



View from the Fringe

Newsletter of the New England Rug Society



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July 26 Picnic Recap: A Last Hurrah

The weather was ideal at scenic Gore Place, Waltham, as the NERS faithful—their ranks swelled by guests from New York and Washington, D.C.—convened for the last slated picnic, which featured the usual Moth Mart **(1, 2)**, catered Middle Eastern buffet **(3, 4)**, and show-and-tell **(see following pages)**, plus a special auction **(5)** of rugs left to NERS by the late Mark Hopkins.



1. Maisie the Scottie prefers a Daghestan prayer rug



2. The Turkomaniac table



3, 4. Lunch and conversation



5. Expert (and volunteer!) auctioneer Michael Grogan seeks a higher bid on one of Mark Hopkins's donations



Anatolian: fragmentary yastiks; Kula rug; small kilim



Anatolian: large kilim-panel fragment, likely Sivas



Caucasian: Kazak prayer rug, Alpan Kuba rug, unusual Kuba rug, Shirvan rug



Persian: Fereghan rug; Afshar saddle bag; Kashan silk mat; Lurs gabbeh



Turkmen: Chodor ensi (?), Tekke torba, Tekke mafrash, Chodor chuval



Lakai horse cover and tabaklau ilgitsh, Kirghiz tush kyiz (dowry hanging)



Pashtun woman's cape, Badghis Province, Afghanistan; *ralli* (quilt top), Pakistan; petticoat fragment, Gujarat



Ait Ouzguite saddle blanket, Morocco; Kuba royal ceremonial shirt and ceremonial diaper for a royal baby boy, DRC



Matzo cover, Hungary (?) Chair-cushion cover, Skåne, Sweden



Carriage-cushion cover, Skåne, Sweden



Happy members depart with a show-and-tell item and their newly acquired auction haul

Jim Burns, 1932–2026



Jim Burns, in 2021

James D. “Jim” Burns, of Seattle, died on August 17, 2026.

A trial lawyer by profession, he was more widely known as a prominent collector and proponent of oriental rugs; his collection-based books include *The Caucasus: Traditions in Weaving* (1987), *Antique Rugs*

of Kurdistan: A Historical Legacy of Woven Art (2002), and *Visions of Nature: The Antique Weavings of Persia* (2011).

On December 4 and 11, 2021, Jim treated an international audience to a two-part NERS webinar, “Caucasian Rugs: Six Decades of Perspective on Design and Taste”

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voMXFQKhPW4>), which continues to allow viewers to, in his words, “look at a lot of rugs” without the need to “use a lot of shoe leather.”

A major rug-community presence, he is greatly missed.

Some Future Rug and Textile Events

Auctions

Sept. 30, Philadelphia, Material Culture

Antique Oriental Rugs from American Estates 81

Oct. 1, Boston, Grogan & Company

Three Distinguished Collections of Fine Rugs and Textiles (see below)

Oct. 14, Philadelphia, Material Culture

Antique Village & Tribal Rugs, Kilims, Trappings

Oct. 21–23, New York, Sotheby’s

Magnum Opus (includes rugs and textiles)

Nov. 12, London, Christie’s

Art of the Islamic and Indian Worlds including Rugs and Textiles

Nov. 21, Wiesbaden, Rippon Boswell

Autumn Auction

Jan. 28, 2027, Boston, Grogan & Company

Fine Oriental Rugs and Carpets

Exhibitions

Until Sept. 19, London, University of London, SOAS Gallery

Embroidery Traditions of Afghanistan

Until Nov. 1, London, Osterly Park and House

Journeys: Global Textiles from the Karun Thakar Collection

Until Jan. 25, 2027, Chicago, Art Institute

Embroidered Traditions from Morocco to Afghanistan

Until Feb. 28, 2027, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Orientalism: Between Fact and Fantasy

Until Mar. 5, 2028, New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art

A King’s Carpet: Louis XIV and the Savonnerie

Conferences

Apr. 6–8, 2027, Buellton, Santa Ynez Valley Marriott

Carpet & Textile Forum

May 13–16, 2027, Brescia, Centro Paolo VI

International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC) XVI

Oct. 18–24, London, various locations TBA

HALI London

Grogan & Company Reception and Preview of Upcoming Rug and Textile Sale

On Thursday, September 24, at 6 p.m., Grogan & Company will host a reception and viewing of the rugs and textiles in the firm’s October 1 auction (see above). Area NERS members are generously invited to join other guests at the event. **To confirm your attendance, email your RSVP by or before September 21 to info@groganco.com.**

