



View from the Fringe

Newsletter of the New England Rug Society



Vol. XVIII, No. 1 September 2010

www.ne-rugsociety.org

September Meeting: Austin Doyle on East Caucasian Rugs

Austin Doyle, a Washington, D.C. collector of Caucasian rugs, will kick off the NERS's 2010-2011 season with a talk on "Development of Design Elements in Rugs of the Eastern Caucasus." The meeting will be held on Friday evening, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. at First Parish in Lincoln.

The Eastern Caucasus has long been a corridor of migration between Europe and Asia, creating a rich cultural confluence of ethnic traditions in the area. At the end of the 19th century, East Caucasian weavers, particularly in the Kuba and Shirvan areas, produced huge numbers of rugs and carpets with stereotypical designs associated with particular towns and villages. Smaller numbers of older pieces from the area also exist. These earlier pieces provide a design link between the later production and earlier design influences such as indigenous village production, carpets from early area workshops, and even Azerbaijani embroideries and flat weaves. Austin will review the design development and characteristics of color and structure of East Caucasian rugs that predate the late 19th century.

Austin's interest in oriental rugs began innocently enough when he bought a house with wooden floors. After recovering from a nasty bout of auction fever, he fell under the spell of the show-and-tell programs at the Washington Textile Museum. Always interested in history and art, he gravitated towards the colors of Cau-

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October Meeting: Mae Festa on "My First 40 Years of Collecting"

On October 8, the NERS will be treated to a view of the collection and collecting habits of a familiar and long-standing member Mae Festa. The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the First Parish Church in Lincoln.

From time to time, some of Mae's wonderful objects have appeared in exhibitions, but the vast majority has never been seen or displayed outside her home. Wendel Swan persuaded Mae, a member of The Textile Museum's Advisory Council, to bring a selection of pieces from her collection to the Museum this year for a special presentation for the TM Rug and Textile Appre-

September/October Meeting Details

Date: Doyle: Friday, September 10

Festa: Friday, October 8

Time: 7:30PM

Place: First Parish, Bedford Road, Lincoln

Note: Non-members welcomed for \$10 fee

Directions:

From Rte. 95 (128) take the Trapelo Road West exit (#28B) in Waltham. Proceed west about 2.5 miles to a stop sign at the five-way intersection in Lincoln (there is a white planter in the middle of the intersection.) Go right on Bedford Road for 0.1 miles to Bemis Hall, a large brick building on your right. **The parish house is on your left.**

From Rte. 2 take Bedford Road, Lincoln Center exit (eastbound, turn right at light; westbound, go through light, turn right, and circle 270 degrees to cross Rte. 2 at the light.) Proceed 0.9 miles and you will see Bemis Hall, a large brick building on your left. **The parish house is on your right.**

Parking:

In back of the parish house plus along the street. It's OK to park in front of Bemis Hall **provided the building is dark and not in use.**

ciation Morning. Using images taken in her home along with the actual pieces, Wendel became Mae's voice, showing and describing the selected pieces. The audience, as well as Mae and her husband, Gene, enjoyed the morning.

The NERS leadership felt that celebrating Mae's long association with our group and re-creating that presentation would make for a very special meeting. This program with Mae and Wendel Swan will reprise that Textile Museum event. Every continent is represented

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September Meeting

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sian rugs, and became increasingly attracted to the more complex designs and tremendous technical skill of Shirvan and Kuba weavings. Austin avoids the glut of later commercial Caucasian rugs and looks for older and

more individual pieces that offer a glimpse into this fascinating weaving tradition. He will bring some examples from his collection and encourages NERS members to bring Caucasian pieces for show and tell.

October Meeting

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in Mae's collection, partly the result of her travels and living abroad and partly because of her professional work as an interior designer in a prominent architect's office. Many of her objects are relatively small and nearly all are technically superior. And, although Mae has collected more textiles than rugs and trappings, the ruggie purists among us should nevertheless enjoy seeing this collection.

