

In this issue

Issue 222 Winter 2024



80

Compass

13 Editorial

The British Museum exhibition 'Silk Roads' may supply the theme for the issue but does it centre enough on the silk?

21 Dialogue

V&A in East London; audio adventures in Paris; Cogolin centenary; gardening tapestry; Islamic Arts Biennale 2025; Hawaiian quilts and the ecology of the islands; the future of the Armenian rugs society

24 Diary

HALI's recommendations for the quarter

27 Calendar

Auctions, exhibitions, fairs and conferences

28 Thread of time

Rachel Meek

Tracing the journeys of a Central Asian costume and a Swat Valley embroidery from their places of origin to Europe

30 Travellers' tales

Gavin Strachan

Travels through Bulgaria with the Oriental Rug and Textile Society

34 Profile

Markus Voigt

Inside the collections of Christian and Dietlinde Erber

38 Comment

Oskar Kaelin

Cuneiform texts from Bronze Age Mesopotamia confirm that textile production was an urban, rather than rural, industry

40 Anatomy of an object

Diego Tamburini

Scientific analysis of dyeing techniques has helped reconstruct a Tang-dynasty silk textile

42 Common thread

The mark of prestige has been acquired by a number of materials through their provenance, history, unique features and rarity

Features

46 Many silks, many roads

Aarathi Prasad

The many silks along the Silk Roads

50 The journey of silk

Luk Yu-ping

The 'Silk Roads' exhibition at the British Museum traces the history of sericulture and years of contact and exchange

54 Along the Silk Roads

Seventeen scholars and museum curators illuminate facets of the Silk Roads

74 Of falcons and dragons

Mariachiara Gasparini and Jacqueline Simcox

A new book sheds light on an exceptional private collection of textiles

80 Epic scale

Elisabeth Parker

An exhibition in Washington, DC revealed previously dispersed folios from the Great Mongol Shahnama manuscript



124



84



102

84

Thread and ornament

Thomas Cole

The mysterious attributions and provenance of Turkmen embroidery

90

Masters of the art of collecting

Markus Voigt and Penny Oakley

A look into Suzani: Art of the Silk Road and insight into exceptional embroidery works

96

Near-perfect symmetry

Steven Cohen

What is the purpose of a textile of great craftsmanship from the Karun Thakar collection?

102

Emperors of the arts

Avalon Fotheringham

An exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum documents creativity flourishing during the reigns of three Mughal emperors

112

A story yet to be told

Cosima Stewart

Endeavours to discover more about rarely-discussed Zakatala rugs from Anatolia

120

Heads held high

Paul Michael Taylor

The symbolism of a headscarf for Azerbaijan

124

Ever-changing stories

Janet Marion Purdy

An exhibition in St Louis explores narratives told by African arts

128

Ways in to the past and present

Christine Giutini

Conversations opened between ancient Andean and modern Western abstractions

Reviews

134

Book review

Stitching the Intifada, by Rachel Dedman, reviewed by Ella Haig

136

Conference reviews

'9th Asean Traditional Textile Symposium and IASSRT 2024', Vientiane; 'Translocating textiles', SOAS, London; 'The Art of Embroidery: History, Tradition, and New Horizons', Lorca

142

Exhibition reviews

'A Silk Road Oasis: Life in Ancient Dunhuang', British Library, reviewed by Malin Lonnberg; 'War rugs: Afghanistan's Knotted History', British Museum, reviewed by Ella Haig; 'Carpet of Stories: Subjects of the Soviet Carpet Art', All-Russian Museum of Decorative Arts, reviewed by Natalia Glazovskaya

Marketplace

148

Auctions

Daniel Shaffer

The 'Polonaise' enjoys a reputation at the top end of the international market

150

Auction price guide

International auction results of note

160

Last page

Renaissance tapestries depicting historical events are displayed for the first time in the United States at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco

