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[Turkotek Discussion Forums](#) > [Virtual Show and Tell](#)  
 **Seistan Rug**

**Welcome, Joel Greifinger.**  
 You last visited: October 26th, 2013 at 08:58 AM


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



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 October 13th, 2013, 09:47 AM

**#157**

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)  
 Administrator


Join Date: May 2008  
 Location: Cyprus  
 Posts: 55



That (Joel's post #155) must be the cause of the problem. And... about my inability to "see" the messaging option in Firefox and Chrome... It was because I forgot to sign in 

Signing-in resolves the problem  
 P.S. - try again, Paul. If it works now, I will delete these posts.



 October 13th, 2013, 09:44 AM

**#156**

[James Blanchard](#)  
 Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
 Posts: 59



Hi Philip,

Thanks for these fascinating historical records. It does seem that there were the means to dye wool and make carpets, and that there was rug production in the Seistan / Sistan region.

When I survey the various sources that describe and offer examples of rugs from NE Persia, E Persia and Afghanistan, I don't see these "purple, orange, green" rugs that have been attributed to Seistan by many. So, Seistan might be a reasonable alternative, if only by a process of elimination.



James



October 13th, 2013, 09:36 AM

#155

[Joel Greifinger](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 49

 **Messaging**

Hi Paul,

Do you have the "Receive Email from Other Members" options enabled in the "Messaging & Notification" section of the "Edit Options" in your User CP?

I've recently used the messaging function with my Mac using Chrome, so I don't think that's the problem.

Joel



October 13th, 2013, 08:42 AM

#154

[Filiberto Boncompagni](#)


Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Location: Cyprus  
Posts: 55



Hi Paul,

I tried Firefox (which I normally use – only with Turkotek I prefer Internet Explorer for saving the threads to my HD because it keeps the thread's name) and I see what you mean.

Same for using Google Chrome browser, no messaging boxes. Haven't noticed that before. 

Seems that vBulletin (our software) works better with Internet Explorer.

Regards,

Filiberto



October 13th, 2013, 08:16 AM

#153



[Paul Smith](#)

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 11

Filiberto,

I can see that you can do this--proof of concept and all. I really, *really do not want* to take up T'tek real estate on this thread with a response to you, but it happens that there seems to be no other way to respond to you. I am sure that when you "left click" on a name you get an opportunity to message that person; however, on this nice little Mac laptop w/Firefox as my browser, using option-click (the equivalent move), I get a little box with your name, and I can either view your public profile, find posts by you, or add you to my contacts. Adding you to my contacts and going over to that part of my profile, there is no provision whatsoever to reply to you or even to message you. In fact, there is no provision I can see anywhere for me to send a message to anyone. Must be that it does not work for Macs. So be it, not a huge deal for me. Feel free to delete my little post here when you've read it. I would have posted this in the Using Our Software section, except that you didn't, and this is weird enough that I thought I ought to respond where you posted it.



Cheers, Paul



October 13th, 2013, 03:56 AM

#152

[Filiberto](#)[Boncompagni2](#)

Administrator

Join Date: Aug 2012  
Posts: 2

about private messages

Just a note to Paul: you say that you wanted "the ability to privately-message a participant".

Yes, you can do that with registered members: just left-click on the name of the member and a "dialog box" will open offering four options. The second one is "Send a private message to (name of the member)".

I am doing it right now with you, as a proof of concept, 😊

Regards,  
Filiberto

---

 Filiberto Boncompagni


October 13th, 2013, 02:48 AM

#151

[Philip Loftus](#)

Members

Join Date: Apr 2012  
Location: Tokyo  
Posts: 56

Hello Henry

Savage Landor in 1902 travelled through Seistan & Baluchistan. He also found and brought back:

Kesankur - Peganum Harmala L.

And deposited it at the Brit Mus. All quotes below are from his 1902 book except for the following Wiki quote re peganum.

'As well as a red dye, "Turkey red", obtained from the seeds it is often used in western Asia to dye carpets. It is also used to dye wool. When the seeds are extracted with water, a yellow fluorescent dye is obtained. If they are extracted with alcohol, a red dye is obtained. The stems, roots and seeds can be used to make inks, stains and tattoos'. (Wiki.)

