

Transylvania & Bucovina

Carpets, Kilims and Castles

May 31-June 10, 2012



Tour Highlights

- Led by Alberto Boralevi and Stefano Ionescu, experts in classical carpets and award-winning authors
- Featuring visits to over twenty museums, churches, painted monasteries and private collections
- View some of the world's best preserved Islamic textiles and Romanian folk kilims tucked away in historical landmarks across the hills of Transylvania and post-Byzantine textiles in Bucovina





St. Margaret Church in Mediaș, built in the late Gothic style, with a view of its organ

Landscape in the Carpathians, near Bran

Tour Itinerary

Key: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

Thursday, May 31

ARRIVAL IN BUCHAREST

Arrive by independent flights at Otopeni International Airport or Băneasa International Airport and transfer to hotel. Meet for a welcome dinner at hotel restaurant.

Hotel Domenii Plaza (D)

Friday, June 1

BUCHAREST

Begin the day with a welcome talk by Study Tour Leader Stefano Ionescu, then visit the **National Museum of Art** for a tour of the Oriental Art Gallery displaying Islamic, Chinese, and Japanese art. Return to the hotel for lunch and free time. Afterwards, stroll to the open-air **Village Museum**, which features old peasant homes from different regions of the country with original furnishings. Meet a local woman who specializes in embroidered folk blouses and a weaver who shares examples of kilims with the group. Travel to the **Armenian Museum**, before joining collector **Tudor Oprescu** for a drink and viewing of his private collection at his home. Upon returning to the hotel, enjoy a preview presentation of the tour by Stefano and a dinner of Balkanic cuisine and Chateau Bolavan wine.

Hotel Domenii Plaza (B,D)

Saturday, June 2

BUCHAREST/MOGOȘOIA

Begin the day with a visit to the **Museum of the Romanian Peasant**, which holds the world's largest collection of *scoartze* (Romanian folk kilims). Stefano introduces the main textile production areas in the region: Oltenia, Moldavia and Bessarabia. Visit the storage room, time permitting. An open-air lunch at the garden restaurant of the **Mogoșoia Palace** with its director follows. Join the curator for a tour of the Palace, which holds about 300 artworks donated by top Romanian art collectors **Liana and Dan Nasta**.

These include 19th-century Kula, Ghiordes, Kirshehir, and Senneh rugs and Romanian *scoartze*. Visit Dan Nasta's home to view his private collection and a presentation of some of his favorite Romanian folk kilims. The day ends with dinner at Caru' cu Bere, a *Bierhaus* in the old town with Romanian cuisine, music, and entertainment, followed by a drive through the city.

Hotel Domenii Plaza [B,L,D]

Sunday, June 3

BUCHAREST/SINAIA/BRAN/BRAȘOV

Depart for Sinaia. During the drive Stefano will share the historical and religious background of the three regions of Romania:

Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania. Enjoy a stop at Sinaia, a famous resort in the Carpathian Mountains. Visit the **Peleș Castle**, the former residence of the Royal family, where Alberto will present a few Persian rugs. Light lunch in the gardens of the palace. Depart for Bran, observe the **Dracula Castle**, and have a cheese tasting at Bran's local market. A private visit to the **Lutheran Church in Rosenau** follows, where we view and handle Ottoman rugs. Alberto will also discuss a Kula rug. After checking into Hotel Ambient, walk to the old section of Brașov for a dinner in a private hall at the Saxon Tavern. Following dinner, enjoy a walking tour through the medieval center of Brașov, which includes a stop to see the Black Church by moonlight.

Hotel Ambient [B,L,D]

About the Study Tour Leaders

ALBERTO BORALEVI, an architect and dealer, is one of the world's top experts in classical carpets. Alberto was born and resides in Florence, where, since 1986, he has run a gallery specializing in tribal weavings, early classical and rare carpet fragments, Islamic textiles and embroideries, and Italian peasant rugs and textiles. In 1999, as Chairman of the International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC) Academic Committee, Alberto organized the Lecture Program of the 9th Conference in Milan and was the curator of an exhibition of classical carpets from the Bardini Collections in Florence. Since 2003 he is a member of the ICOC Executive Committee and Chairman of the International Academic Committee. In this role he organized the lecture programs of both the Istanbul ICOC in 2007 and Stockholm ICOC in 2011. Alberto is the author of several publications on Oriental carpets and other textiles. In 2011, he received the Joseph V. McMullan Award for Scholarship and Stewardship in Islamic Rugs and Textiles.

