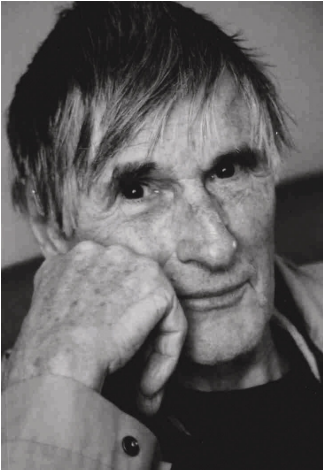


John Peter Wild

# Obituary: Peter Collingwood



Peter Collingwood has died aged 86.

Peter Collingwood was the pre-eminent British artist weaver of the past 50 years. His technical and aesthetic innovations have been appreciated around the world. A master craftsman and the author of several works on weaving, his work as a teacher and his generous spirit had a profound and lasting impact

on generations of students.

Qualifying as a doctor in 1946, Peter Collingwood abandoned medicine in 1950. He then trained in the workshops of Ethel Mairet, Barbara Sawyer and Alastair Morton. In 1952 he set up his own workshop in London, subsequently at Digswell House and then in Nayland, Suffolk. From 1954 onwards he taught at various London art schools, and from 1962 he began annual teaching visits to the USA.. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held in the UK, USA, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and Ja-

pan. His numerous commissions have been mainly for domestic pieces, but since 1990 he has worked on twenty-five large rugs and hangings for public places, most recently a 5 x 8 metre three-dimensional stainless steel piece for Kiryu, Japan. He was awarded the OBE in 1974.

Collingwood wrote six highly influential books of which the first is on Techniques of Rug Weaving (1968). Within the field of textile archaeology his book The Techniques of Sprang (1974) and The Techniques of Tablet Weaving (1982) are probably the best known. His personal favourite - and the one that gives the most insight into his inquiring mind - was The Maker's Hand: A Close Look at Textile Structures (1988), in which he analyses, with diagrams and photographs, 100 woven structures from around the world. Other books are Rug Weaving Techniques: Beyond the Basics (1991), and The Techniques of Ply-split Braiding (1998).

He was a member of the Early Textiles Study Group in the UK; for he had a very early interest in Neolithic textiles, and his major opera on sprang, tablet-weaving and ply-split weaving have an archaeological and ethnographic dimension. He was a national - and international - institution, and will be sorely missed.

## Textile Calendar

*December 2008 – June 2009*

**10 December 2008 - 29 March 2009:** Magnificence of the Tsars, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
[http://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/future\\_exhibs/tsars/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/future_exhibs/tsars/index.html)

**19 January – 19 March 2009:** Hautnah – Römische Stoffe aus Mainz, Mainzer Volksbank, Neubrunnen Platz, 55116 Mainz, Germany

**31 December 2008:** Lejre Research Grants deadline:  
<http://www.lejre-center.dk/RESEARCH-GRANT.206.0.html>

**5-8 March 2009:** Textile Terminology in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC, Copenhagen, Denmark  
<http://ctr.hum.ku.dk/upload/application/pdf/f51d6748/web%20site%20text.pdf>

**April-September 2009:** Exhibition: The Merovingian graves finds from the basilica of St-Denis/Paris, Musée d'Antiquités Nationales in St.Germain-en-Laye, Paris, France  
[www.musee-antiquitesnationales.fr](http://www.musee-antiquitesnationales.fr)

**September 2009:** European Association of Archaeologists, Riva del Garda, Italy  
<http://e-a-a.org/2009.htm>