In Mae's own words: "In my collecting, I became aware that the textile arts are a common thread of all cultures, both ancient and modern." For this occasion, it would be appropriate for members to share with Mae and the audience samples of the breadth and diversity of their own collections.

*Due to illness Wendel will be unable to attend.
His remarks will be delivered by Ann Nicholas.*

Right: Silk Tibetan ritual cloth, 18th Century



April Meeting: Thomas Farnham on “Classical Persian Carpets: the New England Connections” Reviewed by Jim Adelson

On April 16th, Tom Farnham spoke at ALMA about classical Persian carpets in New England and their history in the period of the late 19th and early 20th century. While the number of such carpets in New England is not great, the stories of these carpets and their owners reveal some of the important themes in collecting during this period of resurging popularity of oriental rugs.

Tom began by clarifying that the term “classical Persian carpets” refers to those rugs woven in the territory of modern-day Iran from the 15th through the 18th centuries. Such carpets first arrived in Europe during the Renaissance, and were considered the epitome of treasured goods. When they first came, Persian carpets went only to the wealthiest and most important collectors. Their expense greatly limited the numbers of both carpets and collectors.

Among rugs, Persian carpets stood at the top of the hierarchy. They held this position from the Renaissance through the late 18th century, but then carpets diminished in overall popularity, until a resurgence of interest and demand in the late 19th century. Tom gave an interesting explanation of the economic developments that underlay this return to popularity: at that time, American agriculture exploded, including the export of grains. This depressed the value of European agricultural products, and also the associated agricultural rents. It meant that wealthy families in Europe were in much worse shape, and wound up selling lots of their antiquities to the US, where the wealth was now concentrated. For example, Italy had been the largest importer of oriental carpets in the Renaissance, and became the largest ex-

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April Meeting

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porter in the late 19th century—even exceeding Turkey.

Carpets were perhaps less popular in New England than in some other areas of the US, such as New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Boston was not as big a city as New York and not as wealthy. Importantly, Boston had older wealth, and fewer of the nouveau riche striving to show off their wealth. There were anti-materialistic sentiments among some of Boston's wealthy, in contrast to the newer wealthy in other cities who engaged in fierce competition to demonstrate greatest wealth through greatest collections, including carpets.

Stefan Bardini was a leading antiquities dealer in Italy, and saw that he could make money in carpets. Bardini, along with other antiquities dealers, and art scholar and historian Wilhelm von Bode, convinced people that Persian classical carpets were the best.

Tom believes that the first Oriental Rug store in the United States opened in Boston in the 1870s. By the end of the 19th century or early into the 20th century there were carpet dealers in New England cities and towns. Dikran Kelekian was probably the pre-eminent carpet dealer in New York. In general, Armenians were the leading carpet dealers in the US, while in Europe more of the leading dealers were Sephardic Jews.

Tom then reviewed a number of the leading New England collectors in the early 20th century. Waldo Denman Ross was a wealthy man who bought thousands of items, even thousands of textiles and carpets. Ross spent \$7,500 in 1907 for a Polonaise carpet. He eventually donated much of his collection to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Charles O. Richardson bought a couple of Classical Persian carpets from a wealthy Swedish collector named Lam. Marsden Perry, an extremely wealthy collector in Providence, bought a classical carpet, now known as the Los Angeles Coronation Carpet, which he bought from the prominent dealer Duveen Brothers, and sold back to them after not too long, whence it went to J. Paul Getty.

Alice De Lamar grew up in wealth in NYC, served in the Women's Auxiliary in WW I, and then moved to Weston, CT. She sold all of her father's carpets, includ-

ing the Los Angeles Ardebil carpet, which went to Joseph Duveen, who sold it in the late 1930s to J. Paul Getty.

Tom mentioned a couple of other wealthy collectors with well-known names among American industrialists. Richard Crane came from Chicago to Ipswich. His sister, Elizabeth Crane Chadbourne, was really the carpet collector. She was a great benefactor of the Art Institute of Chicago. A couple of great classical carpets were sold to Joseph V. McMullan; he in turn also gave to the New York Metropolitan Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and Harvard's Fogg Art Museum. Abby Rockefeller, too, was a collector of classical carpets in New England. Abby also had a gorgeous, miniature throne cover.

