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Turkotek Discussion Forums > Virtual Show and Tell
Bag Your Pardon, bumper-bottom-bags

Welcome, **Filiberto Boncompagni**.
You last visited: May 16th, 2020 at 08:39 PM
Private Messages: Unread 0, Total 8.

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

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#101

May 3rd, 2020, 10:18 PM

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 54

The SWP area is woefully underrepresented here, with only Chuck's Khamseh. Of course it is their own fault, if they wanted to be here, they should have woven more piled elems 🤔 😊 . But here is another Khamseh.



May 9th, 2020, 09:15 PM

#102

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 111

Quote:

The SWP area is woefully underrepresented here

And it will remain so, at least for now 🙄, since I'm figuring this one for Kurdish:



Joel



May 10th, 2020, 12:09 AM

#103

[Dinie Gootjes](#)
Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 54

Quote:

And it will remain so, at least for now

That was a short 'now' 🙄, as I also have this bag. At least if you agree that this looks like the SWP variation of the killified Herati pattern.





And a few more Afshar and Khamseh from here and there:







May 11th, 2020, 12:19 AM

#104

[Rob Vuijst](#)
Members

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 4

Nice to see so much Jaf

It has been a long time I visit this show and tell. Nice to see so many Jafs on this thread. Below is the Jaf I have. Every time I look at it I'm astonished.

How old do you think it is? I think about 50 years.

Rob.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=13...pmxehKlhybbW_a

NB: 1 ft = 30,48 cm

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Nb...9H3tE2GLVHd-Od>

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bj...rqbjflgF_DtoiO

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fZ...ucVbFgfrdqfevc>

Last edited by Rob Vuijst; May 11th, 2020 at 12:21 AM. Reason: The pics are missing



May 11th, 2020, 10:37 AM

#105

Filiberto
Boncompagni
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 102

Hi Ron,
Your images...







Fifty years? I think much more. Let's say eighty at least.



May 11th, 2020, 08:22 PM

#106

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 54

Rob, I completely agree with Filiberto. That is a very nice Jaff, and it was never woven in the sixties or seventies. It seems most of them were imported in the twenties, and there is no reason to think yours is newer than most. That subtle difference in red of the background and the scarab is not often seen, and I don't think I have seen that border used as a elem either. Very nice piece. Too bad people had to wipe their feet on it. Much better to put it on the table as a tafelkleedje ;-).



May 11th, 2020, 10:53 PM

#107

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 111

Since we're back onto Jafs (at least for the moment) here is a type where, from the ones that I have seen, an elem seems de rigueur:





Wendel Swan posted this one in an archived thread from 2007:



Joel



May 12th, 2020, 05:22 AM

#108

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 54



Joel, I love those two at the top of your post. I got them together on my screen, and the similarity is striking. The elems are slightly different, and the second one looks far more saturated in its colours, but for the rest the layout of the diamonds around the white scarab is practically identical, as are the borders elements and their drawing. Not from the same set of bags, but they invite speculation about them being from the same weaver.

And where would we be here without speculation 🤔.



May 12th, 2020, 01:28 PM

#109

[Rob Vuijst](#)

Members

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 4



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Dinie Gootjes**

Rob, I completely agree with Filiberto. That is a very nice Jaff, and it was never woven in the sixties or seventies. It seems most of them were imported in the twenties, and there is no reason to think yours is newer than most. That subtle difference in red of the background and the scarab is not often seen, and I don't think I have seen that border used as a elem either. Very nice piece. Too bad people had to wipe their feet on it. Much better to put it on the table as a tafelkleedje ;-).

Hi Dinie, with the information from you and Filiberto i think its age is somewhere between World War I and the Great Depression.

I also think it is original used as a bag. My arguments for it is: You can see that the front side is more worn out then the back side. There was a rectangle hole in the middle below. I think that was the place to put a belt.

Do you agree with me?



Back side.



Backside hole.



Frontside hole

Last edited by Rob Vuijst; May 12th, 2020 at 01:29 PM. Reason: no pics



May 12th, 2020, 02:34 PM

#110

[Steve Price](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 107



Hi Rob

Please don't use the IMG tag to link to anything the isn't an image itself. The URL with the image in it won't work, and nothing displays until I remove those tags.

Thanks, and welcome back.

Steve Price



May 12th, 2020, 03:01 PM

#111

Filiberto Boncompagni
Administrator



All right, the problem with Rob's images is fixed now.

