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Welcome, [Filiberto Boncompagni](#).
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MET Carpet Fragment

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February 14th, 2013,
11:27 PM

#1

[George Potter](#)

Members

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 7

MET Carpet Fragment

Dear all,

I was surfing through the Metropolitan Museum of Art's webpage the other day, trying to find something interesting when I stumbled across a carpet fragment with accession number: 1978.546.54. What intrigued me about this fragment was that it took me a while to figure out where on a rug it might have come from (I am a bit thick at times) and the supposed date to the 14th–15th centuries. I tried to find an email address that could be used to ask what dating method was used but found none. The description of the rug is as followed:

Quote:

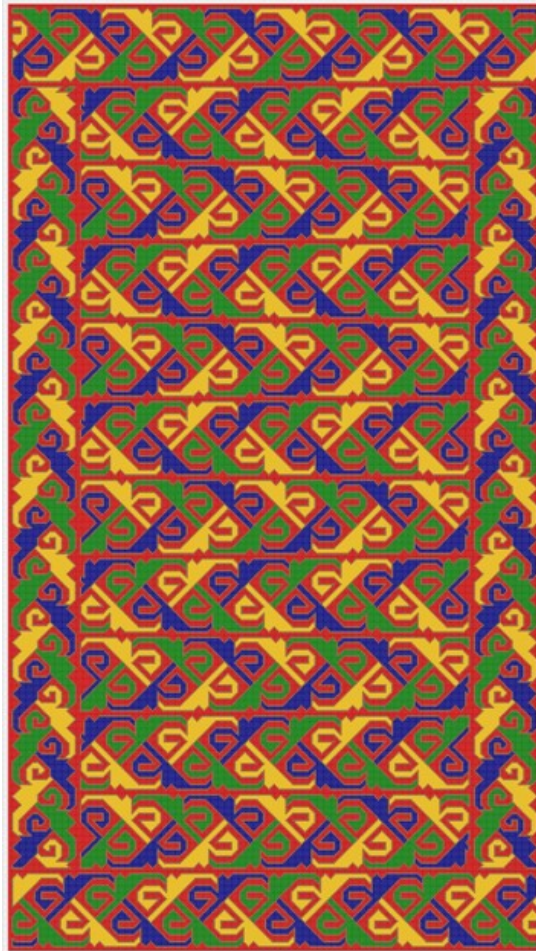
This carpet fragment dates to the early period of Ottoman rule in Turkey. Its design consists of rows of hooked motifs and stylized leaves in dark blue, green, and yellow on a red ground. The interlocking hooked motifs (probably stylized vines), in particular, connect it to later carpets from western Anatolia.

My questions to you are, what later carpets from western Anatolia does it relate to? And does anyone know more about this fragment?

The fragment:



A possible reconstruction of the rug:



Link to the fragment at the MET:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/Collections/search-the-collections/140010318>

Best,

George



February 15th, 2013,
09:16 PM

#2

[Pierre Galafassi](#)

Members

Join Date: Oct 2009
Posts: 67



Hi George

Puzzling fragment. I haven't seen any extant rug with this kind of pattern or even anything close. 🤔

With a lot of positive thinking, one could perhaps see a very vague analogy with the borders of the two (younger) rugs below.



Bergama, seventeenth century.



Anatolia, sixteenth or seventeenth century, F. Spuhler, *Die Orientteppiche im Museum für islamische Kunst, Berlin*.

Or with the field of some (older) Seldjuk rugs, albeit with a fully different palette.

