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Turkotek Discussion Forums > Virtual Show and Tell
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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May 16th, 2020, 10:25 PM

#121

Joel Greifinger
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 122

Quote:

Now that the segue back into the - Jaffs has quiesced...

Albeit briefly.



Here is another type of Kurdish bag that is also *sometimes* attributed as Jaf.

Some of the examples of bags with this design have elems. One common design for the elem is a checkerboard pattern, like on these two:





Joel




May 17th, 2020, 01:43 PM

#122

Rob Vuijst
Members

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 7



[QUOTE=Dinie Gootjes;29513]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.



I've got a Baluch bag with similar motif. Is it a bird or an animal?



May 17th, 2020, 04:16 PM

#123

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 122

Quote:

this looks like the SWP variation of the killified Herati pattern.
I've got a Baluch bag with similar motif. Is it a bird or an animal?

Hi Rob,

Those zoomorphic-looking forms in Dinie's bag are sometimes referred to as fish, and even dragons. But, as a much attenuated form of the herati pattern, they are derived from acanthus leaves. Here is a less "killified" version:



The creature repeating on your 'Baluch' bag is generally referred to as a bird.

Joel



May 18th, 2020, 05:13 AM

[Steve Price](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 110

Hi Rob

You have what's sometimes referred to as a Belouch bird bag. The birds are usually thought to be peacocks because of the large tail. My opinion is that it's probably a rooster. Belouch consider the fighting cock to be a symbol of authority, and the spurs on the legs are very prominent. The fan tail is a feature of roosters, too.

Anyway, if you visit our [Archive](#) section and search for Belouch bird bag, you'll find some discussions that will probably be interesting to you.

Regards

Steve Price



May 18th, 2020, 01:13 PM

#124 #125

[Rob Vuijst](#)

Members

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 7

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Steve Price**

Hi Rob

The fan tail is a feature of roosters, too.

A long time ago I've placed this bag face on Turkotek. What came out is that it is a Luri Bakhtiyari bag face Khorramabad area Iran. It also has roosters in the middle. I considered as the most beautiful bag face I have in my collection.





May 24th,
2020, 07:48 PM

#126

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 122

[Back to the bumper](#)

Bag faces with this design are generally attributed to Jaf or Sanjabi Kurds. These hexagonal figures, and the motifs inside them, are found more often on the rugs that are attributed to those Kurdish groups who live along the current Iraq-Iran border. The design, with a border that sometimes appears on Karakecili rugs from further west, is also sometimes found on smaller yastiks woven by Kurds in eastern Anatolia. The design is executed with a good deal of offset knotting.



This is also Kurdish, but drawing on a different line of design development, with its florid presentation of the herati pattern. It appears to be the side panel of a piled mafrash.



But, it isn't a mafrash panel.



It's the elem adjoining the offset knotted bag face.



I think that the weaver of this bag was really struttin' her stuff, showing off her mastery of two different design idioms within her tradition. 🎉👏

Joel



May 25th, 2020, 06:34 PM

#127

[Patrick Weiler](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 71



I thought I posted this yesterday, but it is no longer showing up today. It could be Covid Amnesia on my part; due to the immense mental strain of relaxing at home for an extended period of time. Grueling, I know. I am showing symptoms of Greifinger Grizzle on my beard, Price Perspicacity in my rug research and Wagnerian Wisdom in my posts. Frightening, and bored-ering on Ad Hominem.



So, "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;"

Rob, lovely Luri bag! The weaver really outdid herself on the unusual central cross with the four birds surrounding it - and the border is a great rendition of the one more often seen on much larger rugs. Joel, you had me there for a second. The abrupt change from rigid rectilinear to flowing floral is remarkable to find in a single bag. The weaver was quite accomplished and most likely had made many rugs of these two different designs in her career.

Here is a bumper-bottom bag which I acquired on May 7th, 2001 at 11:55 AM in Edinburgh, Scotland. No, my mental acuity hasn't miraculously improved; I put the receipt in the bag when I bought it - just in case I was stopped and frisked at Heathrow on my escape from Great Britain. This distinguishes the piece from my usual acquisition practice of darting into dark alleys, furtively fingering frayed fringes of a fine Farahan or timidly

tickling a tidy Tekke deep in the underbelly of rugdom, shamed of being exposed as a connoisseur of carpets in the glaring eye of the curious, questioning public.



It is 12" x 15" 30x38cm, with a pile bottom section of a coarse 6x6 - 36kpsi symmetric knots per square inch. The taller than wide format is a bit unusual for a chanteh or small khorjin and it seems that the weaver had extra room at the top so she put a row of 8-pointed stars-in-octagons above the central medallion.



The back of the bag is replete with rows of weft-substitution rosettes and complementary-weft small circles - and a row of pick-and-pick just above the pile - perhaps indicating a Varamin source for this small Luri bag. The tops of the back and front are folded over and sewn down, indicating that it never had a closure system. It may have had a handle attached at one time. Thank goodness, because if it was a khorjin, I would still be searching the world for the other half.



Patrick Weiler



May 27th, 2020, 10:11 PM

#128

Rob Vuijst
Members

Kyrgyzstan felt bag.

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 7

The fact that this thread already has so many replies is for me funny. I want to participate in that.

This bag is from Kyrgyzstan. (You don't see it often) The material, at both side, is felt. The dimensions are 77 x 33 cm (2.5 x 1 ft).

What I like is the simplicity. As far as I know it has been used as a tent pole bag. Funny that people put so much effort into something like this.

Rob.







Above looks like a smile to me. Happy bag? 😊



May 28th, 2020, 03:22 PM

#129

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 129

Greetings all,

Joel, it's most unusual to see a Herati motif situated such as on your bag. I have a salt bag that uses it as the central field motif, but I've never seen it in an elem(-ish) situation. Bravo.

Pat, I really like the pile colors on that Luri bag. Nicely complementary, IMHO.

Rob,

I have seen, maybe a dozen, of these pieces and this is the first I've seen with a flatwoven yarn inner lining. I can't tell if the lighter stripes are wool or cotton? This could be a sign of age, or of limited access to other materials. The interior of these pieces takes a beating, covering the tip of a bundle of tent poles or lattice sticks.

I have one, I say it's from Uzbekistan. But borders are for bureaucrats, as any nomad will tell you, and the two countries are adjacent. Mine has a liner made of old style Russian tradecloth, so I guesstimate that it's no earlier than latter 19th century and could be as late as the early 1940s.

Here are a (old) couple images, taken in bright sun with an older technology digital camera, so a little oversaturated with respect to red:



Regards
Chuck



June 1st, 2020,
11:07 PM

#130

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location:
Massachusetts
Posts: 122

Yet another bumper crop

Chuck,

While looking through some of the beautiful tribal bags that John Collins published over time in his catalogs, I came across a Qashqa'i diamond bag relevant to our discussion that I have edited into the Threadbare thread (at post #214). Since John also had many wonderful Kurdish bags, and those bags often had wonderful elems, I figured a couple should go into this thread, as well:



And another large Sanjabi chuval:



Joel



June 3rd, 2020, 01:28 AM

#131

[Steve Wallace](#)

Members

Join Date: Jan 2015
Posts: 1

 Luri

Here are 2 saddle bags, bumper-bottom style, minus their tops, fasteners and maybe other bits. They are about 90 cm long and 110 cm wide.

I believe they are Luri/Lori. A fine, older example owned (at the time at least) by James Opie has been published often.

In mine, the "two-headed rider" on the animal shape has devolved into a kind of "W". I don't know enough to estimate a possible period of manufacture.

I bought these in Peshawar in 1984. They were joined at the soumak ends. This was "fashionable" back then.

Here are the bags with a detail from each following:







On my next trip to Pakistan in 1986, I saw 4 or 5 of these (but not with the animal figures) in the same sewn together format. (I could have also bought a full Russian soldier's outfit from one of the same dealers!)

And, in my innocence (before my subscription to Hali and before the internet), I once bought a new set of Bakhtiari bags that had never been turned into actual bags (I don't have these anymore). I have sometimes seen such items in internet sales/auctions over the last few years.

Steve



June 9th, 2020, 09:25 PM

#132

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Another Kurdish enclave accounted for

Almost all of the Kordi khorjin that I have seen are flat woven and few have all-over pile. Here is one with a field of "pagorbe" (or 'cat's foot', a blossom and bud motif). According to Stanzer, these were woven in Yusefkhan, a small village close to the city of Quchan. And this one has an elem.



© tugrabbitt

It was featured a few years back in an exhibition by Ulrich Ahlheim.

Joel



June 15th, 2020, 06:07 PM

#133

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 122



While it is the chevron elem on this Jaf Kurd bag face that serves as the qualification for inclusion in this thread:



what strikes me as really unusual about it is the end finish above the closure tabs:



I think this is two-pick oblique interlacing. While it isn't unusual to find it on rugs, and it is often used to finish heybes from the Malatya area in Turkey, I don't remember ever seeing it on another Persian khorjin. Are there other examples out there?

Joel



June 23rd, 2020, 12:19 AM

#134

[Joel Greifinger](#)
Administrator

Hey, Salor...

Looking back over this thread about elems on bags, I realized that, oddly this being Turkotek, there haven't been any Turkmen chuvals posted. I would remedy the situation by digging one out of my own accumulation, but Turkmen weaving



is one of the few areas I've managed to steer clear of acquiring.

However, that doesn't keep me from admiring some. And, if I can't post my own, might as well offer up something way better than I would own even if I did collect them. 😊

So, a way better than your average bumper-bottom bag:



Joel



June 23rd, 2020, 12:32 AM

#135

[Dinie Gootjes](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 56

Joel, Turkmen weavings are too esoteric and well bred to have a bumper-bottom. Shame on you.



June 27th, 2020, 07:46 PM

#136

[Chuck Wagner](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 129

Joel,

I'm with Dinie (except the "shame" part) as there is no shame in rug collecting. We are all shameless. It's a shame to admit it.

So, no, it's just an elem. On a nice piece of work.

Looking through our own not-very-small set of Turkmen goods, I find zero examples of a piled region intended to be folded into the back of a bag.

I was actually surprised. But not ashamed.

Regards
Chuck



June 27th, 2020, 09:48 PM

#137

Joel Greifinger
Administrator

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Massachusetts
Posts: 122

Quote:

Looking through our own not-very-small set of Turkmen goods, I find zero examples of a piled region intended to be folded into the back of a bag.

Chuck and Dinie,

Since I have no Turkmen goods, at least none of which I'm aware, I can't scour the chivals for possible fold lines in the elems. I don't know if I've ever seen an old Turkmen chival that still had its back, so I'll just plead

ignorance to lessen my shame. 

Allow me to try to divert attention from my wayward Turkmen reference with another sure 'nuff bumpable Kurdish elem:



Joel



June 28th, 2020, 06:21 PM

#138

Dinie Gootjes
Members

Join Date: May 2008
Location: Canada
Posts: 56

Joel and Chuck, I have nothing to offer from my own almost non-existent pile of Turkmen goods, but googling around for complete chuvals got me these Yomut examples. No vulgar bumper bottoms here.





July 1st, 2020, 01:43 PM

#139

[Rob Vuijst](#)
Members

Join Date: Apr 2013
Location: Holland
Posts: 7



Is this a Luri or a Qashqai bag?

Stay well, please be careful.

Rob.



July 2nd, 2020, 03:57 AM

#140

[Patrick Weiler](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008
Posts: 71

Nope

Most likely it is Khamseh.

The reciprocal S-boteh border is often found in their work in these colors. The drawing isn't as formal as Qashqai and not as relaxed as Luri bags would be. The complementary weft in red and blue at the bottom is often a Khamseh signature - it would be more likely white/blue in Qashqai work. I like it.

Patrick Weiler



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