An independent scholar of Oriental carpets, **STEFANO IONESCU** has dedicated more than 12 years studying Anatolian carpets in Transylvania. This region is the repository of some of the richest and best-preserved Turkish carpets outside the Islamic world. Stefano is the author of numerous articles and publications, including *Antique Ottoman Rugs in Transylvania*, a comprehensive study documenting the rug collection of the Black Church among examples from other churches and museums in the region. The book was awarded the Romanian Academy Prize in the History of Art. Stefano has also curated several significant exhibitions, and in 2011 was given the prestigious Joseph V. McMullan Award for Scholarship and Stewardship in Islamic Rugs and Textiles for his studies, promotion, and safeguarding of the Transylvanian rug patrimony.



Rugs in the nave of the Monastery Church in Sighișoara



The Dracula Castle



Unique Anatolian carpet (detail), 16th century, held at the Black Church. Discuss its traits in order to establish provenance with Tour Leaders

Monday, June 4

BRAȘOV

Depart by bus to visit the **Black Church**, which features 104 antique Ottoman rugs. A member of the Parish will present the history of the Church and Alberto and Stefano will outline important examples of Anatolian carpets. A special visit to the choir of the church, typically closed to the public. Also enjoy an exclusive viewing of six rugs from storage never on display, including the Ghirlandaio rug, a Bellini fragment and the blue Lotto of Petersberg. While at the church, organist **Stephen Schlandt** treats the group to an exclusive short concert on the historical organ. Free time follows for lunch or shopping in the local stores. Visit two churches in the afternoon: **Blumenau Church** and the **Hungarian Lutheran Church**. Alberto will share details about the restoration of a double-niche Transylvanian carpet and Stefano will discuss a forged single-niche Transylvanian by Tuduc—the world's most famous carpet forger. Depart by bus for Poiana Brașov, the finest mountain resort in the area (alt. 1,100 meters). Dinner at the Shepherd's House with traditional food and music follows.

Hotel Ambient [B,D]

Tuesday, June 5

BRAȘOV/AGAPIA/BUCOVINA

Travel to the fortified **Church of Hărman** for a private visit to view and handle 11 rugs currently on display. Depart for Moldova across the Carpathians; on the road Stefano leads a discussion about Tuduc and the rugs of the **Lutheran Parish of Rupea**. Enjoy a light lunch on the way to the **Agapia Monastery**. At the Agapia Monastery visit a small museum that includes textiles and a workshop where visitors can watch weavers work on kilim looms. Depart for Bucovina; listen to a presentation on local history and painted monasteries on the way. Explore the **Voroneț Monastery**, built in 1488, for the remainder of the day. Check into Hotel Popasul Domnesc in Voroneț for dinner.

Hotel Popasul Domnesc [B,L,D]

Wednesday, June 6

BUCOVINA

Explore Bucovina, beginning with a private visit to the **Putna Monastery**. Father Alexie, a scholar and the collection curator, presents 16th- and 17th-century historic embroideries. Tour the monks' rooms in the church before leaving for the **Sucevița Monastery**. There, Mother Superior Mihaela presents the collection, including the tomb cover of Prince Ieremia Movilă. Enjoy lunch at Popasul Bucovina. The day concludes with a visit to the **Moldovița Monastery** to view an impressive fresco of the Siege of Constantinople. The drive home includes Ciomârna Pass, which provides a panoramic view over the hills of Bucovina. The day ends with dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Hotel Popasul Domnesc [B,L,D]

Thursday, June 7

BUCOVINA/SIGHIȘOARA/MEDIAȘ

Depart for Transylvania, first stopping at Pașul Tihuța to admire the landscape of the Carpathians. In Sighișoara, visit the medieval city center and the **Monastery Church**. This collection comprises 40 rugs, including a unique late 15th-century star-lattice rug. Relax during lunch at the Wagner House, a favorite local restaurant. The afternoon includes a visit to the picturesque village Biertan, which was the Episcopal Seat of the Saxon Lutheran Church in Transylvania. Drive to **St. Margaret Church** in Mediaș, where Alberto leads a discussion on the Holbein, Lotto, Bird, and Çintamani rugs. Study Tour participants have the chance to view half of a Holbein rug preserved in the Church's store room. Members of the Parish will also introduce the history of the Mediaș Church. Dinner at the hotel restaurant includes a local wine tasting, and the group will be joined by guests from the local community.

