

Old or New, Fake or Real: Authenticity and the Study of Oriental Carpets

Philadelphia Museum of Art
June 1, 2012 at 6:30 PM

An Illustrated Lecture by Walter B. Denny
Professor of Art History
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Foundations of Carpet Scholarship



ALOIS RIEGL



WILHELM VON BODE



ERNST KUEHNEL



KURT ERDMANN

The “Painter Carpets” and Carpet History





Advantages and Limitations of Dating Carpets from Paintings



Carpet Scholarship and the Issue of Dating and Provenance



Written Documentation





“Traditional” Provenance







Condition





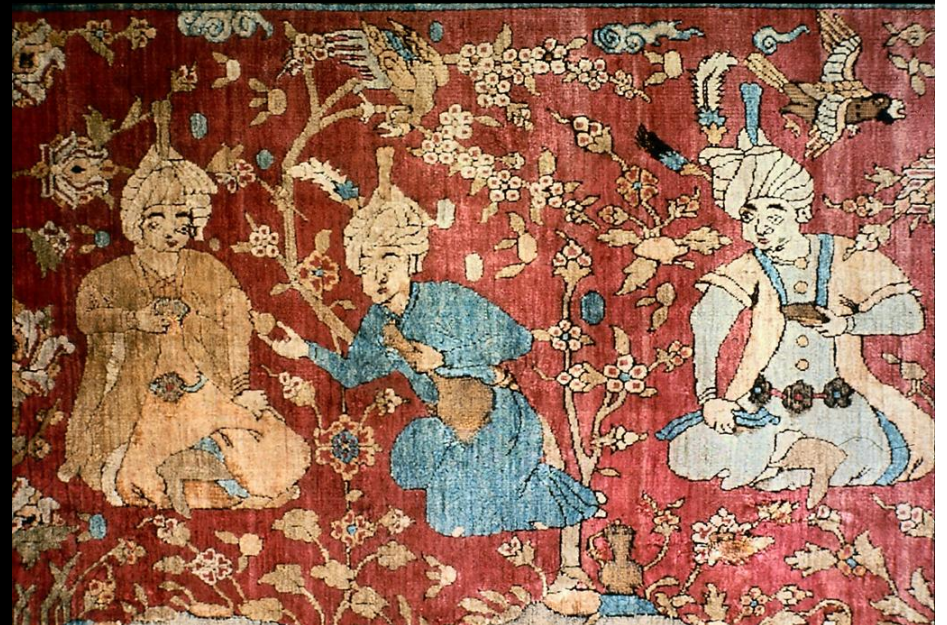


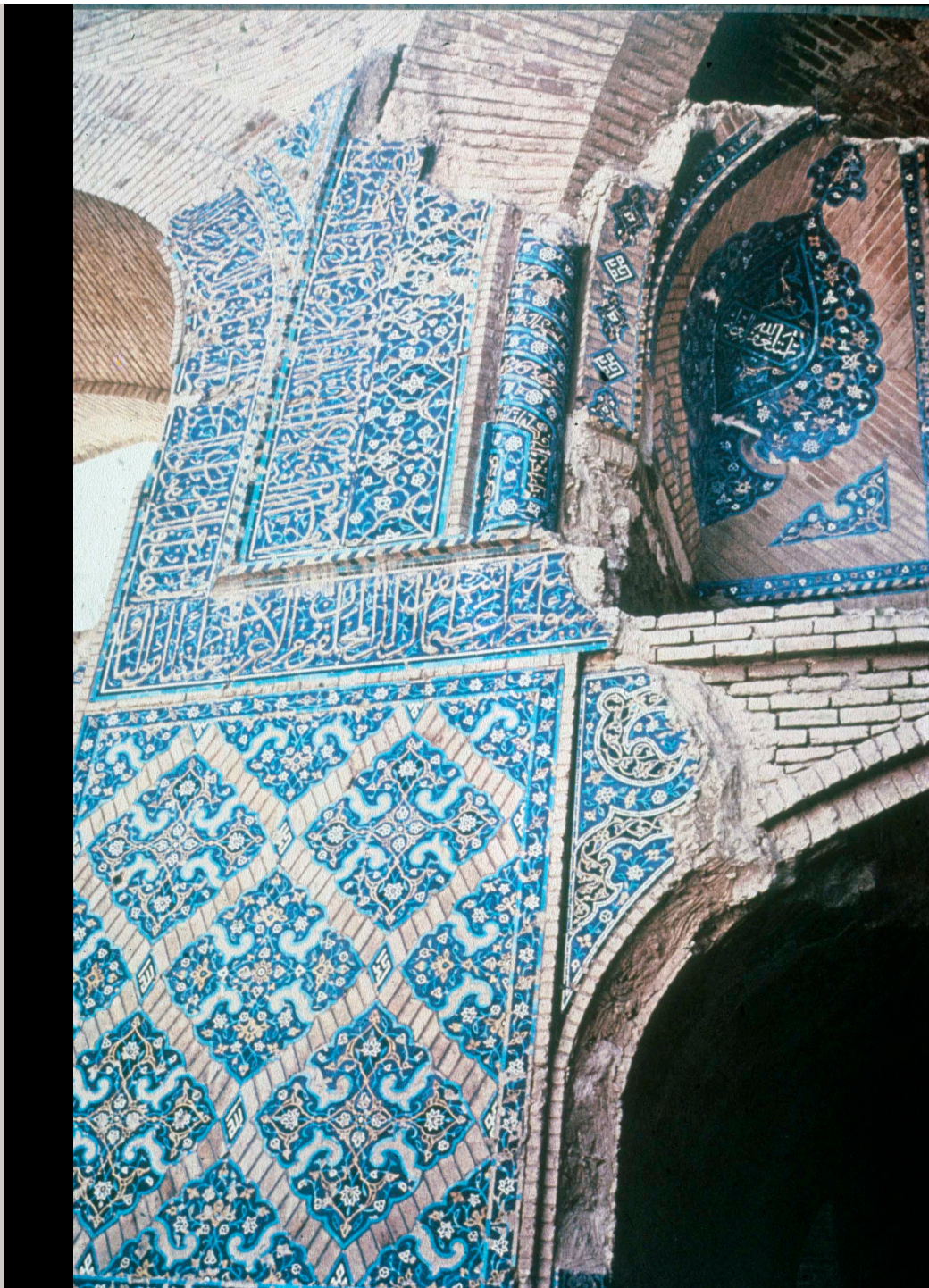
Stylistic Analysis and the Evolution of Forms





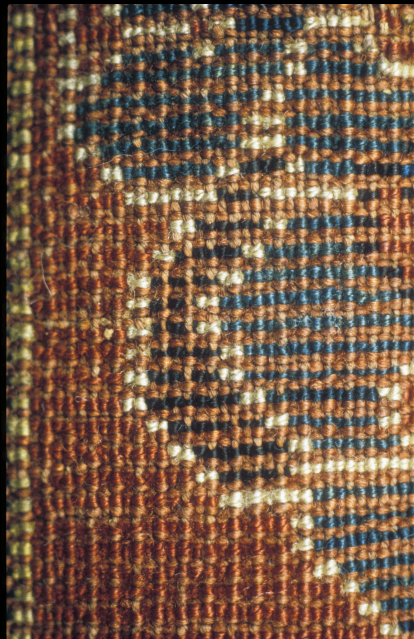
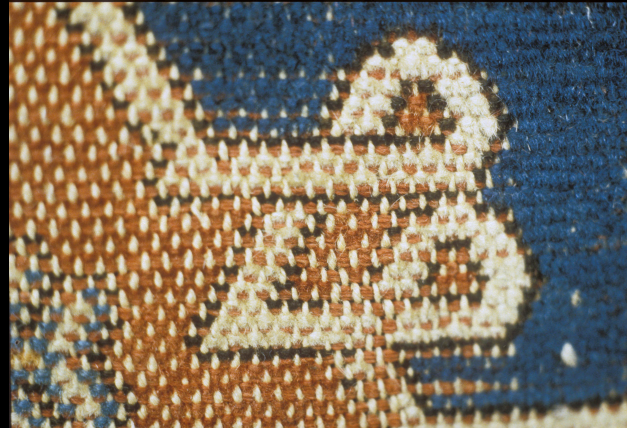
Collateral Dating: Stylistic Comparison