Moving beyond the classical carpets themselves, Tom named a number of important figures in classical carpet studies who hail from New England: Arthur Upham Pope (“a lot of people didn’t like him, and think he was a crook; he may have been a crook, but he still did amazing things”), Arthur Dilley, and more recently Dan Walker and Walter Denny.

Tom concluded his prepared remarks paraphrasing Mark Twain “Boston knows, but New York has.” After his talk, Tom took a few questions from the assembled group. One attendee asked if the Persian Classical carpets in New England are displayed often, to which Tom responded that they were not. He went on to explain that many museums have a tough time with carpets, which are looked upon as a weird subspecialty, with few experts. They are very difficult to handle, and require many display restrictions, particularly related to light levels. Another attendee asked Tom what types of carpets New Englanders tended to collect in the late 19th and early 20th century, if Persian classical carpets were less popular or less available. Tom replied that New England preferences seemed to run to Turkish, Caucasian, and Bidjar carpets, with Turkmen interests blossoming a little later.

NERS thanks Tom Farnham for sharing his knowledge of the early collector activity in Persian classical carpets, and ALMA for hosting the presentation.



Co-Chair Report

Leadership transition

As you now know, co-chairs **Ann Nicholas** and **Julia Bailey** have taken on the administrative role of longtime president **Mark Hopkins**, who retired on July 1 after fifteen years of splendid NERS stewardship. In addition, the steering committee, so essential to keeping NERS going, has gained two new members. We welcome to our ranks **Jim Sampson**, who is now managing the society's membership tasks, and **Linda Hamilton**, who has taken over from **Janet Smith** the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Other steering committee members will continue doing what they have done so ably in years past: **Gillian Richardson** providing food (see the recipe for her much-loved orange cake in this issue); **Lloyd Kannenberg** overseeing beverages and AV equipment; **Yon Bard** editing and publishing our newsletter, *View from the Fringe*, to which **Jim Adelson**, **Jeff Spurr**, **Tom Hannaher**, **Ann**, and **Julia** are regular or occasional contributors; and **Bob Alimi** administering our website. We offer additional thanks to **Buzz** and **Louise Dohanian** for storing and transporting our projector screens.

Membership and finances

Over the past year, NERS finances have remained sound, although we have again experienced a drop in membership—down 10% to a total of 132 members (93 memberships). Whatever factors have contributed to this attrition, including the economic doldrums and a widespread declining interest in oriental rugs and textiles, especially among the young, NERS is still healthy and continues to be one of the largest and most active American rug societies. Although we can afford to be smaller, losing members does decrease our financial base, limiting our ability to bring in speakers from across the country and abroad. So we—the new co-chairs and the entire steering committee—need your help in spreading the word about NERS: tell your friends, bring interested guests to meetings, coax former members to rejoin, and voice your ideas about how to swell our numbers.

Meetings and speakers, 2009–10

The past season's meetings illustrate the liveliness, variety, and popularity of our speaker program. In September, at First Parish in Lincoln, **Wendel Swan**'s theo-

ries on rug aesthetics, “Color, Color, Color,” elicited spirited audience response. Istanbul-based **Bertram Frauenknecht** discussed Shahsavan history and weaving at the October meeting, which included a show-and-tell bursting with members' treasured jajims, khorjins, and mafrash panels.

Denver-based carpet-cleaning guru **Robert Mann**, our November speaker, told us about various means of ridding our rugs and other textiles of dirt, stains, and pests. In February, Milan dealer **Alberto Levi** introduced us to the startlingly modernist aesthetic of some rare utilitarian flatweaves from Iran. John Collins generously hosted both of these meetings at his Watertown carpet gallery.

