



View from the Fringe

Newsletter of the New England Rug Society



Vol. 32 No. 3 September 2025

www.ne-rugsociety.org

September 6 TMA/SC Webinar, Co-Sponsored by NERS: Deniz Coşkun on Natural Dyes and Traditional Dyeing in Anatolia



Webinar Details

Date & Time: Saturday, Sept. 6
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/NtDyeN4>

Speaker Deniz Coşkun, and a fragmentary Cappadocia-Konya pile rug with exemplary colors

On September 6, the New England Rug Society will welcome back a recent and enthusiastically received speaker, Deniz Coşkun. In the forthcoming webinar, hosted by Textile Museum Associates of Southern California and co-sponsored by NERS, Deniz will present “Natural Dyes and the Traditional Dyeing Culture of Anatolia.”

Due to its diverse geography, natural resources, rich weaving culture, and location as the destination of Asian trade routes, Anatolia has long been an area of dyeing excellence. Türkiye’s stability and systemic production chains have allowed the procurement of the necessary raw materials used in the dyeing process. In this webinar, Deniz will discuss the history of dyeing in Türkiye and will illustrate the organic and mineral materials used and how

they are combined to yield an impressive range of colors. He will show many historical rugs and textiles with classic colors and variations, and will discuss these colors’ local cultural significance.

The holder of a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from Istanbul University, Deniz is well suited to understanding and explaining rug and textile dyeing. For the past several years he has dedicated himself to the study of Anatolian weaving traditions and natural dyes. A state-licensed tour leader, he led the 2024 *HALI* tour of Anatolia associated with Istanbul-based ICOC XV. He also heads the Black Tent Project, which offers nomad-related tours and has a trip website.

October 18 Show-and-Tell Meeting: Embroideries from Anywhere!

Bring your embroideries—textiles patterned by needlework—to this friendly, in-person show-and-tell meeting!

After food and refreshments (provided by NERS), we'll turn to your offerings—big or small, antique or more recent, and from anywhere in the world—about which we encourage your comments, not just on where and when you believe your examples were made, but also about what attracts you to them.

Meeting Details

Date and Time: Saturday, Oct. 18, 12:30 PM

Place: Durant-Kenrick House,
286 Waverley Ave.
Newton, MA, 02458

Getting there: Follow your GPS directions.

Parking: On Kenrick Street. Parking places at the end of the Durant-Kenrick House driveway may be used for dropping off people or supplies, but NOT for parking during the meeting.

Food: Courtesy of NERS



A sampling of global stitchery: details of some NERS members' embroidered textiles, from (top row, left to right) Ukraine, Sweden, and the United States; and (bottom row, left to right) Uzbekistan, India, and Burma



November 15 Webinar Preview

Flowers along the Way: The Evolution of Christian and Dietlinde Erber's Textile Collecting



Dietlinde and Christian Erber

Christian and Dietlinde Erber share a collecting passion. Their love of rugs and textiles from the Islamic world was sparked in 1978, when Dietlinde wangled an invitation to a private showing of rugs by the Bernheimer Company during the Second International Conference of Carpets (ICOC), in Munich. Over the following decades, the Erbers' interest in, support for, and promotion of these rugs and textiles have never flagged.

In 1988, Christian, by profession a civil engineer, co-founded the Munich-based Society of Friends of Islamic Art and Culture. For ICOC 6, held in Munich and Berlin in 1993, he organized and curated an exhibition of Ottoman textiles from German museum and private collections and edited its color catalogue, *A Wealth of Silk and Velvet*. From 1992 until 2020, he was convenor of the annual Volkmanntreffen, a get-together of carpet and textile enthusiasts named for its founder, Martin Volkmann. In 2012, Christian and Dietlinde were awarded the Joseph V. McMullan Award for Scholarship and Stewardship in Islamic Rugs and Textiles.

In this webinar, the Erbers, speaking from their Munich home, will present a personal overview of their collecting

life—how it started and soon developed into a passion, and how their collecting focus has evolved over the decades. Showing pictures of some of their favorite pieces, they will trace this evolution through Anatolian kilims, Turkish towels, Ottoman embroideries, and Central Asian ikats and suzanis.

Webinar Details

Hosted by the New England Rug Society

Date & Time: Saturday, November 15
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/Erbersfringeweb>

May Meeting Recap: Flat Weave Show-and-Tell

On May 31, owners and enthusiasts of flat weaves gathered for a show-and-tell at Durant-Kenrick House, Newton. After snacking on sandwiches, cookies, and beverages provided by NERS, attendees settled in for a lively, audience-

participatory meeting featuring patterned-on-the-loom weavings from four continents. Of the profusion of examples displayed and discussed at the meeting, a representative selection is pictured here.



Anatolian kilims or fragments, from (left to right) Kayseri, Aydın, Cappadocia(?), unlocalized, Konya



From left: Karabagh mafrash, Karabagh "dragon" sileh, Georgia/Armenia grain bag, Shahsevan single and double bags



From left: Mazandaran kilim, Khorasan Kordi grain bag, Khorasan Kordi(?) sofreh, Lur of Fars bagface



From left: Afshar sofreh, Luri Bakhtiari salt bag, Luri Bakhtiari verneh



From left: Zagar Mengal grain bag, Baluchistan; Fulani decorative tent wall (*arkilla kerka*), Niger Bend, Mali



Left: carriage-cushion covers depicting the Flight into Egypt (above) and stylized garden imagery (below), both Skåne, Sweden
Above: American overshoot coverlet, Navajo rug with birds and beasts