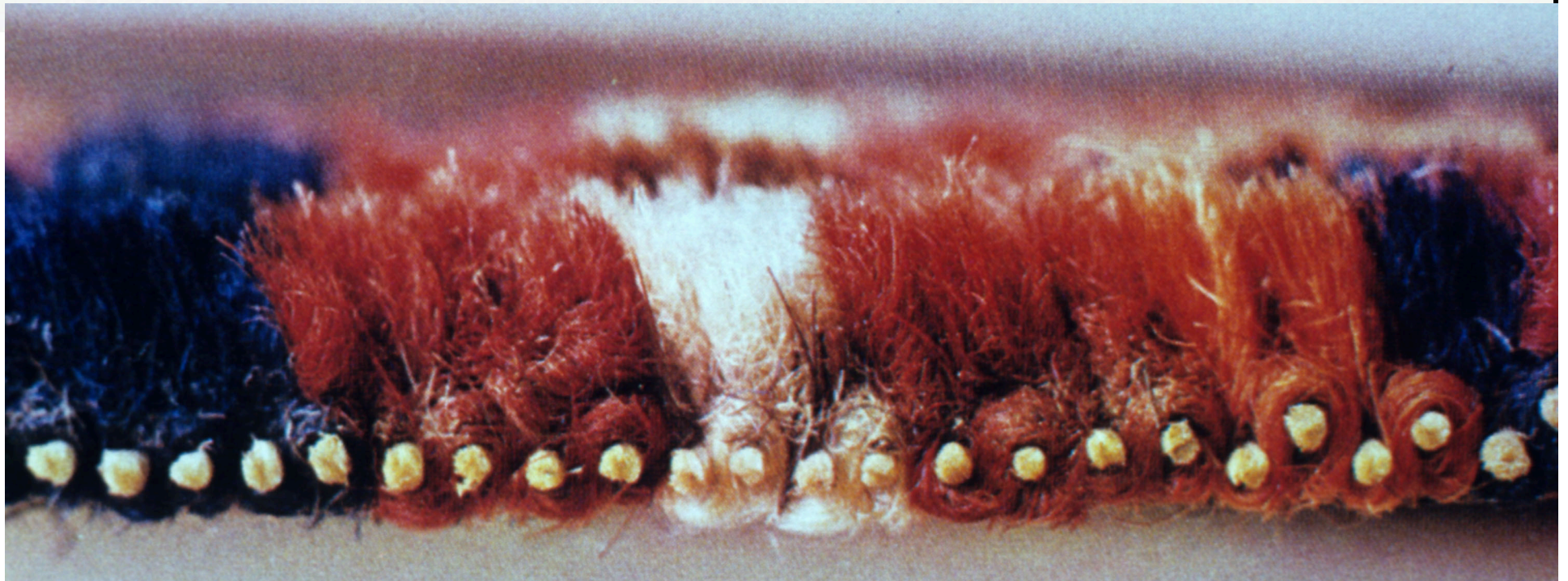


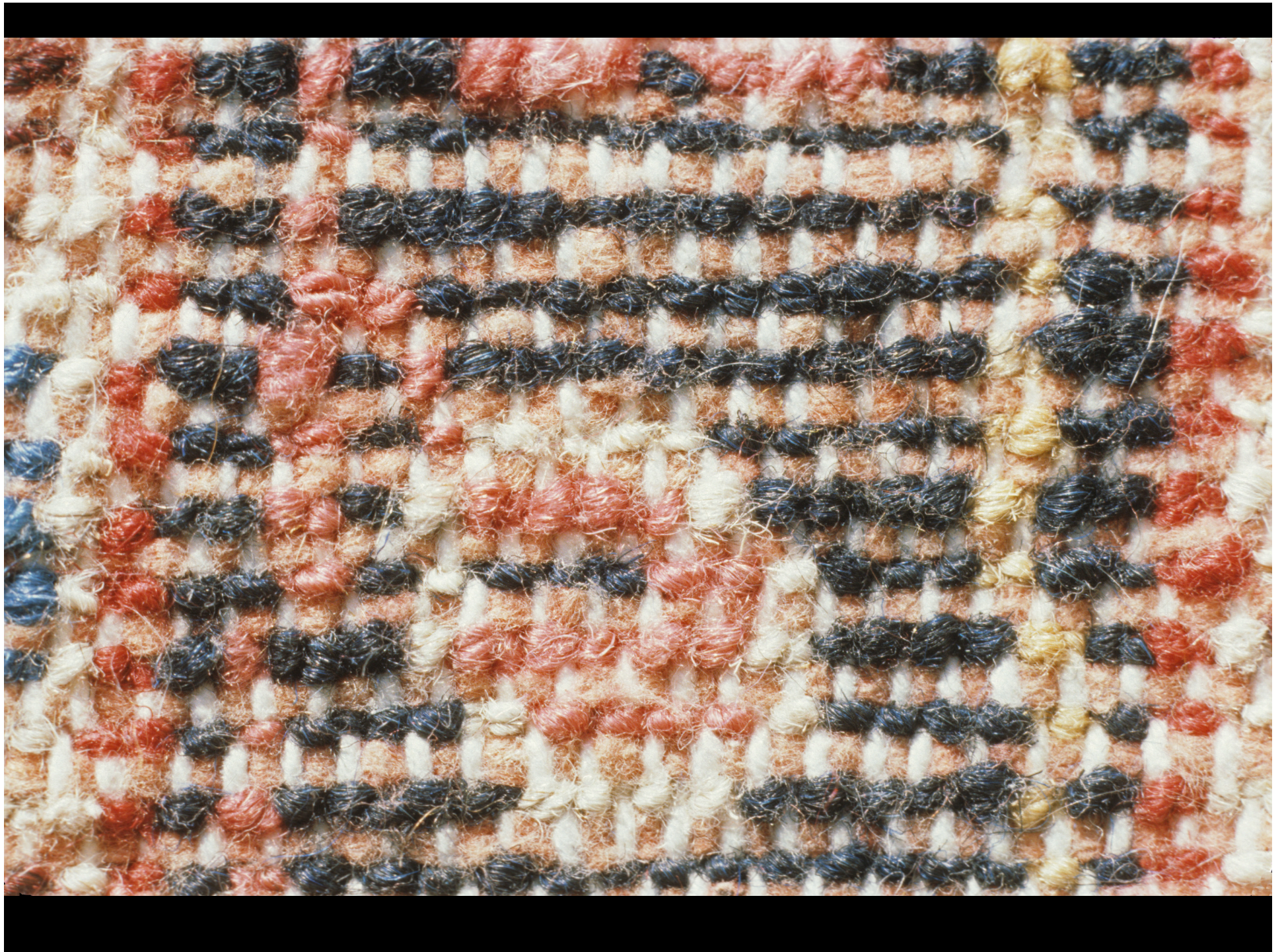




Technical and Structural Analysis







Inscriptions on Carpets



ترستان توام در جهان بنیادی
سر کمال در حواله کامی
عالمین درگاه معبود کاشا
۹۱۴

What About “Scientific” Tests? Dye Analysis





Carbon-14 Analysis



Motivations and Opportunities for Deception







Means of Deception:

Use of Old Designs

Use of Old Techniques

Re-use of Old Materials

Physical Treatment

Chemical Treatment

False Provenance

Three Case Studies: 1. The Tuduc Carpets from Bucharest





RT304/1974.149.54



Case Studies: 2. The “Salting” Carpets











Case Studies: 3. The Anhalt Carpet in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

