

Bucharest - Transylvania - Budapest: *Ottoman Carpets and Romanian kilims*

Study tour organised by Alberto Boralevi and Stefano Ionescu

Thursday 8 May

Departure from US

★ p.m. Departure from JFK, New York for overnight flight to Bucharest, Romania.



www.transylvanianrugs.com

Friday 9 May

1st day

Arrival in Bucharest

Arrival at the international airport of Otopeni or Baneasa and transfer to Bucharest. Participants should send in advance the flight details. Accommodation at the Hotel Residence Oliviers**** in the most elegant area of Bucharest with magnificent parks near Lake Herăstrău.

★ 7:00 p.m. - Welcome meeting at the hotel; every participant will receive a set of maps and brochures.

★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner with a selection of Turkish and Balkanic specialities.



Bucharest
The Triumph Arch

Saturday 10 May - 2nd day

Bucharest

★ 10:00 - Visit to the MUSEUM OF THE ROMANIAN PEASANT (MRP), the largest collection of Romanian flatwoves. We will have the pleasure to be introduced to the collection by Dr. Geta Roşu, director of the textile department.

★ 12:30 a.m. - Coffee, snack.

★ 1:30 p.m. - Visit to the MUSEUM OF ART COLLECTIONS (MCC) in Bucharest, which houses some antique rugs from private collections (Schmutzler, Oprescu, Avachian): *Lotto*, *Kula*, *Ghiordes*, *Senneh*, Caucasian rugs, Turkish embroideries as well as some fakes.

★ 3:00 - Short tour of Bucharest.

★ 4:00 p.m. - Private visit to Dan Nasta's villa, the greatest collector of Romanian flatwoves, kilims, ikons; discussion on two fakes possibly by Tuduc.

★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner in a traditional restaurant with Romanian menu.



A' scoartza' from Oltenia
MRP, Bucharest



Single niche 'Transylv.', MCC



Bucharest - The Atheneum, built 1870



The art collector Dan Nasta

Sunday 11 May - 3rd day Bucharest – Bran – Braşov (200 km)

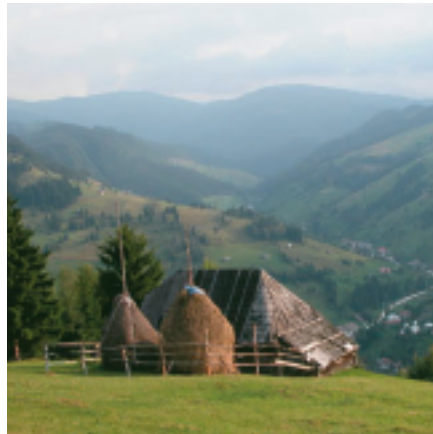
- ★ 8:30 a.m. - Departure from the hotel. On the road S. Ionescu will present the itinerary in Transylvania; historical and religious background of the region.
- ★ 11:00 a.m. - Stop at Sinaia, a famous resort in the Carpathian mountains. Visit to PELEŞ CASTLE, former residence of the royal family. Persian carpets as well as some locally made Caucasian rugs. Snack at the coffee shop.
- ★ 1:30 p.m. - Departure for Bran through one of the most spectacular valleys of the Carpathians. Outside visit to BRAN CASTLE, also called Dracula's Castle.
- ★ 4:00 p.m. - Visit to the LUTHERAN PARISH OF ROSENAU (3 unexhibited rugs).
- ★ 5:00 p.m. - Departure for Braşov where we will arrive in the late afternoon. Accommodation at the Aro Palace Hotel****, very central.
- ★ 7:00 p.m. - Walking tour through the medieval centre of Braşov.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner in a Saxon tavern.