In March, back in Lincoln, NERS's own **Jeff Spurr** made a convincing case for attributing a group of Central Asian susanis to the Lakai, a group better known among collectors for their striking rural embroideries. At our April meeting, hosted annually by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, historian **Tom Farnham** spoke on classical Persian carpets and their New England connections—the great rugs formerly or still here, the collectors and dealers who owned them, and the scholars who chose “knowing” over “having.” Concluding the season, the May picnic, again at beautiful Gore Place in Waltham, was graced by fine weather, a tempting “moth mart,” and a visually splendid show and tell.

Acknowledgments

Special acknowledgment is due to our Supporting and Patron members, whose “above and beyond” generosity helped maintain our financial health. Supporting Members for 2009–10 are **Mitch and Rosalie Rudnick**, **Gillian Richardson**, **Klaudia Shepard**, and **Peter Walker**. Patron Members, who support NERS at the highest level, are **Jim Adelson and Debbie Sheetz**, **Richard Belkin**, **Bruce Buckland**, **Louise and Armen (Buzz) Dohanian**, **Jeremy and Hanne Grantham**, **Michael and Nancy Grogan**, and **Lloyd and Susan Kannenberg**. Thank you all.

Geographic distribution

Our “New England” moniker and Boston-area base notwithstanding, NERS members continue to be geo-

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Co-Chair Report

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graphically far flung, as shown by the current tally of their whereabouts:

Eastern Massachusetts	103
Western Massachusetts	4
Connecticut	5
Rhode Island	3
New Hampshire	4
Vermont	3
Maine	4

New York	2
Indiana	1
California	3

In conclusion, we, the new co-chairs, extend to you—and all NERS members—our warm thanks for your support during the transitional season past. We hope that in the forthcoming months you'll continue to offer the encouragement and enthusiasm so necessary in keeping our society vital and rewarding.

Julia Bailey and Ann Nicholas

Ex-President's Report

Remembrances, Reflections and Ruminations of a Retired Ruggie

Relinquishing the NERS helm to those two super-capable leaders—Ann and Julia—has been the occasion for some luxurious reminiscing on my part. What a kick to remember back. What a great haul it's been!

It all started for me, I guess, around 1980 when I took a course in oriental rugs at the Boston Center for Adult Education. It was given by Steve Boodakian of the esteemed Winchester family dealership, and it taught me two things: that oriental rugs were absolutely fascinating, and that there was far more to learn than could possibly be conveyed in eight classroom sessions. What I still didn't know posted a challenge that would satiate my next 25 years

Simultaneously, to cement my future in rugdom, I bought my first rug: an absolutely ghastly (I was to realize later) Karaja runner emblazoned with garish synthetic colors. I was hooked.

A year later, sitting in a Boston dealer's shop as I was wont to do whenever possible, I watched a small lady I didn't know poking through the piles. After she left, the dealer confided: "That was Rosalie Rudnick; she looks and looks but she doesn't buy a damn thing." Little did we both know.

From my ensuing friendship with Rosalie and her husband Mitch came an invitation to attend meetings of her new organization, the New Boston Rug Society, which consisted of several enthusiastic ladies (among them current NERS members Judy Smith and Kate Van Sciver), Mitch, and me. The society was on its way.

Meetings were held mostly at the Rudnicks' house in Lincoln as the society grew, although I do have a poi-

gnant memory of a meeting at my house where we showed a 16mm film of the wonderful Bakhtiari documentary *Grass*. Our rented projector had too-small a takeup reel and two of us had to spend the entire show tenderly manipulating the outflow to keep the film from ending up in a giant tangled mess.

It was at one of those show-and-tell meetings that I learned the hard way about the vital value of rug world tact. An earnest young newcomer showed up with a brand-new South Persian cargo bag, proudly announcing that the dealer assured him it was 80 years old. Relishing the spotlight, I suggested he'd best eliminate the zero and, while at it, consider dropping the eight too. He never came back.

At another meeting, a new member named Jeff Spurr delivered a very sophisticated talk on design origins. Halfway through the lecture an Iranian dealer, attending for the first time, rose from his seat and stomped out muttering insults, making quite clear the extent of his boredom. The next day Jeff phoned me and said: "I don't believe this. The chap just sent me a bouquet of flowers. What am I supposed to do?" "Eat them," I replied. We've been friends ever since.