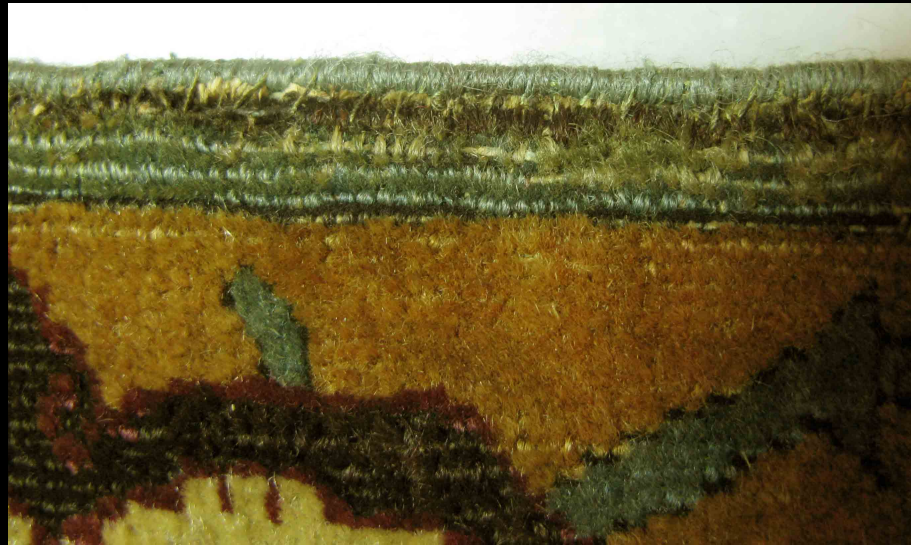
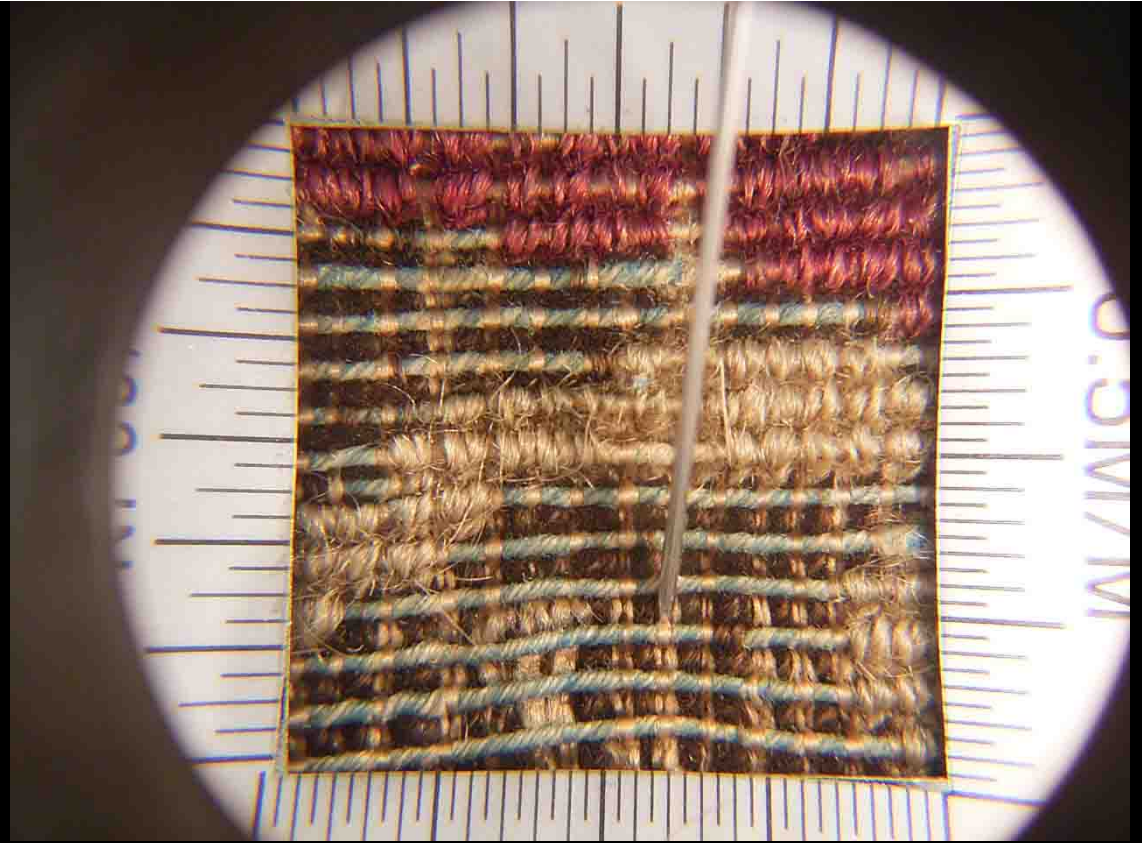


1973: Three Thumbs Down

















THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS REPORT

To: Navina Haidar, Denise Marie Teece, Islamic Art *DSR reference no.*

From: Nobuko Shibayama

Date: September 1, 2010

Received and archived for DSR

Date:

Accession no. 46.128 (Islamic Art)

Re. Dyes used on a 16th c. Persian 'Anhalt' carpet (Iranian, Safavid period, 1501–1722)