'Cotton goods, blue, red and white, seem to command greatest sale of any articles in Nushki, after which the local trade consists of wheat, almonds, barley, carpets (from Sistan), wool, kanawes (cloth from Meshed), and cloths imported from England, mostly cheap cottons; camels, dates, etc.

'The articles of export from Khorassan and Sistan are wool, ghi, saffron, dried fruit of various kinds, hides, jujubes, assafoetida, pistachio-nuts, barak, kurak, gum, valuable carpets, and some turquoises.

'In Sistan itself wheat and oats are plentiful, but their export to foreign countries is not permitted. Opium finds its way out of the country via Bandar Abbas and wool, ghi, feathers, carpets, and assafoetida are conveyed principally to Kerman, Birjand, Meshed, Yezd, the Gulf, and Quetta.' (Note they're exporting to Birjand.)

'When the Hamun Halmund extended as far south as Kandak the Kuh-i-Kwajah mountain was an island, but now the whole country around it is dry except some small swamps and pools, on the edges of which thousands of sheep could be seen grazing...

Further confirmation of large flocks and 3 of the required dyes availability. Bellew gave us indigo 25 years previously. That makes 4. The green could have come from indigo + peganum. We are just short the purple.

Rgds

Philip



October 12th, 2013, 09:21 AM

#150

[Philip Loftus](#)

Members

Join Date: Apr 2012  
Location: Tokyo  
Posts: 56



Hello Pierre

Dr Bellew, the author of the book about 19thc Seistan is pretty conscientious about noting dyes in the other areas this basically recon

expedition passed through on their way to Seistan. For example madder, pomegranate, saffron and so on in adjacent provinces. So he may have felt that Seistan being at the end of the trip he could safely omit comment on all but the unusual, who's to say!

Incidentally he makes special mention of the total lack of religious observance amongst the entire population. They were completely bound up in their previous animist beliefs and superstitions, usually forgot prayer times, mixed up Sunni and Shia'a dogma and were a lot more interested in raiding eachother's cattle, feuding and so alcohol would not have been an issue for them for use in dying. (Other than preferring to drink it!)

Regards

Philip



October 12th, 2013, 08:16 AM

#149

[Pierre Galafassi](#)

Members

Join Date: Oct 2009  
Posts: 82



Hi Philip,

I had never heard of Peganum Harmala in a context of wool-dyeing before today, but checking my sources I see now that the plant, indeed, provides a red dye suitable for wool.

I haven't found yet the chemical structure of the colorant, thus I can't make any reasonable prediction about its likely method of application (mordant dyeing or direct dyeing?), nor about its probable light - or wet fastness.

There is a certain probability that the plant's alcaloids would make dyeing a rather risky business for the dyer (other cases of such dangerous dye-recipes, are mentioned for example in H. Böhmer's "Koekboya") and also that the very poor water-solubility of the dye could require an alcohol/water dyebath, which would not have been very popular (or too popular perhaps 😊) in Moslem areas.

If this rare dye could be identified in rugs and if one would have a proof of the plant specific localisation in a particular region, it would probably help identify their origin, yes.

Regards  
Pierre



October 12th, 2013, 07:37 AM

#148

[Steve Price](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 67



Hi Paul, Rich and Henry

The "Using Our Software" thread is the place for congratulations for the

way we operate, constructive criticism, and even random *kvetching*. I've moved some of the posts there in order to make this thread less disorganized.

Paul, asks about the general lack of participation by dealers who specialize in antique rugs and prominent collectors. They have various reasons that they've communicated to me from time to time. The prevalent ones include:

1. They don't want to look like they're trolling for clients;
2. They prefer to not be bothered with novices and unsophisticated questions;
3. The average quality of the material shown here is low.
4. It is seen by their peers as beneath their station to be seen here.

Several are very generous about sending me information and photos that they prefer not to have associated with their names, and I always respect their desire to remain unidentified.