Rosalie was the driving force in building the society during its first years. She mailed meeting announcements composed on her IBM Selectric typewriter, her notices having occasional sentences running off the right edge of the paper because, having mastered the art of setting a left margin, she never managed to extend that skill to controlling the right one. Silly details aside, it

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Ex-President's Report

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was her energy and doggedness that put the society on the rug world map.

She was not, however, inclined to hide her concern over the unwillingness of other members to pitch in and help. In sympathy with that, at a meeting held at Michael Grogan's former Boston gallery, I took the liberty of standing up and bellowing, "This lady needs help, and unless we see a show of hands from those willing to lend a hand, this society is in trouble." Half a dozen hands promptly shot up, including mine, and that was the beginning of the Steering Committee that has been the guiding force of the society ever since.

Those were the days of borrowed equipment and not-infrequent major crises. One speaker, Virginia rug dealer Saul Barodofsky, showed up for his talk with no slides because the airline lost his luggage; luckily his ad-libbing skills were substantial. The next year the noted German collector Heinrich Kirchheim flew in from Europe with glass-mounted slides that, we discovered to our horror at the last minute, wouldn't fit into our projector's carousel. Julia Bailey spent the entire talk

gingerly maneuvering each slide in and out with a butterknife.

Without painstaking care, it's the audiovisual function that can often be the downfall of successful meetings. When Robert Pinner, the esteemed co-founder of Hali magazine and the ICOC conferences, flew in from London to speak to us on Anatolian rugs, I called his good friend Wendel Swan and asked, "What do I need to know about Robert?" "Two things," Wendel said. "Feed him at least two pounds of protein before the meeting, and make absolutely sure you have him run through his slides." It was a good thing. After a dinner at which Robert devoured three monstrous lamb chops bedded on mounds of mashed potatoes, we fired up the projector and discovered that half his slides were upside down and half of the rest were in backwards. The talk was a great success, though, despite Robert's affinity for wandering directly in front of the projector when he talked, leaving a looming Alfred Hitchcock silhouette where the slide should have been.

Mark

(to be continued in next issue)

The Hopkins "Picnic Afshar"

The Steering Committee agreed—Mark Hopkins deserved a special gift to honor his exceptional tenure as NERS president, ACOR conference organizer, catalogue author, and tireless promoter of carpet enthusiasm and knowledge. But what could that possibly be? A case of wine, which he'd probably just recycle to guests at his legendary gatherings, seemed far too generic. Jeff Spurr suggested a special craft beer instead, but nobody could remember Mark ever touching such brew. A rug—now *that* would fill the bill.

Trouble was, Mark had divested himself of his carpet collection, so there was no question of adding to it. Still, his floors bore witness to his former passion—he had mercifully not deaccessioned the beautiful Heriz and Turkish carpets underfoot. One small space, in the hall at the foot of the stairs, had no such floor covering. At the May picnic, among Wayne Barron's many offerings in the "moth market," Mark himself spotted a candidate: a little Afshar, which he took home on approval.

When in June the Steering Committee met for the

last time at Mark's house, members gathered around this potential new acquisition and discussed it. One of us commented that the ladder-like plants in the field had a certain Baluch-esque quality, a reminder of Mark's former trove of actual Baluch pieces. After the meeting, e-mails flew—could we give Mark something he had already picked out for himself? Yes, we decided, this would be a gift guaranteed to please. We enlisted Mark's

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Afshar on the grass at the NERS annual picnic
Photo by Jim Sampson



The Hopkins “Picnic Afshar”

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spouse, Margie, in the plot; she'd intercept any check he might send off in payment. We called Wayne, consummated the deal, and mailed our own check. No delivery necessary—the gift was already in place.

In what Mark thought was simply a lunch at the MFA with Textile Department staff, committee repre-

sentatives Julia and Jeff staged the ceremonial presentation of a card containing everyone's best wishes and a photo of the rug (reproduced here). We hope that Mark's “picnic Afshar” will be a happy reminder of how much the Steering Committee appreciates what he has done for NERS, and for the rug world at large.