Best regards
Pierre



February 16th, 2013,
06:10 PM

#3

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)
Administrator

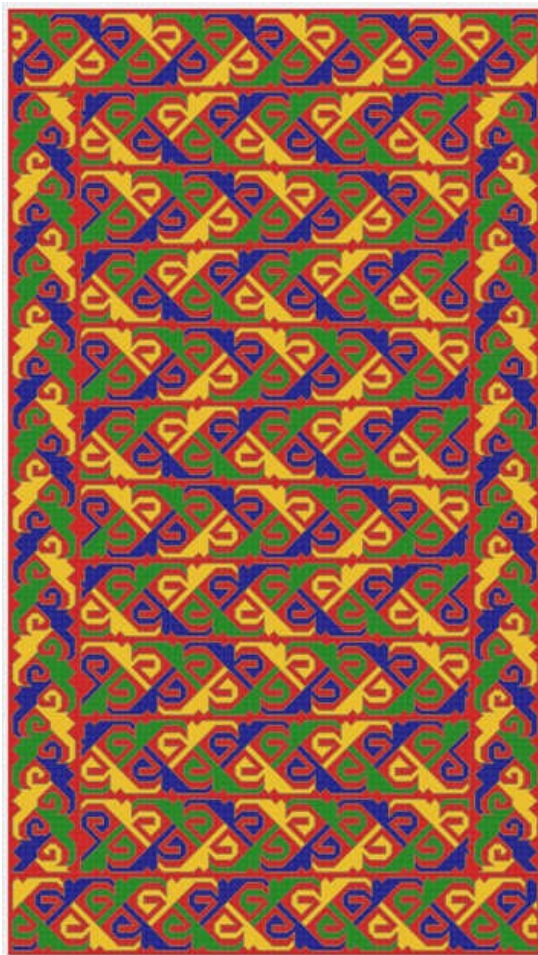
Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Hi George,

Thank you very much!

Pierre, what about the border of this Shirvan?



The border is generally called "eagle's head" or "eagle's beak" and it's a classical Caucasian border.

Regards,

Filiberto



[George Potter](#)

Members

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 7



Pierre,

I agree with you it is hard to place this fragment to anything extant. The second example in your post shows a rug that probably has a border like the centre. Rugs with a main border through-out are quite common, but the ones I have seen have the border in the field horizontally.

Filiberto,

Spot on. The border of the Shirvan would probably have derived from something like the border of the fragment, very interesting.

I do not know if it is a European thing expecting curators to be accessible, but I am unable to reach any curator through email at the MET to ask if the fragment is C14 dated or dated from archaeology or if it is dated because the elements in the fragment are enclosed with brown so common in early rugs from Anatolia.

/ George



February 17th, 2013,
02:45 PM

#5

[Pierre Galafassi](#)

Members

Join Date: Oct 2009
Posts: 67



Hi Filiberto,

Indeed, that's it! 🙌😊🙌
Is this design specific for the Shirvan area?
Best
Pierre



February 17th, 2013,
03:50 PM

#6

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Hi Pierre,

The "eagle's beak" border is not exactly the same motif of the MET fragment (notice the "beaks" are bent outward). In "Tribal & Village Rugs" Stone put it in the Shirvan section but I think I saw it on rugs of other areas of Caucasus. Perhaps it's more prevalent in Shirvan.
Similar versions are also used in Persia. See the following scan from Stone's book.

Shirvan Borders

C-99 Compound Border. Although motif C-99 has been described as a stylized eagle's head or beak, it may very well derive from the split leaf border. Motif P-57 is the split leaf border common in southwest Persian rugs and Luri rugs in particular. Motif P-87 is a doubling of motif P-57 and used as a field repeat in a Varâmin rug. Motif C-99 is probably a compounding of motif P-87. The last border is a more rectilinear version of motif C-99.



Motif P-57
Split Leaf



Motif P-87
Varâmin



Motif C-99
Compound



Rectilinear

REFERENCES:

Bennett, Ian, *Oriental Rugs, Vol. 1, Caucasian*, p. 209

Eskenazi, John J., *Il Tappeto Orientale*, p. 218

Gans-Ruedin, E., *Caucasian Carpets*, pp. 199, 204, 219

Stone, Peter F., *The Oriental Rug Lexicon*, p. 105.

Regards,

Filiberto



February 17th, 2013,
04:05 PM

#7

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



About the "beaks" direction: I am looking at the plate of a Kuba rug with beaks bent inward, like in the fragment. But I have put away the scanner so you have to trust my word for it. 🌍
Regards,
Filiberto



February 17th, 2013,
04:09 PM

#8

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Silly of me! Also "Motif C-99" has the inward beaks!



February 18th, 2013,
11:56 AM

#9

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Hi George,

There is another image in Stone's book that I have overlooked. "Varamin rug" page 224



Obviously a design, not a photo. For that, ask Mr. Stone. 😊

Regards,

Filiberto



February 18th, 2013,
02:14 PM

#10

[Filiberto](#)
[Boncompagni](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



P.S. - Stone adds some references to his plate P-87, the one that portrays the field of the above rug:

Christie's *East Oriental Rugs and Carpets*, June 1981, pl. 124
Craycraft, Michael, *Oriental Rug Review*, vol. 9, no. 6, p. 15 Stone Collection
Tanavoli, Parviz, *Hali*, no. 106, p. 93

Regards,
Filiberto



February 18th, 2013,
05:25 PM

#11

[Pierre Galafassi](#)
Members



Hi George and Filiberto,

The fragment below, given as Anatolian, XV century, could be seen as a parent of the MET fragment and Stones' rug: a field fully covered with a unique small motif, which could be inspired by a beast (dragon ?) too.



