



View from the Fringe

Newsletter of the New England Rug Society



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www.ne-rugsociety.org

March 1 Webinar Preview: Stefano Ionescu, “Gems of Ottoman Classical Rugs: A New Perspective”

Webinar Details

Hosted by the New England Rug Society

Date and Time: Saturday, March 1, 1 PM ET

Venue: Your desktop, laptop, or tablet

Registration: If you have registered for a previous NERS webinar, you will receive an email invitation to this one. Or register with this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/NERSfringeweb>



1–3. Representative Ottoman gems: small-medallion Ushak, Lotto, and triple-niche prayer rug (Metropolitan Museum of Art 1974.149.11, 08.167.1, and 22.100.51, respectively)

On March 1, Stefano Ionescu, the leading specialist on the Anatolian rugs preserved in Transylvania (a region in central Romania), will return as NERS webinar presenter. This time he will focus on three well-known Anatolian rug types—small-medallion Ushaks **(1)**, Lottos **(2)**, and single- and triple-niche Ottoman prayer rugs with columns **(3)**—whose designs or design origins, he maintains, have at times been misinterpreted.

Stefano’s conclusions about these rugs grow out of his decades-long research for his newly published, copiously



4. Stefano Ionescu, during the carpet-study tour that he led to Transylvania in 2019

illustrated volume, *The Transylvanian Heritage: Ottoman Carpets 1450–1750, a New Perspective*.

Born in Transylvania in 1951, Stefano has lived in Rome since 1975. An independent scholar and writer, he also lectures widely and leads carpet tours **(4)**. His first book, *Antique Ottoman Rugs in Transylvania* (2005), was awarded the Romanian Academy Prize in Art History. Publication of his *Handbook of Fakes by Tuduc* coincided with his NERS-meeting talk in 2010. He is a contributor to *HALI* and in 2011 received the Joseph V. McMullan Award.

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Page 1 photo credits:

figs. 1–3, The Met, open access
fig. 4, Stefano Ionescu

The New England Rug Society is an informal, nonprofit organization of people interested in enriching their knowledge and appreciation of antique oriental rugs and textiles. Our webinars and meetings are held seven or more times a year. Membership levels and annual dues are: Patron \$170, Supporting \$110, Couple \$80, Single \$60, Student \$30.

For more information and forms for joining NERS or renewing your membership, go to <https://ne-rugsociety.org/membership/>

**The New England Rug Society**

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Note: This issue of *View from the Fringe* owes its extreme brevity to its editor's recent knee-replacement surgery, which has unexpectedly delayed her sitting at the desktop computer on which she produces our NERS newsletter. Julia hopes to resume editing and publishing full-length issues within the next few months.