

INTERNATIONAL HAJJI BABA SOCIETY



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FEBRUARY 2006

www.IHBS.org

President
Austin Doyle
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March Meeting

New President

2006 IHBS Board of Directors

Future Events

MALAGASY TEXTILES

Lecturer: Julia Brennan and Sarah Fee

Time: 3:00 PM

Date: Sunday, March 5, 2006

Location: Room 200, Mary Graydon Center, American University

Members are invited to bring related items, old or new, to show.

A large island situated at the crossroads of the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is home to a varied and exciting textile tradition that contains strands of both Africa and Asia. Yet it remains little known to the outside world. This talk will explore the rich history of women's weaving in the island, which ranged from plain raffia smocks to sumptuous royal silks—and the social life of cloth (lambas) that has served as dress, marriage gift and offerings to ancestors. Fisiky ty mahaondaty: "Cloth is what makes people," the Malagasy say.

The speakers will transport us to an encounter with a conservation project that seeks to preserve this cultural link for the only remaining 19th century collection of lambas in Madagascar. Sited at the former Prime Minister's Palace, a team of ten from four regional museums works with outdoor wash tanks, fragments of textiles, leaking roofs, no electricity, and a four week deadline to prepare for the first national exhibition.

An anthropologist by training, Sarah Fee has spent over four years in southern Madagascar studying textile arts and ceremonial gift exchange. The author of numerous works on these topics, in 2002 she curated the exhibit "Gift and Blessings, the Textile Arts of Madagascar" at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art.

Julia Brennan, owner of Textile Conservation Services, is based in Washington DC. She worked at the Textile Museum for six years in the conservation department before developing an independent business on her own. Her work takes her to places where conservation is much needed, like Madagascar and Bhutan.

Directions to American University:

From Virginia, cross the Key Bridge into Georgetown, turn left at M Street, and go right (north) on Foxhall Road. Continue on Foxhall until it ends at Nebraska Avenue. Turn east (right) and continue along Nebraska.

From Maryland and DC, take either Wisconsin or Massachusetts Avenues and turn west onto Nebraska.

The Mary Graydon Center is on the main campus of American University, North of Nebraska Avenue. (For a campus map see www.american.edu/maps/campus.htm.) The center is in the third row of buildings north of Nebraska Avenue, east of Bender Library.

FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE NEBRASKA AVENUE PARKING LOT, on the south side of Nebraska Avenue (between Massachusetts and New Mexico Avenues). From Nebraska Avenue, turn onto New Mexico Avenue. Enter the lot from New Mexico Avenue, park as close to the entrance as possible and cross Nebraska Avenue to the campus.

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2006 IHBS PRESIDENT: AUSTIN DOYLE

Dr. Doyle is a physician and a long-time member of the IHBS Board of Directors. He has a particular interest in Caucasian rugs.

IHBS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2006

Aija Blitte	Jeff Krauss
Lynda Couvillion	Gerry Thompson
Frank Crandall	Andy Weber
Austin Doyle	John Wertime

Program Coordinator: Richard Isaacson

The IHBS Board of Directors and Program Coordinator will have a board meeting at the Mary Graydon Center, American University, immediately following the lecture on Malagasy textiles. Topics to be discussed will include the membership and financial report for 2005, and projections for 2006. The board will review the program of upcoming IHBS events for the spring and summer of 2006.

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CAUCASIAN RUG EXHIBIT

February 3 – April 20, 2006

The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts
91 Key Street, City Park
Hagerstown, Maryland

(301) 739-5727

On March 12, during this exhibit, there will be a gallery talk by Gerald Thompson at 2:30 PM, with a reception to follow.

The works in the exhibit are on loan from the collections of Dr. and Mrs. George Manger, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newcomer, and Gerry and Kaye Thompson.

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8TH ACOR

The 8th ACOR (American Conference on Oriental Rugs) will be held April 20 through 23, 2006, in Boston. Anyone still wishing to receive a printed registration form should contact Virginia and Harry Day (703-354-4880) or by e-mail (h26ncrgt@erols.com). If, however, you would like to register on-line, you can do so on www.acor-rugs.org.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO: The 11th International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC) will be held in Istanbul April 19-22, 2007. Plans have been made for extraordinary exhibitions, academic programs, tours, a dealers fair and social. For preliminary information, go to the 11th ICOC website at www.icoc-istanbul.org. A standard registration brochure will be available later on this year.

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DUES FOR 2006

Please do not forget to send in your 2006 membership dues and/or changes in address, telephone number and e-mail. **IMPORTANT:** If you have not given the Days your e-mail address, please do so. We would like to send our newsletter to you by e-mail.