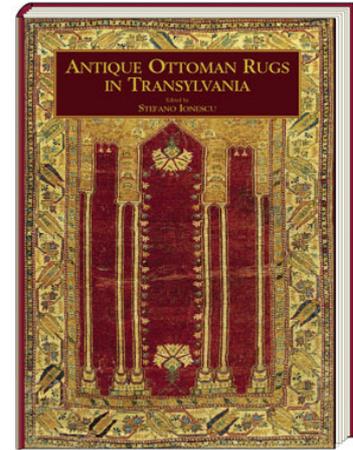


ANTIQUÉ OTTOMAN RUGS IN TRANSYLVANIA

Second edition: a new, revised and expanded edition launched on the occasion of ICOC 2007 in Istanbul



Content of the book

Today Transylvania continues to be the repository of the richest and best preserved corpus of Turkish carpets outside the Islamic world. Among them are almost four hundred examples attributable to the golden period of Ottoman weaving from the mid 15th to the second half 18th century. They include many of the classic types such as 'Holbeins', Ushaks, 'Lottos' and Selendis as well as 'Transylvanians'.

Attempts to explain the presence of so many Ottoman rugs in the Lutheran Churches of Transylvania have so far resulted in theories that range from the incomplete to the eccentric. It has therefore been the aim of this book to present a thorough and detailed review of the historical and material evidence, and to provide soundly-based answers to the question of both the origin of the carpets and the reasons for their survival. Colour images of more than 300 rugs, drawn from all the Transylvanian collections, are published in colour together for the first time, each with technical analysis. The famous collection of the Black Church, Braşov, is published in its entirety.

The book begins with an overview of the relevant carpet literature, which for generations of scholars and rug enthusiasts was dominated by Emil Schmutzler's monumental study *Altorientalische Teppiche in Siebenbürgen*, published in 1933.

This is followed by a succinct account of Transylvania's turbulent history, leading to an examination of the market in Ottoman rugs and the ways in which such rugs were used and valued.

The third section looks at all the rug types that have survived in the region, with a detailed discussion of the 'Lotto', Selendi and 'Transylvanian' groups and their variants. The text is amply illustrated and documented, including statistical data relating to these 'classical' groups. Not only does this bring the Transylvanian material into clear focus for the first time, but it also represents an important contribution to the study of Anatolian carpets.

The central section of the book consists of a colour catalogue featuring 225 Ottoman rugs. Short essays focus on some of the major groups such as the 'Ghirlandaio', 'Holbein', Ushak and Ottoman Court rugs. In a final section individual Church and Museum rug collections from Transylvania, from Bucharest, as well as some European collections with rugs sourced in Transylvania are discussed with many additional illustrations including 61 further colour plates of Ottoman rugs.

Among the appendices that conclude the book are biographical essays on Emil Schmutzler and Teodor Tuduc, a discussion of rugs in the Romanian principalities, technical analyses, listings of rug locations and of all published rugs by collection, and full bibliography.

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The Authors

STEFANO IONESCU, publisher, editor and co-author of the book, was born in Romania, lived in Transylvania and graduated as an electronic engineer in Bucharest. Here he met Dan Nasta, the country's main collector, who first introduced him to Oriental rugs and Romanian flat-woven textiles (scoarțe). Since 1975 Ionescu has lived in Rome where he works in the prepress field of print technology. As a rug enthusiast and collector he has traveled frequently to Transylvania in connection with the promotion and safeguarding of Transylvania's rug legacy. In 1999 he was granted the rights to publish material from all the Church and Museum rug collections in Romania. In 2003 the Superior Consistory of the Evangelical Church A.C. of Romania officially approved the project. The same year saw the launch of the website www.transylvanianrugs.com.

ALBERTO BORALEVI, chief consultant editor for the project lives in Florence. A well known expert on antique rugs, chairman of ICOC Academic Committee, he is the author of several important rug studies. He undertook the attribution and dating of all the rugs in Transylvania.

ANDREI KERTESZ is an art historian and works at the Brukenthal Museum in Sibiu. He has published a number of studies relating to the Turkish rugs in Transylvania.

Additional Contributions

GEORG SCHMUTZLER contributes a personal portrait of his grandfather, Emil Schmutzler, author of a pioneering work on the Transylvanian carpets.

ALI RIZA TUNA was born in Istanbul; as an expert on Anatolian carpets he debates the late Ottoman rugs in Romania.

RODICA DINULESCU, textile restoration expert at the Brukenthal Museum performed the technical analyses.

MIRCEA DUNCA is curator of the Islamic Collections at the Oriental Art Department of the National Museum of Art of Romania in Bucharest. Here he discusses Oriental rugs in Moldavia and Walachia.

The Book

240 pages, size 24 x 34 cm
300 antique rugs published in colour
25 antique rugs published in black/white
18 colour photos of churches exhibiting rugs
60 black/white photos and illustrations
Location map of the rugs in Transylvania

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