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**Bag Your Pardon, bumper-bottom-bags**

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#### Virtual Show and Tell Just what the title says it is.

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April 1st, 2020, 12:39 AM

#1

**Joel Greifinger**  
Administrator

**Bag Your Pardon, bumper-bottom-bags**

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 59

Dinie,

Do you have images of complete Kurdish bags where the pile 'skirt' is folded (or clearly was, if the bag has been opened up)?

Joel

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April 1st, 2020, 03:44 AM

#2

**Dinie Gootjes**  
Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16

Joel, here are a couple. They are all of the Jaff type, as I have by far the most pictures of those. There are more, but I have chosen a few clear instances of a folded over skirt.









To keep myself honest 😊, I will also show the one where it looks like the weaver wanted to show off the elem. The exception that proves the rule?





April 1st, 2020, 04:41 AM

#3

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 104



Joel, Dinie,

This one, from page 1 of this thread, also folds at the pile:



Regards  
Chuck



April 1st, 2020, 04:53 AM

#4

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16



Chuck, right, we overlooked that one. I have a few more, complete bags as well as clear folds like your example.



April 1st, 2020, 05:48 AM

#5

**Joel Greifinger**  
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 59



Interesting that many of these have brocade designs on the backs.

Here's another:



Joel



April 1st, 2020, 06:11 AM

#6

**Dinie Gootjes**  
Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16



You mean that you get the impression that brocaded backs and skirts/elems often go together?



April 1st, 2020, 04:18 PM

#7

**Joel Greifinger**  
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 59



Quote:

You mean that you get the impression that brocaded backs and skirts/elems often go together?

Particularly where it is evident that the skirt/elem was intended to be folded. Although, apparently not always.

Do you think that the pile elems common on many Kurdish bag faces were *generally* intended to be folded (rather than displaying the whole elem) when the sides were sewn?



Joel



April 1st, 2020, 06:57 PM

#8

[Chuck Wagner](#)  
Members





Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 104

HI all,

It's been noted earlier that the Bakhtiari and Bakhtiari-Lor often pile the fold of their utility bags, many of which are derived from the Veramin region or further northwest where they have probably been in frequent contact with Kurdish weavers for centuries.

Thus no surprise that two adjacent or overlapping groups may trade ideas.

As for practicality, I suppose it could be driven by an observation that the pile provides a layer of armor over the groundcloth and may be a result of the intent to reduce damage from wear on the bags.

Two examples (an intact khorjin, and a utility bag), followed by a followup from an earlier comment from Steve for the novitiates regarding chuvals having backs.

Regards  
Chuck





And the Turkmen items:

An image of a chugal used for storage in an Alieli tent, taken by Jorg Pfeiffer, with the brocaded upper back in clear view.