Ronald Newburgh (1926-2010)

One of NERS's long-standing members, Ronald Newburgh, died in March. We will miss Ronald's insightful questions, sense of humor, and ready smile at our meetings. A graduate of Harvard, Ronald received his doctorate from MIT in physics. Among his achievements was a process that aids the Sidewinder Missile in finding its target, and that is still classified as secret by the Department of Defense. After retiring in 1987, Ronald taught physics for more than twenty years at local private high schools and the Harvard Extension School. He was proud to be named a Physics Teaching Resource Agent by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

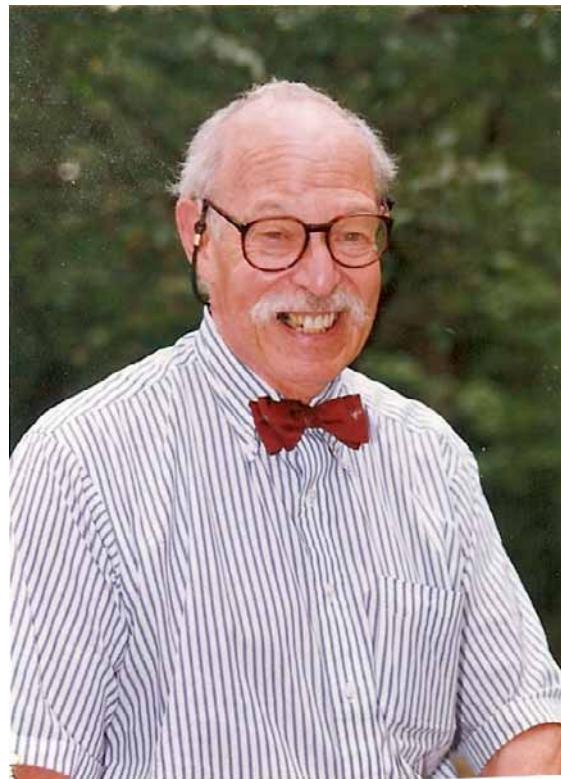
His interest in oriental rugs began when he met his wife, Selma, who was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. “When we met, I already had a small collection of Turkish carpets and kilims,” Selma remembered. “From the moment he first saw my weavings, he became intrigued with them. Together we added to the collection and later, as our knowledge and experience with Turkish carpets increased, we also upgraded it.”

“Ronald preferred the smaller village rugs as opposed to the more formal court carpets. Since the Turks originated as Central Asiatic nomadic peoples, he thought these smaller rugs were probably more authentic representations of their original art and culture,” Selma recalled. “He enjoyed many things about these pieces, the colors of the natural dyes, their designs and composition, and the quality of the weaving and wool. He looked for these characteristics in buying a piece, whether it was a rug, kilim, yastik, chuval, or one of the less common weavings, such as a doorway decoration, sofa furnishing, or a carrying bag.”

As many members recall from his insightful questions at meetings, Ron had an inquisitive mind. “He was

interested in many things Turkish, their history, language, and archeology, the ceramics, numismatics, cuisine, and much, much more,” Selma reminisced. “We visited Istanbul frequently and toured extensively in Turkey during the forty years we were married. He made many good and lasting friendships there including one with the Istanbul rug dealer Suat Capas. Suat's knowledge and expertise enabled Ronald to acquire many older carpets in America and have them expertly restored in Istanbul.”

We extend our sympathy to Selma, herself an NERS member. Members are invited to a memorial service for Ronald to be held at 2:30 p.m. on October 1 at Harvard's Memorial Chapel, followed by a reception at the Harvard Faculty Club.





May Meeting: Picnic, Show & Tell, and Moth Market

On May 16 we gathered on the grounds of the Gore Place estate in Waltham. The weather cooperated, and, as usual, we enjoyed a wide variety of textiles—both for sale at the moth market and on display at the show & tell. A random selection of the latter pieces is presented below and on the next page.