The Dracula Castle in Bran



The Orthodox Monastery in Sinaia



Landscape in the Carpathians



Sinaia - The Peleş Castle

Monday 12 May - 4th day Braşov and surroundings

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Short visit to the HUNGARIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (6 rugs).
- ★ 10:00 a.m. - Visit to the BLACK CHURCH where 104 antique rugs are permanently displayed; it will be possible to admire some highly important examples which are preserved in the storage rooms: the famous *Ghirlandaio* rug from the 15th century and the blue ground *Lotto* of the Lutheran Parish of Petersberg. (Inside the Black Church it is forbidden to take pictures).
- ★ 13:00 p.m. - Light meal.
- ★ 2:30 p.m. - Departure for the fortified Church of HÄRMAN (10 *Lotto* rugs). Return to Braşov; visit to the SYNAGOGUE; study of some fakes by Tuduc who had his workshop near Braşov. A limited number of copies of the catalogue of fakes made by Tuduc (*Antike Orientteppiche aus Siebenbürgen*) will be available.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Departure for Poiana. Dinner at the 'Sheppard House' restaurant.



Braşov - The Black Church



Study of a *Ghirlandaio* rug



Stefano's Ionescu book showing over 300 rugs from Transylvania



Ottoman prayer rugs in the Black Church

Tuesday 13 May - 5th day Braşov – Sighişoara – Mediaş (170 km)

- ★ 8:30 a.m. - Departure for Sighişoara (120 km). On the road Stefano Ionescu will discuss about Tuduc and the rug collection of the Lutheran Parish of Rupea (Reps). The participants will be offered copies of the brochure *The Lutheran Parishes and their rugs: whereabouts unknown*.
- ★ 11:00 a.m. - Sighişoara, visit of the historical centre and to the MONASTERY CHURCH (40 rugs) with an informal talk of Alberto Boralevi on *Lotto* rugs.
- ★ 1:00 a.m. - Lunch in a typical restaurant called 'Dracula House'.
- ★ 2:00 p.m. - Departure for Biertan (25 km), another picturesque old village declared World Heritage by UNESCO.
- ★ 4:00 p.m. - Departure for Mediaş (22 km).
- ★ 5:00 p.m. - Visit to ST. MARGARET CHURCH (about 40 rugs, including 4 *Holbeins*; this collection has the highest number of 16th century rugs in Transylvania). Short discussion on *Holbein* and *Selendi* rugs. Coffee in the Parish guest room offered by Pastor Guib, Archdeacon of the Mediash district.
- ★ 7:00 p.m. - Accommodation at the Binder Buby Hotel****, in Mediaş.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner with local wines tasting .



Unique Star-lattice rug - late 15th century - Sighişoara



The Monastery Church, Sighişoara



The Lutheran Church of Biertan



St. Margaret Church in Mediaş

Wednesday 14 May - 6th day Mediaş – Sibiu – Cluj (230 km)

- ★ 8:30 a.m. - Departure for Sibiu (55 km).
- ★ 10:00 a.m. - Visit to the BRUKENTHAL MUSEUM and private viewing of 10 rugs from the storage-rooms. On behalf of the participants Alberto Boralevi will offer to the Director of the Museum, Prof. Sabin Adrian Luca, rug books for the library of the Museum. The library holds a rare copy of Schmutzler's book.
- ★ 12:30 a.m. - Visit to the Teutsch House. Light meal.
- ★ 2:30 p.m. - Departure for Sebeş (60 km).
- ★ 3:30 p.m. - LUTHERAN CHURCH of Sebeş. (17th cent. Ghiordes and Kula rugs).
- ★ 5:00 p.m. - Departure for Cluj (115 km).
- ★ 7:30 p.m. - Accommodation at the Hotel Agape****, very central.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

Thursday 15 May - 7th day Cluj-Napoca – Budapest

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Visit to the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA, which holds a small collection of Ottoman rugs of the 18th-19th century. Light meal.
- ★ 1:30 p.m. - Departure for the airport. Participants should purchase on their own the flight WIZZAIR W6 286 from Cluj-Napoca to Budapest on the 15th of May at 2:25a.m. (see www.wizzair.com).
- ★ Budapest: transfer to the Hotel (4 star, TBA) and City tour.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner. After dinner walk.



