

HANDBOOK OF FAKES BY TUDUC (World's most famous rug forger)

Third edition, November 2011

Content of the book

Since the mid 20th century the authenticity of certain Anatolian and classical rugs in major museums and private collections has come into question. Some of these rugs had previously been legitimized by having been published as 'authentic' in books by carpet scholars. A few of these have now been identified as 'forgeries', and have been traced to the workshop of the Romanian master weaver, Teodor Tuduc.



Tuduc forgeries have fooled museum curators, auction experts, famous collectors such as J.F. Ballard, and even great carpet scholars as M.S. Dimand, Kurt Erdmann, Joseph V. McMullan, Ulrich Schürmann and many others.

European and American public collections harbouring these 'imposters' include the National Museum of Art, Bucharest; the Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu; the Art Museum, Brasov; the Museum for Islamic Art, Berlin; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto; The Nickle Arts Museum of Calgary and other still undiscovered; many other Tuducs are to be found in private collections.



Which of these two rugs is a fake?

Tuduc's skill as a master weaver and restorer, and his eventual enterprise in copying Anatolian, Caucasian and Persian rugs, mostly from the 16th and 17th centuries, permitted his '*kinder*' to pass unsuspected into major collections.

This book presents a large body of work attributable to the workshop of Tuduc together with authentic examples, which served as prototypes for Tuduc forgeries. The author has developed and presented a framework for identifying Tuducs, which involves examination of technical and stylistic characteristics of Tuduc's workmanship. This methodology is based on the study of the rug literature of the time, of the rugs in Transylvania and Hungary, of rugs restored by Tuduc and of authentic rugs sold by Tuduc to western collectors.

There is now an increased awareness of the issue of authenticity, as the reputation of Tuduc has grown, and as the creation of 'facsimiles' is becoming more commonplace. *Handbook of Fakes by Tuduc* will be of great value to collectors, museum specialists, auctioneers, carpet dealers, and appraisers, in providing information needed for verifying authenticity or for assigning fakes to the workshop of Tuduc. There is a general trend to use the term Tuduc for every fake on the market but in many cases there are no clues for such attribution.

Interestingly, Tuduc's 'forgeries', rather than being dismissed as the work of a charlatan, have become collectible in their own right, and although not valued on the same scale as the prototypes, they have increasing value as objects of historical interest.

Additional Contributions

The 10 years research leading to publication of this work relied on the assistance of museum curators, dealers, specialists, collectors, librarians, Tuduc's heirs and other persons who kindly provided information and images from many sources: museum and parish archives, auction catalogues, old publications and personal records.

The Book.

76 fakes by Tuduc published in colour and in black/white;
20 Anatolian, Caucasian and Persian rugs used as models by Tuduc, published in colour;
22 'whereabouts unknown' (Anatolian rugs which were recorded in Transylvania before WWII, and have since disappeared);

152 pages, size 21 x 39 cm;

50 copies, digital printing on cotton wove paper, hard cover;

Price: \$120 / 80 €

To order the book:

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