Two featured items in Grogan & Company’s October 1 auction: Salor wedding trapping (lot 17) and Perepedil prayer rug (lot 133)



Photo Credits pp. 1–4: Doug Bailey, Julia Bailey, Karen Bennett, Jim Sampson, and Cindy Torres—thanks to all! p. 5: Zoom (top); Grogan & Company (bottom) p. 6: Yon Bard (top); Jim Sampson (bottom) p. 7: Jim Sampson, Julia Bailey, Yon Bard

In Memoriam: Yon Bard

We have learned of the death of yet another core member of NERS, Yon Bard. What follows in italics is a slightly edited version of the obituary that appeared in the *Boston Sunday Globe* on June 28, 2026:

Yonathan Bard, of Newton, passed away on June 21, 2026, at age 94. He leaves behind his wife of sixty-seven years, Dora Bard; his son Joel Bard, daughter-in-law Sayuri Miyamoto, and granddaughter Linda Bard; and his daughter Judy Bard.

*Yon was born in Vienna, Austria, and retained a love of European music, food, and art. He moved to Palestine at the age of three and then to the United States to attend college at the University of Pennsylvania. He later earned a PhD in chemical engineering from Columbia University. He was a pioneer computer scientist who enjoyed a long career at IBM, starting in 1957. He wrote a widely used book, *Nonlinear Parameter Estimation*, in 1974, and received the 1993 A. A. Michelson Award.*

His many interests included attending concerts, traveling the world, and bird watching. He read widely, acquiring a vast knowledge of world history and the arts. He was a longtime member of the New England Rug Society, the Newton Bridge Club, and the Folk Arts Society of New England.

A celebration of his life [was] held [on August 23].

Around the time of his retirement from IBM, in 1991, Yon got interested in rugs and quickly became an avid collector. He joined NERS (then the New Boston Rug Society) in 1992, serving on its steering committee almost from the beginning and editing its newsletter for fifteen years. In 2006, for ACOR 8, he and the late Jim Adelson co-curated the exhibition *Rare and Unusual Turkmen Pile Weavings* (<https://ne-rugsociety.org/xternal-html/gallery/acor-turkmen/index.htm>).



Yon (with his Tekke *ensi* as enshadowed backdrop), 2017

As NERS Collector Series honoree in 2017, Yon treated members to a “blow-by-blow account of his road to Turkomania” (<https://ne-rugsociety.org/newsletter/fringe-v25n1-09-2017.pdf>, pp. 3–5). He again teamed up with Jim Adelson to lead a 2023 meeting devoted to secondary guls in Turkmen pile weaving (<https://ne-rugsociety.org/newsletter/fringe-v30n3-09-2023.pdf>, pp. 8–13); however specialized the topic, the audience—many with Turkomaniac tendencies themselves—remained rapt.

By then though, Yon’s own Turkmen collecting had long concluded. What did he collect instead? “Ducks,” was his answer to that question at his 2017 presentation, which he ended by showing off his photograph of a rare King Eider swimming on Cape Cod Canal. Viewing and photographing (see p. 7) that bird, he said, had been “at least as good as acquiring a Salor.”

We’re grateful for Yon’s decades of service to NERS, and we miss his company and wry humor. To Dora and the other members of his family we extend our condolences.



In May 2023, Yon illustrates Turkmen secondary-gul varieties to an attentive audience

Rear-VIEW Mirror



Speaker anticipation, Mar. 2017



Speaker post-presentation relief, Oct. 2015



Field trips to Western Massachusetts: GWVS Museum, Springfield, Nov. 2015; members' private collections, Oct. 2022



One of three member-collection shows at the MFA, 2014; NERS honoree Alan Varteresian, 2012; Yon Bard's King Eider, 2017

Editor's farewell note: With both regret and relief, I've now reached the end of a fifteen-year, sixty-one-issue stint producing *View from the Fringe*. My thanks to all who have contributed ideas, words, and images to these many pages. —Julia Bailey

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The New England Rug Society

<https://ne-rugsociety.org/>

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Border detail of a Shirvan rug, Caucasus (NERS members' collection) ►

