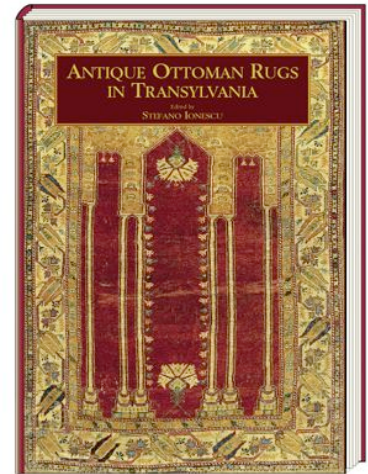


ANTIQUÉ OTTOMAN RUGS IN TRANSYLVANIA

Second edition: a new, revised and expanded edition

Launched at the opening of the exhibition

In Praise of God: Anatolian Rugs in Transylvanian Churches
at the Sakip Sabanci Museum, Istanbul, 18th April 2007



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 300 antique rugs, drawn from all the Transylvanian collections, are published together 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 trade 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.

The final section discusses individual Church and Museum rug collections from Transylvania, from Bucharest, as well as some European collections with rugs sourced in Transylvania.

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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 engineer in Bucharest. 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 travelled frequently to Transylvania in connection with the promotion and safeguarding of Transylvania's rug legacy. In 2003 he launched the website www.transylvanianrugs.com. He contributed to Hali magazine and was invited to deliver papers at the Robert Pinner seminar 2005, at the Volkmann-Treffen meeting 2006 and at the academic session of ICOC 2007.

April, 2005, Rome: launch of the first editions of AORT (English and Italian) and opening of the exhibition *Anatolian rugs from Transylvania 16th-18th centuries* at the Romanian Academy in Rome.

October, 2006, Berlin: launch of the German and Romanian editions of AORT at the opening of the exhibition *Ottoman Rugs in Transylvania* at the Museum of Islamic Kunst.

April, 2007, Istanbul: launch of the second English edition during the opening of the exhibition of *Anatolian Rugs in Transylvanian Churches 1500-1750* at the Sakip Sabanci Museum in Istanbul (curators Dr. Nazan Ölçer and M. Franses).

September, 2007, Budapest: launch of the Hungarian edition dedicated to Ferenc Batári, the late director of the Oriental Textile Department in the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest.

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 and lives in Switzerland; 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 Valachia.

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It shows 300 Ottoman Rugs of the 15th-18th centuries in the Protestant Churches of Transylvania and the Museums of Romania, Hungary and Germany.

240 pages, size 24 x 34 cm

300 antique rugs published in colour and 25 antique rugs published in black/white

18 colour photos of Transylvanian churches exhibiting rugs

60 black/white photos and illustrations

Location map of the rugs in Transylvania

400 copies, printed in Italy - ISBN 88-7620-752-X