Top to bottom, left:
Mystery piece
Chodor main carpet fragment
Central Anatolian band (detail)
Right:
Mystery piece
Silk and velvet log-cabin quilt



View from the Fringe

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May Meeting: Picnic, Show & Tell, and Moth Market



Top:
North-west Anatolian carpet;
Afshar bag;
South-East Asian (?) architectural embroidery

Middle:
Tekke mafrash;
Pashtun woman's head-cloth

Bottom:
Hazara embroidered shirt;
Kirgiz embroidery



Gillian Richardson and Her Orange Cake By Ann Nicholas

For several years now Gillian has been bringing the food to our meetings, including baking her special orange cake. Sometimes I help Gillian set up the refreshment table which often gets me first dibs at a piece of her toothsome lemon orange drizzle cake.

Gillian, as her lovely accent indicates, was born in England and grew up near Hampstead Heath, living close to her grandfather, Owen Richardson, who was the 1928 Physics Nobel Laureate. After university she began working with her stepfather in his computer business. “In the 1950s computers were very different—they had a very small memory,” she explained. “Data was organized using punched cards, paper tapes, sorting machines, and tabulators.”

One day she answered a Princeton University ad for a computress (a woman who could use computers—non-sexist language was unheard of then!!). She got the job and came to America. Later she moved to Boston, working at a number of temporary assignments in computers before she took a job with Harvard. “I worked for many different companies as a temp. One afternoon I looked at the tall buildings in the Boston skyline and realized I had worked in every one.”

Her apartment is full of memories of England—a Victorian oil painting of Hampstead Heath, another painting of her great great grandmother in the 1820s, Staffordshire china animals, and her extensive collection of English political cartoons from the early 19th century. Since I am not versed in early 19th century English political history, she explained many of them to me. Some cartoons used the heads of foxes, pigs, or other animals to characterize people—they seemed much more wicked in intent than the ones today.

Scattered around her house is a small, charming collection of oriental rugs and textiles. She fondly recalled her introduction to oriental rugs by Husney Mahfuz, a former Boston rug dealer who had a shop near Copley Square. She spent many Saturday afternoons there looking at rugs. (Husney is the grandfather of NERS member Arthur Mahfuz. When Arthur was a teenager, he often helped in the shop on Saturdays—he recalls Gillian’s favorite rugs were in the Caucasian pile!)

Several NERS members asked me to get her recipe for the Orange Cake. Gillian lent me her original copy of the recipe to adapt. It came from her sister, Julia, a physician in England, and is inscribed “With love, Julia.” I think it is the same with Gillian; she brings the cake to our meetings with her love.

Lemon Orange Drizzle Cake: Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Butter and flour a 9 inch cake pan.

Prepare the zest: grate the rinds of one large orange and one lemon, set aside.

Squeeze the juice from the lemon and orange, mix together, and add to the zest.

1 stick soft butter
½ Cup white sugar
1 cup flour
1 Tablespoon baking powder
4 oz (about a ½ cup) ground almonds
3 eggs

Put all the ingredients in a bowl with half of the juice/zest mixture.

Beat the mixture for about 40 seconds, not too long, or it toughens the cake.

Bake in the prepared cake pan for 20 minutes until it is done.

Meanwhile, stir ½ Cup white sugar into the remaining juice/zest mixture.

As soon as the cake comes out of the oven, pour this mixture over the top of the cake and let cool for several hours.



Gillian with her great great grandmother's portrait



Upcoming Rug Events

Future NERS 2010/11 Meetings:

Nov. 5: Stefano Ionescu on *Tuduc fakes in European and American collections*

Feb. 4: John Gillow on *Antique Indian Textiles*

Mar 11: Richard Laursen on *Analysis of dyes in historical textiles: a consideration of some 19th century Uzbek suzanis*

Apr ?: Susan Lind-Sinanian on *Caspar Pilobosian's collection of Caucasian rugs* (ALMA, Watertown)

May 14: Picnic and Show & Tell (Gore Place, Waltham).