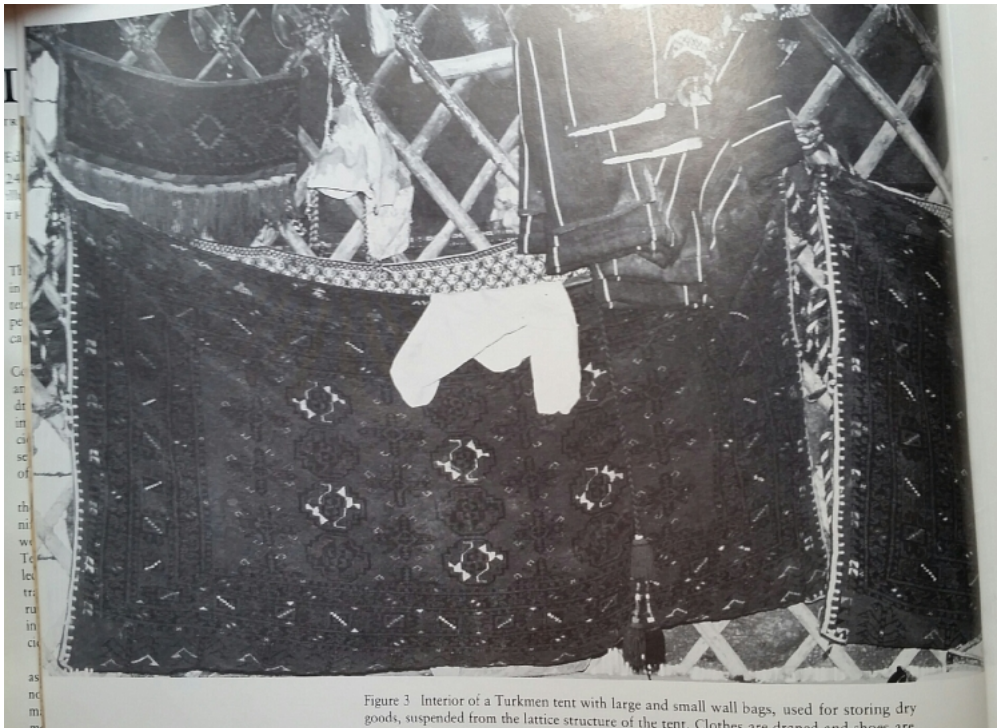


Figure 3 Interior of a Turkmen tent with large and small wall bags, used for storing dry goods, suspended from the lattice structure of the tent. Clothes are draped and shoes are



April 1st, 2020, 10:34 PM

#9

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16



Joel, OK, I counted. 🙄

I have pictures of 500+ Jaff type bags and bag faces. Results for your question about the combination of skirt and brocade work:

- In 31 cases there was a combination of skirt and brocade designs on the back.
- Four cases of skirt without brocade. The problem here is that there also were instances where only a short length of the back was preserved. Even if there were no traces of brocade work, it might very well have been present in the absent part of the back. Those cases I did not count in any of the two groups of course.
- Lots of examples of brocade work without skirts.

In general skirt and brocade seem to occur together quite often, but because of the cut-off backs, it is impossible to be sure of comparative numbers.

As to whether in general piled skirts were meant to be folded back, completely or in half:

- 16 cases where the skirt was clearly folded, mostly with complete, sewn up bags, and a few cases where the fold lines were very obvious. There was also a good number of cases where there seemed to be some indication of folding, but not enough to be certain. I would count your (great) bag in frame 141 among those.
- 4 1/2 bags with elems on the front. The 1/2 is for a complete bag where only one of the two skirts was completely at the front.

So I think we can say that in general piled skirts (in Jaff type Kurdish bags) were meant to be partially or completely folded back.

Now I don't so much rest my case, I rest myself. And I think I deserve my favourite smiley: 😊



April 1st, 2020, 11:45 PM

#10

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 59



Dinie,



Joel

And not only Jaf Kurds:





© rugrabbit



April 2nd, 2020, 02:57 AM

#11 [Rich Larkin](#)

Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 178

Wow! This act by Dinie is hard to follow! Some nice Kurdish rugs in this thread. The uncrowned weaving champs of the world.

I know the issue of whether Jaff bags typically used closures has been pretty much resolved here, but I thought I would help the documentation with these images of a single large bag set joined at the middle. Note that a single row of closure loops was designed to close both bags in one "zip". My notes say it measures 41 inches X 64 inches lying flat. Cannot re-measure, as it resides with one of my sons across the continent.



1. 41" x 64" overall

Following is one side and the back of it.





And the corresponding other half.





For what it is worth, as we can see, each bag has a familiar little elem consisting of a tight checkerboard with a dot of color in each square. On these bags, the fold runs along the joint where each such elem meets the border of the bag, and the entire elem is at the back. I should mention, having seen and handled a great many Jaff bags over the years, that I have never handled any as heavy and shaggy as this pair. Whoever actually wove the *Jaffs*, I have always considered this set to have come from a different venue from my other Jaffs, or at least from some distinctive source within the weaving area.

Rich



April 2nd, 2020, 04:11 AM

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16



April 2nd, 2020, 05:27 PM

[Rich Larkin](#)

Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 178



#12

Rich, funny thing is that your pair is in many details the same as my 3D bag face in frame 122. Set up of field, borders, colour scheme. Too much to be accidental, I would think. But mine has no heaviness or shagginess. Difference in availability of materials etc., more than a distinctive source?



#13

Hi Dinie,

I noticed that, and I would say I have seen other Jaff bags that had similar layouts in terms of the palette and the distribution of the color in that way. You are the Queen of Jaffs! Do you agree? I have assumed there was some paradigm for that accounting for the design approach. Maybe I have just looked at my own (formerly,...West Coast...👉....) too many times. And yours, now and then!

