



Josef Fidler

## Truly Unique Woven Specimen

Josef Fidler has dedicated more than 20 years of his life to handwoven textiles. In 28 June 2015 he moved his production to a timbered cottage in the conservation area Betlém Hlinsko. He keeps the tradition in the typical country environment offering guided tours with a demonstration of his production. Since moving to the cottage he has been fully engaged in restoring the traditional production of handwoven chenille (žanylka), which was produced in Hlinecko region from 1890 to the 70s of the 20th century, when the production was terminated.

Each piece produced by this method is unique, may it be a shawl, a scarf, a plaid or a rug. Traditional practices, materials and colors (black, green, blue, white, purple and antique pink) as well as their combinations are being maintained throughout the whole process.

Mr. Fidler also offers hand-woven cotton and acrylic scarves and also Hlinsko Canvas, including tablecloths, towelcloths and table mats of different sizes.

Mr. Fidler presents his Hlinsko Chenille as well as other products at fairs and markets in Hlinsko, in Veselý Kopec or other markets throughout the Czech Republic. All products can be ordered by e-mail, website, phone or best by personal appointment in the weaving mill at Betlém Hlinsko.

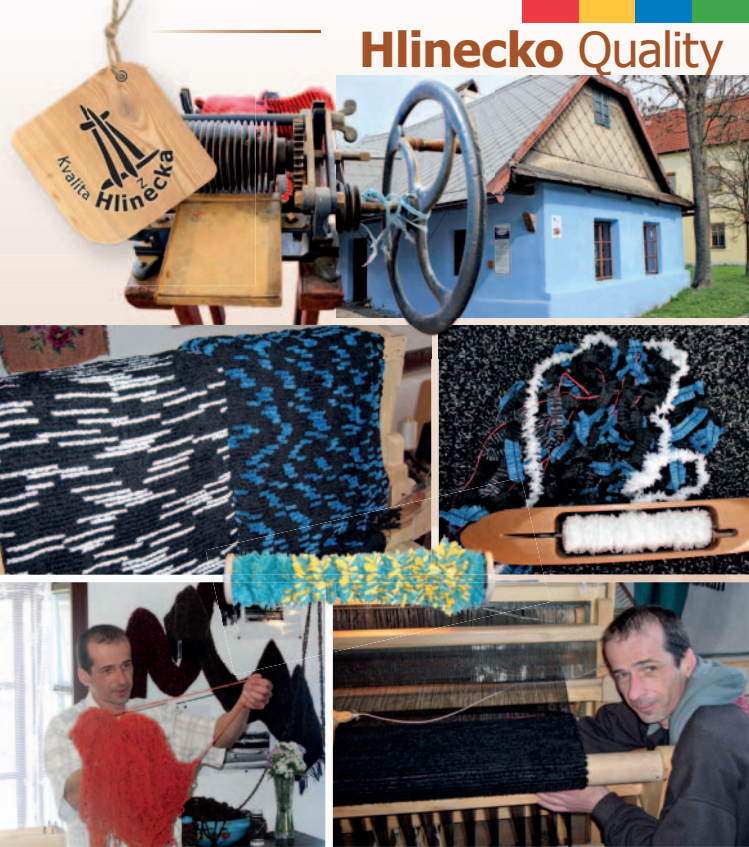
**The following product has been certified the Quality of Hlinecko:**

- Hlinsko Chenille

 *Tkalcovna  
na Betlémě* 

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Weaving mill at Betlém Hlinsko is the only place in the Czech Republic and in Europe, where chenille is produced in the traditional way (according to the patent system from 1890). In the 30s of the 20th century hundreds of home weavers, 26 companies and 5 textile plants produced chenille in Hlinsko. The basic material is jute, scarves and plaids are made of cotton and viscose fibers. After 1948 the national enterprise Plyšán engaged in chenille production and from 1960 the manufacturing association VZOR continued this tradition. Fabrics soft material has been always cut with scissors. In the 60s a prototype special set of scissors originated in Hlinsko, on which carpet fabrics were sheared. These days they have been put into operation again but serve only as an exhibit. Thanks to the production of chenille the city of Hlinsko became world famous. The goods were exported to the whole world. In the fifties of the 20th century the production of chenille scarves and plaids ended and in the 70s production of carpets, blankets, pillows and wallboards finished too.

Weaving came back to Betlém in the autumn of 2015 and Mr. Fidler resumed production on traditional hand looms. Mr. Fidler also uses historical loom from the year 1836, borrowed from Municipal museum in Hlinsko, on which chenille was originally woven.

Chenille is being produced by weaving pre-fabrics, which are subsequently cut into separated stripes. These are spun on the spinning wheel and twisted cords are woven into the warp. After that fringes (francle) are tied to ends and the product is washed, dried and scrubbed. Thicker materials are being steamed. The production of one chenille scarf takes 48 hours.

For more information about the production, visit Betlém weaving mill, preferably after a telephone appointment.