Auctions (major carpet sales in bold):

Nagel, Stuttgart, 9/7

Rippon Boswell, Wiesbaden, **9/25**

Christie's, London, **10/7**

Skinner, Boston, **10/23**

Grogan, Dedham, 10/24

Sotheby's, New York, **12/10.**

Exhibitions and Fairs:

Carpets on view at the MFA: The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is now exhibiting four important classical carpets from the Caucasus. Bold "dragon" and "sun-

"burst" rugs (so called because of s-shaped creatures or radiating floral elements in their fields) are from MFA holdings. Two other carpets have been borrowed from a private collection. One is a handsome lattice-design rug featuring palmettes embraced by sickle-shaped leaves. The other is the noted "Gohar" carpet, which takes its name from an inscription stating that its weaver, Gohar, made the rug for her church in the Armenian year 1149 (1699-1700 AD). Displayed in the upper colonnade area of the museum, all four carpets will be on view through April 2011.

Rug and textile fair: Sponsored by the Antique Rug and Textile Art Association (ARTAA); San Francisco, Capri Motel, 2015 Greenwich Street, SF, 10/11-17. There will be an exhibition of Chinese pile squares co-sponsored by SFBARS. Other events will include lectures and free, verbal appraisals. For more information visit www.artaa.org, or contact Nick Wright at wrightnh@adelphia.net.

Small weavings of south Persian nomads: On-line exhibition on the NERS website, consisting of the pieces from the Ann Nicholas & Rich Blumenthal collection shown at ACOR 8, Boston, 2006. Go to www.ne-rugsociety.org and click on *Gallery*.

Newsletter contributors and helpers: Yon Bard (editor), Jim Adelson, Julia Bailey, Dora Bard, Linda Hamilton, Jim Sampson, Mark Hopkins, Ann Nicholas.

Comments/contributions/for sale ads to: Yonathan Bard, e-mail doryon@rcn.com

The New England Rug Society is an informal, non-profit organization of people interested in enriching their knowledge and appreciation of antique oriental rugs and textiles. Its meetings are held six to eight times a year. Annual membership dues are: Single \$45, Couple \$65, Supporting \$90, Patron \$120, Student \$25. Membership information or renewal forms can be obtained on our website www.ne-rugsociety.org, or by writing to **New England Rug Society, P.O. Box 290393, Charlestown, MA 02129**, calling Jim Sampson at 508-429-5512, or emailing him at jahome22@gmail.com.

NERS 2010/11 Steering Committee:

Jim Adelson
Robert Alimi
Julia Bailey (co-chair)
Yonathan Bard
Linda Hamilton
Tom Hannaher
Mark Hopkins
Lloyd Kannenberg
Ann Nicholas (co-chair)
Gillian Richardson
Jim Sampson
Jeff Spurr



NERS Grants

At the end of the past season, NERS awarded sizeable one-time grants to two worthy area institutions, both of which house carpet collections and foster rug research and appreciation.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, known for its holdings of classical carpets and fragments, has recently shown interest in acquiring a broader range of rugs and related textiles, including village and tribal examples. To encourage this expanded collecting mission, NERS gave the Department of Textile and Fashion Arts, which has charge of the MFA carpet collection, a grant of \$2000. In response, department chair Pamela Parmal wrote the following acknowledgment: "Please extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone in the New England Rug Soci-

ety for your generosity and support of the MFA. We will keep our eyes open for something appropriate to add to the Museum's collection and will try to do the rug society proud."

NERS awarded \$1000 to the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), in Watertown. This grant will be used during the fall semester of 2010 to enroll two interns, who will help process and register a recently acquired collection of over 150 rugs and prepare a selection of them for exhibition in spring 2011. According to ALMA Executive Director Mariam Stepanyan, "We deeply appreciate our ongoing relationship and collaboration with NERS and its members and look forward to future projects together."

If you haven't done so already, please renew your NERS membership now!
You can do so on-line using a credit card:
Log into www.ne-rugsociety.org/NERS-paypal.htm
and follow directions.

New England Rug Society

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