

ICOC 2011

After the great success of the 2007 International Conference on Oriental Carpets in Istanbul, the June 2011 ICOC in Stockholm has much to live up to. With pre- and post-conference tours and a dynamic range of exhibitions as well as a Dealers' Fair to add value to the academic programme, the event looks promising.

ICOC XII WILL BE HELD in Stockholm, Sweden from 16-19 June 2011. There will also be an art-focused pre-conference tour to the Danish capital, Copenhagen, and an equally exciting and rewarding post-conference trip across the Baltic to St Petersburg in Russia, providing plenty for carpet and textile enthusiasts to see and do.

The two-day trip to Copenhagen begins on 14 June with a visit to the Museum of Applied Art, where a 17th century Indian pashmina carpet, a Safavid silk kilim fragment and a Holbein carpet will be just some of the

highlights from the museum's large collection of carpets, textiles and tapestries on display exclusively for the ICOC group. The King's Garden and Rosenborg Castle, built by King Christian IV at the beginning of the 17th century will be the next stop, where the pre-conference tour group will see, among many beautiful artefacts, the Danish Coronation carpets (HALI 32, 1986, pp.18-21). The second day in Copenhagen includes a tour, guided by Director Kjeld von Folsach, of the recently reopened David Collection (HALI 161, 2009, pp.50-65), the home of many wonderful



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1-3 Safavid 'Polonaise' rugs from the Hallwyl and Skokloster Collections; Queen Christina's Safavid figural velvet coat from the Royal Armoury



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4-6 Traditional Swedish textiles to be displayed in a special ICOC exhibition at the Stockholm Exhibition and Congress Centre, including: the Everlöv tapestry weave (*flamskväv*) bed cover from 1780; an interlocking tapestry (*rörlakan*) carriage cushion (*agedyna*), from 1725; and

a long piled *rya* rug with a floral design
7-10 Oriental rugs and textiles from private collections, also to be displayed during the ICOC at the Exhibition and Congress Centre, including: a rare Quchan region pile rug from northeast Iran, possibly

either Kurdish or Afshar; a Salor Turkmen *chuvah*, a Caucasian *memling-gül* design long rug, and also an embroidered Turkmen *boğçalar* from the Marshall & Marilyn Wolf Collection, New York



Islamic rugs, textiles and works of art.
And so to the conference in Sweden's capital city, the opening ceremony for which will be an evening reception for registered participants on Thursday 16 June at Stockholm International Fairs' Exhibition and Congress Centre (*Stockholmsmässan*), the main ICOC conference, exhibition and fair venue. The three-day meeting will offer participants a full programme of some forty didactic lectures in special themed and general sessions on a wide range of carpet and textile subjects encompassing Scandinavia and Russia, via Anatolia and Iran to Central Asia. And of course there will also be the International Dealers' Fair, a host of exclusive visits to local museums and collections and several exhibitions of rugs and textiles from private collections.
The long, light, June evenings in Stockholm will hold more adventures with exhibitions and receptions at the Royal Palace (*Kungliga Slottet*) and at several museums. The Royal Armoury (*Livrskammaren*) will be the venue for classical

carpets and textiles gathered together from several important sources. Among other things, this display will include two west Anatolian 'Transylvanian' rugs and a pair of Safavid 'Polonaise' rugs from the Wrangel Collection at Skokloster Castle (HALI 55, 1991, 118-123), another 'Polonaise' rug from Stockholm's Hallwyl Museum (see this issue pp.22-25), plus fabulous oriental arms and armour and the famous coat, tailored in Moscow from best quality Safavid figural velvet, and given to Queen Christina of Sweden in 1644 by the Tsar of Russia. At the Museum of National Antiquities there will be the opportunity to view the historic 'Marby' bird and tree rug (HALI 101, 1998, p.101), plus Islamic and early Swedish textiles.
In addition to a diverse loan exhibition of rugs and textiles from private collections, and a themed display of silk rugs, there will be special displays at *Stockholmsmässan* of traditional Swedish textiles, including tapestry weave and embroidered cushions and covers, as well as long-piled *rya* rugs. Another loan exhibition, drawn from collections on both sides of the Atlantic, will be



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11-13 Clockwise from top left, Turkmen Eagle Göl Group I, II and III main carpets from European and American private collections

first ever comprehensive display of Eagle-Göl Group (EGG) Turkmen carpets, tent bands and trappings, as defined in 1990 by Rautenstengel and Azadi. All three groups will be represented, in order to demonstrate their typical structural features and design characteristics.

Accompanying them will be a selection of Turkmen embroidered *boğçalar* from the Marshall and Marilyn Wolf Collection, including Tekke, Chodor, Yomut, Ersari and rare Arabachi pieces. These small, almost square embroideries each with an envelope flap were made for the wealthy to hold precious personal possessions, although they were previously thought to be Qur'an bags or for other secular uses.

The post-conference tour (19-23 June) begins in St Petersburg with a visit to the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences (the *Kunstkamera*), Russia's first museum, founded by Peter the Great in 1714, for an exhibition tour with the emphasis on textiles, and a show-and-tell of around twenty Baluch rugs and a similar number of Central Asian ikats. Then on to the Russian Ethnographic Museum where the group will see the opening of the gala exhibition 'Mega-stars of the REM carpet collections', a selection from the museum's holdings of more than 5,000 Central Asian, Caucasian, Russian, Bessarabian, Finnish and other pile and flatwoven rugs. Taking full advantage of the city's 'white nights', the rest of the St Petersburg visit will include a day at The State Hermitage Museum to see the Pazyryk carpet and other Pazyryk finds, plus visits to the Staraya Derevnya Hermitage Depository and Tsarskoye Selo Palace-Museum – the Summer Palace of Catherine the Great – among many other spectacular venues.

For information see: www.icoc-orientalrugs.org