Anatolia. 15th century. Turkish handwoven Carpets. Vol. 1

best regards
Pierre



February 19th, 2013,
09:26 PM

#12

[George Potter](#)

Members

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 7



Pierre:

Hmm..., please elaborate because you lost me.

To me the design in the fragment seems to derive more from a floral origin, if not I would put my bet on birds.

It is also difficult to determine the date of the MET fragment and the Anatolian fragment, both in time and design.

Filiberto:

Thank you for the Stone reference. I have the same book but completely missed the design. Interesting that the design is horizontal in the field and not vertical, the vertical is more common. Can the Veramin attribution of your sample be challenged? Looking through my literature (which is scant) the design of the fragment, through your guidance, seems firmly based in Caucasia. If this could be affirmed by research (guesstimation), and the MET fragment is C14 dated, it would be the oldest affirmed weaving from Caucasia and could also question many Anatolian affirmed attributions.

Am I am aiming too high?

/ George



February 19th, 2013,
11:11 PM

#13


[Pierre Galafassi](#)

Members

Join Date: Oct 2009
Posts: 67



Quote:

Originally Posted by **George Potter** 
Pierre:
Hmm..., please elaborate because you lost me.
To me the design in the fragment seems to derive more from a floral origin, if not I would put my bet on birds.
/ George

Oh, never mind George, I tend to see dragons everywhere lately 😊
Pierre



February 20th, 2013,
09:11 AM

#14

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Quote:

Can the Veramin attribution of your sample be challenged?

I have no idea. That's why I copied in my last post Stone's references to the rug: I was hoping that someone with access to them would come and enlighten us.

About the possible Caucasian origin of the fragment, that's the classical one million dollars question, isn't it? 😞

Thank you again for bringing the MET fragment up!

Regards,

Filiberto

Last edited by Filiberto Boncompagni2; February 20th, 2013 at 12:10 PM.



March 1st, 2013, 11:46
AM

#15

[George Potter](#)

Members

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 7



Noticed that fig. 61 of the Salon has the same border. B. Martorell, 1437-1442, St. Peter's altar, Girona. Spain.

/ George



March 1st, 2013, 12:08 PM

#16

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Hi George,

The image has a very low resolution, but I think you are right!



Regards,

Filiberto



March 2nd, 2013, 05:05 PM

[Pierre Galafassi](#)
Members

Join Date: Oct 2009
Posts: 67



March 3rd, 2013,



#17



Indeed, it could be identical.
I'll try to find a better view of Martorell's painting.
Pierre



#18

01:28 PM

[George Potter](#)
Members

Join Date: Nov 2009
Posts: 7

Pierre, found one:



/ George



March 4th, 2013, 01:16 PM

#19

[Pierre Galafassi](#)
Members

Join Date: Oct 2009
Posts: 67



Bravo, George!
That leaves the origin of this motif (or at least the place where this rug was woven), wide open:
Anatolia ?, Caucasus ? (At the date of the painting the Black Sea was still easily accessible to Venetian / Genoan ships and Caucasian rugs could easily have been imported from there, via Trebizond or Tana) or Spain / Aragon (given the nationality of the painter and the claim by experts that Mudejar weavers frequently opted for yellow field backgrounds). 🤔

Best regards
Pierre



March 4th, 2013, 03:48 PM

#20

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 100



Hi Pierre,

The strange thing is that MET's web page says *The interlocking hooked motifs (probably stylized vines), in particular, connect it to later carpets from western Anatolia.* I checked my copy of Uwe Jordan's book "Turchi" and your database that has more than 500 examples of Turkish carpets: I didn't find a single example of this motif.

And Stone mentions only Caucasus and Persia in relation to it.

So, I had also a look at the Persian database. There I was luckier, I found this Afshar (Persian.Afshar.13.X IX.149X124.N314.jpg)



out of around 390 image. Here the motif is in the field.

Regards,

Filiberto



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2. Geometric Rugs in Early Renaissance Paintings Go

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