Recap: August 10 Picnic, with Moth Mart and Show-and-Tell

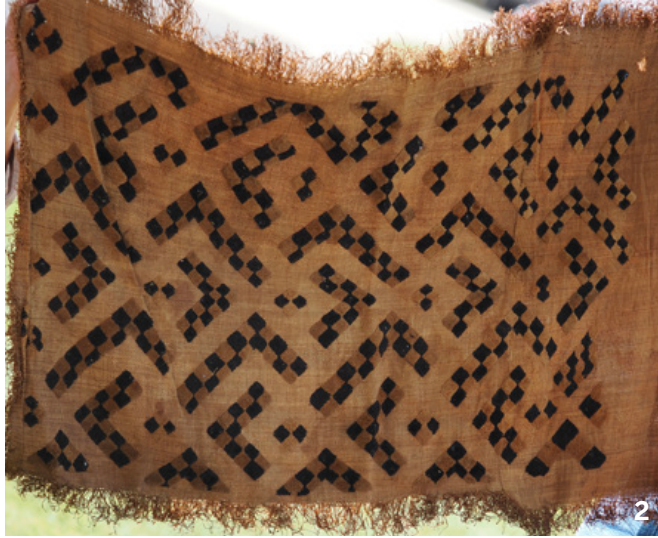
Steamy weather notwithstanding, thirty-five members and their guests convened at Gore Place, Waltham, for the annual NERS picnic. An hour of shopping the goods on offer at the Moth Mart whetted their appetites for a catered Middle Eastern lunch, followed by an eclectic show-and-tell heavy on rugs and textiles from far beyond the traditional Rug Belt. Representative show-and-tell offerings are pictured on the following pages.



Picnickers, *View* editor included (above), can't resist the lure of rug shopping



Attendees convene for lunch in the shade of tent or trees



From Africa:

1. Pygmy barkcloth breechclout, Ituri Forest, Democratic Republic of Congo
2. Raffia pile and plain weave royal cover, Kuba Kingdom
3. Beadwork apron, Kirdi people, Cameroon
4. King's skirt (detail), raffia, Kuba Kingdom



From Europe and America:

5. Flemish-weave carriage cushion with lions, Skåne, Sweden
6. Navajo rug formerly belonging to Frank Stella



7



8



9



10



11

- From Mongolia and some 'Stans:
- 7. Scrap of a Mongolian felt cover (syrmaq), once a dowry item, ultimately used on a dung heap
 - 8. Kyrgyz reed screen for a tent interior
 - 9. Uzbek woman's hat, velvet ikat with Russian trade-cloth lining
 - 10. Baluch interlock-tapestry sofreh, SW Pakistan
 - 11. Two Tekke chuval faces



12



13



14

- From the Caucasus:
- 12. Star Kazak
 - 13. Gold-ground Shirvan
 - 14. Shahsevan *mafrash* with peacocks (detail)



From Iran:

- 15. Torbat-e Jam(?) Baluch**
- 16. Mazandaran kilim**
- 17. Kelardasht rug**
- 18, 19. Two Kurd bagfaces**

From Türkiye:

- 20. Embroidered felt prayer rug**
- 21. Kırşehir prayer rug**



Upcoming Rug and Textile Events

Auctions

- Sept. 13, Vienna, Austria Auction Company, Collector Rugs 18
- Sept. 17, Philadelphia, Material Culture, Oriental Rugs from American Estates
- Oct. 14, Philadelphia, Material Culture, Fine Oriental Rugs from American Estates
- Oct. 29, London, Sotheby's, Arts of the Islamic World & India
- Oct. 30, London, Christie's, Art of the Islamic and Indian Worlds including Oriental Rugs and Carpets
- Nov. 22, Wiesbaden, Rippon Boswell, Autumn Auction
- Jan. 15, Boston, Grogan & Company, Fine Rugs and Textiles

Museum Events and Exhibitions

- Sept. 18, Washington, DC, GWU/Textile Museum
- George Hewitt Myers Award (online presentation honoring Romain Zaleski and Moshe Tabibnia): see listing under <https://museum.gwu.edu/programs>
- Until Oct. 12, Cleveland Museum of Art
- Arts of the Maghreb: North African Textiles and Jewelry
- Until Dec. 20, Washington, DC, GWU/Textile Museum
- Enduring Traditions: Celebrating the World of Textiles
- Until Jan. 4, 2026, St. Louis Art Museum
- Patterns of Luxury: Islamic Textiles, 11th–17th Centuries

Fair

- Oct. 24–26, San Francisco, Motel Capri, Antique Rug & Textile Show

Photo Credits p. 1 Deniz Coşkun p. 2 Julia Bailey p. 3 Christian and Dietlinde Erber pp. 4, 5 Julia or Doug Bailey p. 6 Jean Hoffman (upper left), Julia Bailey pp. 7–9 Julia or Doug Bailey

Editorial contributors to this issue:

Julia Bailey (editor)

Distributor:

Jim Sampson

Current NERS Steering Committee:

Joel Greifinger (President), Julia Bailey,
Richard Belkin, Lloyd Kannenberg,
Jim Sampson, Jeff Spurr

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**

22 Robin Hill Rd.
Holliston, MA 01746-1650

In this issue:

Sept. 6 Webinar Preview: Deniz Coşkun on Traditional Natural Dyeing in Anatolia	1
Oct. 18 In-Person Meeting Preview: Embroidery Show-and-Tell	2
Nov. 15 Webinar Preview: Christian and Dietlinde Erber on Their Collecting	3
May Meeting Recap: Flat Weave Show-and-Tell	4–5
August Picnic Recap: Moth Mart, Lunch, Show-and-Tell	6–9
Upcoming Events, Photo Credits	9