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Cyprus
Posts: 102



May 12th, 2020, 05:49 PM

#112

Filiberto Boncompagni
Administrator



Hi Rob,

Quote:

I also think it is original used as a bag.

Even though there are main carpets with this characteristic design, these small mats were all bag faces. The smaller ones were faces of double-bags a.k.a. khorjins.

If you Google "Diamonds in the Pile" you will find a seminal article by Mark Hopkins on the subject.

Regards,

Filiberto



May 13th, 2020, 05:46 AM

#113

Dinie Gootjes
Members



Hi Rob,

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 54

Your rug looks good from the back too: the colours didn't bleed, and they look the same on front and back. As to the damaged area, there must have been a hole there, and someone cut out a square and sewed a 'plug' from another rug in. A crude repair, but cheaper than having the area rewoven. You are right that it almost looks as if there was a buckle and leather strap attached there, that tore the rug. But these bags are not closed with a buckle, they have a closure system at the top, with flatwoven tabs. There are loops attached to the back of the bag, which are pulled through the slits between the closure tabs, hooked through each other and at the ends tied with a cord. Here is a picture of a complete set of bags. I have never seen a bag with buckles and straps.



Age is a difficult thing to judge with most rugs, especially tribal or village rugs that were often not given much attention. Without a body of rugs with known dates, there is nothing to compare them to, and the dating becomes guesswork. About Jaffs we know that they were imported in great numbers in the twenties and thirties, and that after that the supply dried up to a trickle. If there are obvious synthetic colours, they cannot be older than the time those particular dyes hit the market, obviously, but for the rest it is a comparison without much by way of standards. The general rule is that rugs with many colours, great artistry and a fine weave are considered older than coarse ones with basic drawing and few colours. That doesn't however take into account differences in socio-economic status, availability of materials, and artistic abilities of the weavers. There is a good chance that a rug made in the 19th century by a moderately competent weaver, in poor times, with cheaply dyed, average quality wool, will be considered less old than a rug woven in the 20th century by a prodigiously talented weaver who had access to the best quality wool in a rainbow of colours. In my opinion, the date applied to a rug is often more an indication of perceived quality than of age. So your rug may have been woven in the twenties, but it may also have been woven in the 19th century. I think most people would call it first quarter of the 20th c., whatever that means ;-).



May 13th, 2020, 03:43 PM

#114

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 111



Hi Dinie,

That is the most lucid explanation of the problem of dating 19th-early 20th century tribal and village rugs that I've ever read.



I look forward to often cutting and pasting it.

Joel



May 13th, 2020, 08:08 PM

#115

[Patrick Weiler](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 89

I can handle this

I have seen some later Qashqai mafrash bags with leather straps, but not older pieces, and no Jaf Kurd bags. I have a Kurdish panel which has a couple of patches like the one Rob showed, at either side of an old horse cover or large bag. It would not be surprising for a handle to be added later - or, more often, removed and "repaired" in order that a piece could be used as a mat or small rug. I have a mafrash end panel where the "rope" handle was removed and pile knots added (amateurishly) to "fix" it. I also have a Mazandaran bag which still has several "handles" attached to it. 99% of them have had those handles removed and 98% have had the pile section cut off the bag and "fixed up" with new edges all around for use as a mat or "art panel".

Patrick Weiler



May 13th, 2020, 11:12 PM

#116

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 130



Hi all,

Now that the segue back into the - very colorful, and admirable (esp. the border in Joel's post #102) - Jaffs has quiesced, I'll throw a few more pieces into the mix, including a modest diversion into the not-actually-pile-but-interesting-nevertheless category.

And Rob, you have a candidate there for the Threadbare thread as well...

First, Pat mentioned strapped mafrashes. I can help with that, almost certainly a 20th century piece and of a

style that may still be in use, I believe, by some of the Qashqai. I think this one is maybe 1950's-ish. It has seen better days.



And, for some more Kurdish bags with elems, I have these examples, woven - for some reason - with the figures upside down relative to the pile direction and elem. Or perhaps the weaver, that month, was fantasizing about throwing her husband off a precipice ?? (I think these were posted once before, quite a while ago):





Go figure...

