

INTERNATIONAL HAJJI BABA SOCIETY



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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! 2024 promises to be an eventful year for rug and textile enthusiasts, with numerous in-person and virtual symposia, exhibits and lectures, the most exciting of which will be the long-awaited 15th ICOC Conference in Istanbul, from 6 – 9 June! More on that below...

It's time to renew your IHBS membership for calendar year 2024. Membership dues enable us to fund our in-person and Zoom programs, and to cover IHBS administrative and operating costs.

Resident Members:
\$50 per household (2 or more persons at the same address)
\$35 per individual
Free for students

Non-Resident Members:
15 per individual or household with mailing address more than 150 miles from Washington, D.C.
(will not be eligible to vote)

Make your check payable to the **International Hajji Baba Society (or IHBS)** and send to:

Roger Pratt, IHBS
2101 Connecticut Ave. NW, Apt. 64
Washington, D.C. 20008

It was terrific seeing so many of you at the annual Fall Picnic in October at the home of Jeff Krauss. As expected, in addition to Austin Doyle's masterful grilling and delicious side dishes brought by participants, there were many wonderful textiles shared by you in the show-and-tell, a couple of which I've included below.





We are looking forward to getting together for our **Annual Meeting, Program and Pot-Luck Dinner on Sunday, 4 February at the Glen Echo Town Hall**, 6106 Harvard Avenue, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812 (accessible via MacArthur Blvd.). We will begin with Happy Hour at 5 p.m. For the evening's program, Vedat Karadag, a Turkish rug and textile expert, as well as leader of specialized rug and textile tours, will be speaking on Anatolian Chuvals (storage sacks), Chantehs (small bags) and Yastiks (cushion covers), with a curated show and tell of related materials from IHBS members.

For the pot-luck dinner, please bring an appetizer, entrée, vegetable or dessert for 8 to share, as well as serving utensils. IHBS will provide beer, wine and soft drinks. There is a kitchen facility at the Town Hall, with refrigerator, microwave, sink, counter space and pass-through.

Please RSVP to Roger Pratt, at rog.s.pratt@gmail.com.

Pam Mandel

My address is pamelamandel@gmail.com.

Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Textile Museum Journal Interviews

Wednesdays, 17 – 31 January, 12 pm ET (virtual)

Registration: www.museum.gwu.edu/textile-museum-journal-interviews.

In this interview series, authors who contributed to volume 50 of the Textile Museum Journal discuss new research on historical textiles, from Asian silk used in a late medieval manuscript binding, to luxury textiles from the Safavid court. Free, but registration required.

How We Look at Turkish Carpets: James F. Ballard and a New Way of Collecting

Saturday, 27 January, 1pm ET (virtual)

Walter B. Denny, professor

Sponsored by the TMASC

Zoom registration: <http://tinyurl.com/TMATurkishBallardFnC>

Walter Denny will focus on carpets from the Ottoman Empire acquired by early 20th century collector James Ballard. His collection, today divided between the Saint Louis Art Museum

and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has influenced a century of American carpet collecting and has changed the way we look at carpets made in Anatolian workshops, villages and nomadic encampments.

Walter B. Denny is Distinguished Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, specializing in the art of the Islamic world.

.Lesser-Known Ikat Traditions

Thursday, 29 February 29, 10 am – 1:30 pm (virtual)

Registration: www.museum.gwu.edu/exhibition-programs

Polly Barton, artist
Duncan Clarke, textile dealer and author
Rosemary Crill, former curator, V&A Museum
Linda McIntosh, research associate, Tracing Patterns Foundation

Conversations with the authors of Global Ikat: Roots and Routes of a Textile Technique explore the lesser-known ikat traditions from Africa, Laos and Thailand, as well as new interpretations of the technique by contemporary artists.

Rug and Textile Appreciation Mornings

Cleaning Large Rugs and Textiles

Saturday, 20 January, 11 am (virtual)

Robert Mann, rug restorer

Registration: www.museum.gwu.edu/rug-mornings.

Robert Mann will discuss the processes and history of the modern rug washing industry, which has evolved from the huge increase in rug interest beginning in the late 1800s.

Reconstructing the Chehel Sotun Carpet

Saturday, 10 February, 1 pm ET (virtual)

Margaret Squires, PH.D. candidate, Courtauld Institute of Art

Co-sponsored with the New England Rug Society (NERS)

Registration: www.museum.gwu.edu/rug-mornings.