In the past year or two, several have created Facebook groups in various rug sub-areas. Most are invitation-only (or nomination-only). Some of them are excellent, some are far from it. Anyone here with a Facebook account who would like to be nominated, please let me know by e-mail and I'll do what I can to match your interests.

Thanks

Steve Price



October 12th, 2013, 03:28 AM

[Philip Loftus](#)

Members

Join Date: Apr 2012  
Location: Tokyo  
Posts: 56



#147

Dyes

Hello Pierre

Both indigo and peganum harmala were indigenous to Seistan mid 19c.

Would the peganum give any indicators once used?

James

Saffron was exported from Birjand in South Khorassin, the adjacent province.

The Beloosh in particular were over there pretty frequently on cattle and women rustling raids.

Philip



October 11th, 2013, 10:28 PM

#146

## Paul Smith

Members

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 11



I only know of sites that are much less-well-run operations, and on more than one occasion I have suggested that others come over here to see how it's done, especially for having rules that effectively address bad behavior and difficult participants. The only things I have seen anywhere else that I have wanted here once in awhile are the ability to "like" a post and the ability to privately-message a participant, but that isn't a big deal.

Now, about those rugs...Is anyone else frustrated with what has previously been (accurately, in my opinion) suggested, that there are people in the business who might have personal experience that would enlighten us on sources for various weaving traditions from the areas (and others) in question, but somehow we are beneath their contributions? If there were some peer-reviewed context in which these insights could be shared, it would be different, but this is just about the ONLY place I know where commercial interest is off the table. True, these folks would have to deal with less-educated individuals asking dumb questions or spouting unsupported theories, but Pierre, Marla, and Frank put up with us (with elegance and patience, hear! hear!). Anyway, I just wish there were a free exchange of ideas and information to which more experts felt comfortable contributing, and it has always perturbed me to sense that there are people in the business who might be able to help assemble a deeper understanding of, say, Seistan weavings. I am sure those in the trade have their fair share of wacked theories and inaccurate information and would be loath to expose these to scrutiny, but I hope as time goes on a few more are willing to share.

Paul



October 11th, 2013, 07:44 PM

#145

## Philip Loftus

Members

Join Date: Apr 2012  
Location: Tokyo  
Posts: 56



Hello Henry

I'd question Column 1, nmbrs 1,4,6 and column 6 nمبر 5.

Another idea for you: these are not dowry pieces. They are simple expressions of wealth and power.

Hello Steve

The thread is just starting to be interesting, mate, as Pierre has also mentioned. (Green is also clear now Pierre, thanks for that).

**Philip***Last edited by Philip Loftus; October 11th, 2013 at 07:50 PM.*

October 11th, 2013, 01:11 PM

#144

**Rich Larkin**

Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
Location: Massachusetts  
Posts: 36 **The organization man.**

Hey folks,

I'm probably not a good candidate to chastise Henry just now, having apparently used up my chips recently. But the remark about the organizational status of Turkotek didn't sit too well with me, especially linked with a dollop of what seemed like self-congratulations. Anyway, I find the organizational qualities of the site just fine, thank you.

I don't pass along my appreciation often enough. 🍻🍻🍻

Rich



October 11th, 2013, 12:35 PM

#143

**James Blanchard**

Members

Join Date: Jun 2008  
Posts: 59

Thanks for the detailed reply, Pierre.

I wouldn't be the person to set up the home lab for the dye analysis, but I hope that someday a chemist and rug aficionado takes the time to examine the "Seistan" group. They certainly have an interesting and somewhat distinctive palette for that general region.

James



October 11th, 2013, 12:28 PM

#142

**Pierre Galafassi**

Members

Join Date: Oct 2009  
Posts: 82**Eagerly contributing to the confusion in this thread** 🤪**Hello James,**

*Quote: «...What seems clear is that the colour palette is almost certainly highly related to the place and time of weaving»*

I fully agree with you that the color palette must have been related to «the place and time» of weaving. We can probably even add to each «terroir», some local and temporary political issues, ethnic origin of the leaders,



recent moves of population, a situation favorable (or not) to commercial exchanges (import of dyes or mordants) etc...

This being said, the problem is the complexity of the terroir: the large number of parameters potentially able to influence the palette and our very superficial knowledge of their relative influence in each particular case.