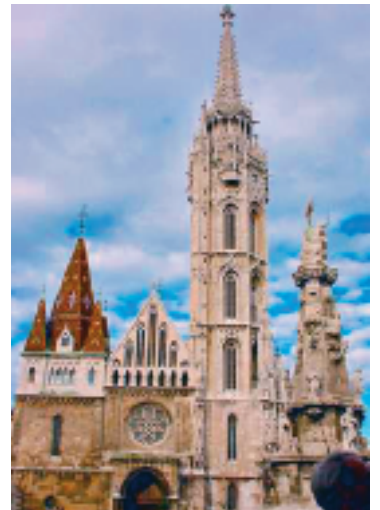
A very rare white ground double-niche rug... Marilyn and Marshall Wolf with Alberto Boralevi, Sami Rabinovic and Stefano Ionescu during the private viewing of rugs of the Brukenthal Museum in April 2004.

Friday 16 May - 8th day Budapest

- ★ 9:30 a.m. - Visit to the NATIONAL HUNGARIAN MUSEUM and private viewing of 10 rugs from the Teleki collection preserved in the storage-rooms.
- ★ Snack at the Cafeteria.
- ★ 1:00 p.m. - Visit to the exhibition of OTTOMAN TURKISH RUGS at the MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS. The exhibition, dedicated to the great Hungarian rug scholar Ferenc Bátari, displays all the Ottoman rugs in the collection of the MAA (47 rugs including the famous Bátari-Crivelli fragment). We will be introduced to the collection by Dr. Emese Pásztor, curator of the exhibition and also curator of the Oriental rug section of the MAA.
- ★ 4:00 p.m. - Free afternoon or 3 hours tour of the city: St. Stephen's Basilica (marvellous view from the dome) - Dohany Synagogue (the second largest temple in the world after Emmanuel in New York City) - the Postal Savings Bank - Chain Bridge - Old town - Fisherman's Bastion - King Mathias Church.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Gala Dinner. Farewell to Budapest.



Budapest
The Parliament House



The King Mathias Church

Saturday 17 May - 9th day Departure from Budapest

- ★ Transfer to the Ferihegy airport.

For those who would like to spend more time in the Hungarian capital we suggest an extra day in Budapest. As the hotels are quite busy for that period the participants should ask the organisers to book an extra night in Budapest.

Useful advises for the Journey:

for further information
info@transylvanianrugs.com

This study tour aims to improve the preservation and the study of the Transylvanian rug heritage. The participants are warmly invited to donate rug-books to the library of the Brukenthal Museum or to inform the organisers of any other possibility of helping, stimulating or enhancing local rug scholarship.

The Romanian visa can be obtained at the airport (not necessary for US and EU citizens). The local currency is called Ron; the prices in Romania are lower than in western Europe, so for pocket money 100/200 euro should be enough.

Spring is the best season to visit Transylvania. In May the weather is usually fine but it may rain in Braşov. In the evening it is certainly cool. We advise the usual clothing for this season but also a raincoat and a wool sweater. Inside the churches it is always cool this being just one of the secrets why rugs are so well preserved.

For details and further information please contact info@transylvanianrugs.com.

Cost per person:

Land Cost:

1.500 euro in double room
300 euro for single room suppl.

The fee includes:

Accommodation with breakfast in 4 star hotels, meals including soft drinks as specified, transfer from/to the airports, private bus with wc, entrance tickets and English speaking guide. This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions o.a.

Air Costs: not included.

Participants should choose airlines which allow arrival in Bucharest and departure from Budapest and should also purchase an e-ticket for the flight WIZZAIR W6 286 from Cluj-Napoca to Budapest on May 15th at 2:25 p.m. (see www.wizzair.com).

To book please contact:
info@transylvanianrugs.com