One thing for sure, the texture and approach to weaving between yours at #122 and this double bag vary greatly. I think I have a good sense of the feel of your piece. Mine reminds me more of coarse South Persian weavings, but even coarser. Very long and shaggy pile. You could tie up an ocean liner with those closure loops. Etc. Very robust. One possibility could be that the double bag was *intended* for extra hard duty, and they wove to that specification accordingly. It would be interesting to know if that was the case.

About the Jaffs as an ethnic group, I have looked them up in the past and forgotten just about everything I read. In any case, it seems unlikely to me in the face of so many different types of "Jaffs" out there that they can all be neatly attributed to one discrete group of people. Are you aware of literature that attempts to assign different classes of the weavings to sub-sections of the Jaff nation?

Kudos to you for your posts here, and kudos to Joel for that triple play above! Have we seen that trick before on



this site? 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

Rich

P. S.: Just for the record, I have just seen a detail photo of the edge of the elem next to the flatwoven back, such that one can see the knot and pile clearly. Even though that edge pile is slightly beveled off, it is clear I have exaggerated the length of the pile based on faulty memory. The pair is as heavy and rugged as I remember, but density and scale of foundation material are bigger factors than extreme length of pile. BTW, I also meant to say above that if this weaving were just a rug, it would not quite lie flat.

Last edited by Rich Larkin; April 2nd, 2020 at 05:43 PM.



April 2nd, 2020, 09:34 PM

#14

[Patrick Weiler](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 68

**Bag Your Pardon, bumper-bottom-bags**

Here is a soumak Bakhtiari bag which has a pile elem at the bottom that folds under to the back and was presumably designed to act as a bumper to limit damage to the area which makes contact with the ground. If I can figure out how to migrate the numerous other related posts from the Threadbare thread, I will bring them here to become a separate thread. I mean really, people, putting perfectly good bags on a thread about beat up relics is practically sack-religious.



This one could find a home on the threadbare page, as you can see the amount of surface wear this bag has endured over the hundred-plus years of its age. And notice the corner, where the most wear occurs - likely the same on most bags which get hard use.



As Rich noted regarding his consumption of Kurd lore, I recall - but forgot of course where I read it - that this flat, horizontal elem (at least as far as their larger bags go) is related to a more northern group of Bakhtiari weavers. This bag also has a rather darker coloration than many Bakhtiari pieces do - likely also being a geographic indicator.



Here is the back, with the dark blue and black "almost Shahsavan-looking" stripes and a profusion of leather "field repairs", including each corner - the area most susceptible to wear.



Additionally, relating to the many Kurdish pieces posted, the basic design is a latchhook diamond. So, who stole this from whom? Qashqai and Shahsavan weavers also used this ubiquitous design. Who did it best?

Patrick Weiler



April 2nd, 2020, 09:44 PM

#15

[Rich Larkin](#)

Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 178



Hi Patrick,

Quote:

This bag also has a rather darker coloration than many Bakhtiari pieces do - likely also being a geographic indicator.

Are you referring to other items of this general ilk, but a bit lighter in tone, or to Chahar Mahal type stuff, which is usually pile?

Rich



April 2nd, 2020, 10:20 PM

#16

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 59



Hi Pat,

This Luri-Bakhtiari khorjin with pile elem 'bumper' lacks the requisite wear to justly fit in the Threadbare thread. But here...



Lots of complementary-weft weave on the back:





Joel



April 2nd, 2020, 11:35 PM

#17

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 104



Hi,

Perhaps if our Dungeonmaster has the time and the inclination, the related posts can be shifted from the scrap heap to a more auspicious setting....



Regards  
Chuck



April 3rd, 2020, 01:24 AM

#18

[Steve Price](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 109



Hi Chuck

I'll be glad to do it if you tell me the post numbers of all the posts you'd like to have moved into this thread from

the *Threadbare* thread.

Steve Price



April 3rd, 2020, 05:35 AM

#19

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 104

Thanks Steve,

I think posts 137 through 149 would be appropriate, and leaving 150 in the Threadbare thread to carry on that discussion.

Regards  
Chuck



April 3rd, 2020, 04:50 PM

#20

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Canada  
Posts: 16

Thank you for your patience with the hijack of your threadbare thread, Patrick. I will do penance with a truly shredded piece in the original thread, ASAP.



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