And last (also posted long ago for different reasons) a bag which lately I have been considering a Sistan Baluch soumak piece, with dark goat hair stripes woven into the fold section at each end of the bag, obliquely fitting into the bottom-bumper genre:





Regards
Chuck



May 14th,
2020, 07:12 PM

#117

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 111

Quote:

I'll throw a few more pieces into the mix, including a modest diversion into the not-actually-pile-but-interesting-nevertheless category.

Hi Chuck,

I'll join your dalliance into the Sistan soumak khorjin bumper realm with these two. The first with a weft-substitution design, the other with a small soumak panel:



Joel



May 14th, 2020, 09:42 PM

#118

[Patrick Weiler](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 89



Rob,

Your patch could be where a strap or handle had been attached at one stage in the life of the bag when it was repurposed. Here is my Kurdish panel with a similar area near one edge:



Tribal and village weavers were quite used to repurposing things as needed. Many pieces already had multiple uses, such as sofreh and bands and various bags. Even western women re-used fabrics, to make quilts and clothing.

Another place where a handle would be handy is on the end panels of a mafrash. This one, likely from NW Persia, looks like it had a handle originally. But when it was disassembled for sale, someone took the handle off and fixed it up a bit.



This has a cotton foundation. I'm still looking for the rest of the bag, in case you have seen it.



Patrick Weiler



May 14th, 2020, 11:38 PM

#119

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 130



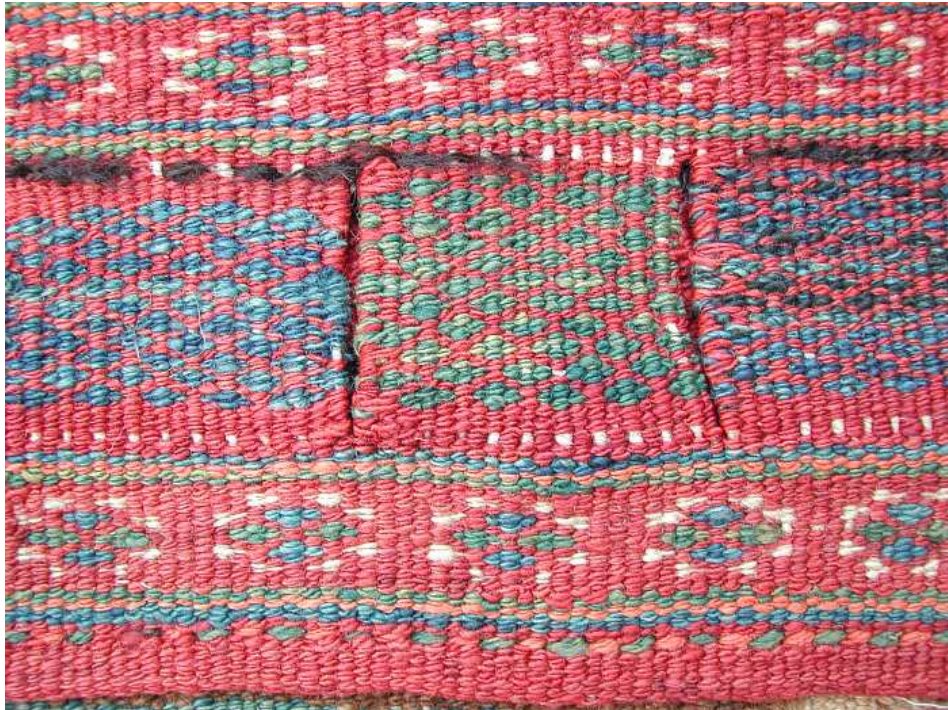
Joel,

The full-faced weft substitution is unusual in that it's a large and rather open motif. Most Baluch bags of that construction have much smaller and more detailed designs.

Does your soumak piece look like this up close ?:



And because, details are always fun to look at, here are a couple more detail views:





I have a piled Sistani bag as well. Initially, I didn't think it qualified for this thread because the piled fold doesn't show well at one end. But after seeing a few more I decided it was just a function of funky construction. So you can see a narrow strip of red and blue chevron pile at the bottom on both ends (similar to that Qashqai I posted in #25):



Regards
Chuck



May 15th, 2020, 08:23 PM

#120

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 111

Quote:

The full-faced weft substitution is unusual in that it's a large and rather open motif.

Chuck,

I guess I didn't make it clear that the field design on both of the bags I posted are in soumak. The weft-substitution I was referring to was the 'bumper' panel on the bottoms of the first khorjin. 😊

Details from the first:



and the second:



Joel



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