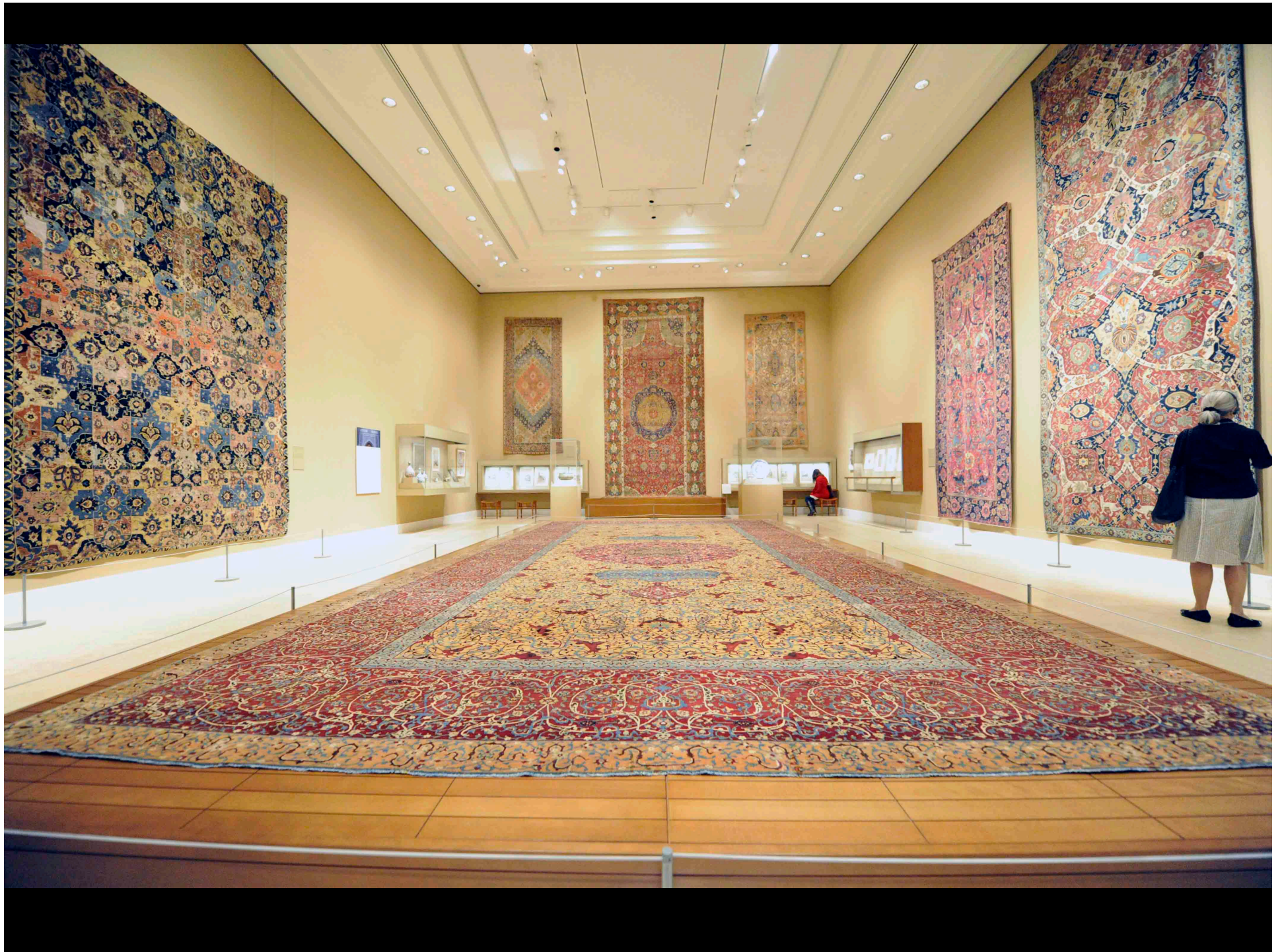
Conclusions:

Color: Unusual among surviving examples, but completely authentic according to our current knowledge

Condition: Good, but certainly not in any way suspiciously so, given our current knowledge

Design: Well-done and completely consonant with our current understanding of Safavid-era carpet design practice; probably among the very earliest Safavid medallion carpets made from a court-generated cartoon





Come Visit in New York!

Many thanks for your attention!
THE END