To take an example, a well known ruggie once boasted here that he could date the rugs of an important Turkmen tribe, based on the changes induced in their palette by the tribe's wandering through Turkmenistan from the seventeenth- to the end of the nineteenth century.

This implied that not only our ambitious ruggie pretended to know really this tribe's history (which obviously enough he did not), but also that he knew and understood well the relevant differences between the Balkhan Range, the Kwaresm region, the Kopet Dagh Range etc..as far as geology and flora are concerned, their influence on shades, (starting obviously with the exact botanical identity of the natural dyes used in each case) and the availability in each case of imported natural dyes. I had moderate doubts that the gentleman enjoyed such a thorough knowledge of the Turkmen people and of the region they call home.

Taking into account that we probably know even less the Baluch than the Turkmen, I am not very optimistic about using our limited info on terroir to locate the weavers.

*Quote: «...On a more technical point, Pierre what would it take to test the dyes of some pieces from this region for dye composition?»*

The problem seems to be that there is not much offer of service for dye analysis.

Sure, any motivated ruggie could build a cottage lab equipped with TLC (Guidelines, chromato plates, glassware, chemicals, standard samples of dyeplants and dyeing insects can be bought on the Net, all for a reasonable investment) and do the identification himself. Provided his ambition would be limited to identifying the 20-30 usual natural dyes for rugs. Identifying synthetic dyes, especially those used during the period 1860-1950 is a huge task, well beyond any dilettante's reach..

**Hi Philip,**

*Quote: «... Would cold fermentation dyeing of greens yield a colour more fully attached to the wool fibers»*

No, the dyeing mechanism is the same in fermentation dyeing and conventional hot dyeing. In both cases it is a mordant dyeing.

Green shades are a specific case anyway. They are nearly always obtained by two successive dyeing operations: First with Indigo (A so-called vat process, fully different from the mordant dyeing) and then with a yellow natural dye applied by mordant dyeing.

Loong post. I need a beer mates.

Ciao

Pierre



October  
11th, 2013,  
11:07 AM

#141

[Henry Sadovsky](#)  
Registered


Join Date: Oct  
2012  
Posts: 60

 orange-green-blue-purple-red group

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Philip Loftus**   
*Just to summarize the position for Seistan as the origin of these pieces ...*

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Philip Loftus, to clarify what he meant by 'these pieces,' above**   
*The orange green blue purple red group.*

Hi Philip-

What's your quick count on how many of the 39 snippets below might fit in to the orange-green-blue-purple-red group?



Henry



October 11th, 2013, 10:30 AM

#140

[Henry Sadovsky](#)

Registered

Join Date: Oct 2012  
Posts: 60

**Corrected link**

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Steve Price**

*I don't know what that link displays when you hit it, but it brings me to a page that has no "Reply" button.*

Oops... Here's the correct [link](#).



October 11th, 2013, 10:06 AM

#139

## [Steve Price](#)

Administrator

Join Date: May 2008  
Posts: 67



Hi Henry

I don't know what that link displays when you hit it, but it brings me to a page that has no "Reply" button.

I agree that the public forum pages aren't a good place to discuss the organization of a currently active thread, but I didn't raise the matter here, you did. If the page you linked was for my eyes only, e-mail would have been a better way to get it to me. If it was for everyone's eyes, you have no grounds for objecting to the fact that anyone, including me, responds to it.

If you know of forums that you think are better organized than this one, feel free to ask me and/or Filiberto to look at them. If we agree with you, we'll do what we can to improve this one. If not, we'll get back to you with an explanation.

Steve Price



October 11th, 2013, 09:51 AM

#138

## [Henry Sadovsky](#)

Registered

Join Date: Oct 2012  
Posts: 60



**Further inefficiency...**

Hi Steve-

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Steve Price**

*... keeping track of what's going on in this thread exceeds my attention span.*

You could have posted the above thought [here](#). I have quite a bit of experience with discussion boards that are much better organized than TT, but the current thread is not, imo, the most efficient place for further discussion on thread/board organization, yes?

Henry



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Virtual Show and Tell



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