Margaret Squires traces and reconstructs the history of a mass carpet that was woven in the late 17th century for the Chehel Sotun palace in Isfahan, Iran, and subsequently sold as fragments in the late 19th century.

Exciting Carpet Finds in Italy: 40 Years of Hunting for Unpublished Masterpieces

Saturday, 9 March, 1 pm ET (virtual)

Alberto Boralevi

Sponsored by the New England Rug Society (NERS)

Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/Boralevi12>

Alberto Boralevi has chaired the Academic Committee of the International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC) for many years and many conferences. He will share his decades of experience hunting in Italy for carpets existing in museum storage or in the holdings of ancient aristocratic families.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS

Irresistible: The Global Patterns of Ikat

24 February – 1 June

The GWU Museum and the Textile Museum

Irresistible celebrates the artistic and cultural legacy of ikat, an ancient textile patterning technique practiced across the globe. The exhibit begins with an introduction to the ikat technique, including diagrams and explanations of the process, from fiber to finished cloth. It will show the technique's global distribution, including more than 70 examples from around the world. These examples will be presented geographically in thematic sections focused on India, Monsoon Asia, West and Central Asia, Japan, Africa and the Americas.

IHBS Global Ikat Textile Salon/Reception

Sunday, 10 March, 3:30 pm ET

Hosted by Roger and Claire Pratt
Pratt Apartment
2101 Connecticut Avenue, Apt. 64
Washington, D.C. 20008

The Pratts will share a wide variety of textiles and hats in their home gallery, featuring the resist-dyeing technique of ikat from Central Asia, the Middle East, India, Indonesia, Southeast Asia and other locations, inspired by the GW/Textile Museum's exhibition. Light refreshments will be provided. More details to follow.



FILM SERIES

Twenty-Eighth Annual Festival of Films from Iran

12 – 28 January

National Museum of Asian Art

Information: <https://asia.si.edu>

Co-organized with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this festival features six films from Iran and the diaspora. Screenings will take place in the Meyer Auditorium at the National Museum of Asian Art or the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Tickets are free.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA

Looking Forward, Reflecting Back

Washington, D.C., 21 – 25 May 2024

Costume Society of America

Information: www.costumesocietyamerica.com

This is the 50th annual meeting and symposium of the Society, which will provide participants the opportunity to look forward to the future of fashion and reflect back on the history of dress. The intent of the symposium is to provide a platform to discuss theoretical and practical research, designs and innovations to foster understanding and stimulate scholarship in the widely varied topic of dress.

15th International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC)

Istanbul, 6 – 9 June (in-person)

Information: <https://icocistanbul.com>

Istanbul has been an important center for oriental rugs for hundreds of years. The city is now proud to welcome ICOC XV by offering a unique experience to participants with the wealth of its collections, museums and its

thousands of years of cultural heritage. In the image of the city spanning two continents, ICOC XV will bridge the past and future of oriental carpets by presenting high quality lectures, exhibitions, and hidden treasures. Exhibitions will include hidden gems from the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, the splendid Topkapi Palace collection, kilims and flatweaves from private collections at the historical Tophane-I Amire Rooms, and exhibitions in Istanbul private showrooms. With its pre- and post-conference tours to visit important weaving centers and museums throughout Anatolia, ICOC XV is also providing the opportunity for full immersion into Anatolia's weaving culture.

BLOGS

IHBS member John Howe writes two blogs on rugs and other textiles.

The first of these is Textiles and Text <https://rjohnhowe.wordpress.com/> This blog is exclusively devoted to attempting to increase the number of people who can enjoy some of The Textile Museum's Saturday Rug and Textile Appreciation programs.

A second blog is Eccentric Wefts <https://raymondj.wordpress.com/>

On this blog, John talks about aspects of rugs and textiles and related things that interest him.

OTHER WEBSITES AND NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST

Some of our textile compatriots in Washington D.C. and other parts of the country have excellent newsletters which may be of interest to you.

The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. <https://museum.gwu.edu>

The Hajji Baba Club (NY, NJ, CT)
[Information on membership]
www.hajjibaba.org

“View from the Fringe: Newsletter of the New
England Rug Society”, www.ne-rugsociety.org

“Textile Museum Associates of Southern
California”, www.t Masc.org.

Textile Arts Council (TAC) Newsletter
www.textileartscouncil.org

TEXTILE TRAVEL

Behind the Scenes Adventures
www.btsadventures.com

Cloth Roads
www.clothroads.com

NY Guild of Handweavers
www.nyhandweavers.org