Binder Buby Hotel [B,L,D]

Friday, June 8

MEDIAȘ/SIBIU

Visit the **Brukenthal National Museum** in Sibiu, and meet the museum's director, Professor Sabin Luca. Enter the European Art Gallery (which includes works by Antonello da Messina and Pieter Breughel) for a private viewing of eight Ottoman rugs with a curator. Alberto will discuss an exceptionally well-preserved small-pattern Holbein. We also visit the conservation lab to see a restoration in progress. A light lunch with fresh fruits in the museum's garden follows, with free time for shopping in the vibrant downtown of Sibiu. An optional concert by the Saxon organist Ursula Philippi, who plays recently uncovered 17th century Transylvanian music, follows. The day concludes with a visit to the **Lutheran Church** in Sibiu, an exceptional example of Gothic architecture. Dine at a local restaurant before a stroll through the old city center. **Parc Hotel [B,L,D]**

Saturday, June 9

SIBIU/BUCHAREST

Depart by bus for Bucharest, journeying across the spectacular Olt Valley. Visit the 14th-century Orthodox **Monastery of Cozia**, where we view some very well preserved 15th-century frescoes and 16th-century Orthodox icons. Enjoy a picnic lunch at **Cotmeana Monastery**. Upon arriving in Bucharest, check into the hotel. Join gallery owner Sandra Pralong for drinks at the **D'Ancona Budis Art Gallery**, which exhibits Romanian contemporary art. Sandra joins the group for a farewell dinner at Pescăruș Terrace Restaurant by Herăstrău Lake. Dinner is complemented by a folklore program and dancing.

Hotel Domenii Plaza [B,L,D]

Sunday, June 10

BUCHAREST DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport.



Mogoșoaia Palace



Transylvanian niche rug (detail),
Western Anatolia, second half of 17th century



Nicolas Grant (Romanian Orientalist), *Turkish Boudoir*, c. 1910
All images courtesy of Stefano Ionescu, Arch. Fabini, Jeff Lehman and Istock Photo

Tour Fee

\$3,995/double; \$4,395/single

Price based on minimum of 15 participants and subject to revision based on potential changes in taxes, vendor fees and/or fewer number of travelers.

Price includes:

- Accommodations and meals noted in itinerary or similar
- Mineral water, local wine and slibovitz (plum brandy) with dinner
- Mineral water and fresh fruit during the journeys
- Private bus throughout tour
- Entrance tickets for museums and other attractions (excluding fees for taking photos)
- Specially arranged behind-the-scenes and private collections visits
- Lectures by Study Tour Leaders Alberto Boralevi and Stefano Ionescu
- Assistance of a representative of The TM
- Transfers from/to the Otopeni or Baneasa airports in Bucharest

Price does not include:

- International airfare to/from Bucharest
- Any activity or expenses not specified in itinerary
- Any meals not noted on itinerary
- Gratuity to bus driver and small donations to some churches visited
- Travel insurance covering medical and evacuation (Required)
- Personal expenses (e.g. telephone, laundry, alcoholic beverages)

ELIGIBILITY

This tour is open to Textile Museum members at the Supporter level (\$250) and above only. To join The TM or upgrade your membership, call (202) 667-0441, ext. 17 or visit www.textilemuseum.org.

REGISTRATION

Space is very limited. Registrations are only accepted by telephone; please call (202) 667-0441, ext. 47. If a space is confirmed, you will receive a registration form for completion.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Please retain a copy for your reference.

The Textile Museum (TM) has contracted with Transylvanian Rug Tours-Rome (TRT) to organize this Study Tour. Transylvanian Rug Tours-Rome (TRT) organizes, promotes and sells travel programs and travel services that it purchases from other suppliers. The suppliers are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of TRT. They supply services that include, but are not limited to, transportation, accommodations, meals, and excursions using local guides (as needed). While we endeavor to make travel arrangements with reputable suppliers, TM/TRT are not responsible for the willful or negligent acts and/or omissions of such suppliers, their employees, agents, servants, or representatives, including, without limitation, their failure or inadequate delivery of services. All travel and arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers, air carriers and/or applicable governing laws. TM/TRT and the suppliers providing transportation or any service can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to but not limited to delay, inconvenience, changes to or cancellation of itinerary, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, any act, omission, negligence or other causes beyond their control. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. TM/TRT is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip (i.e.: air tickets, visa/passport fees, equipment, medical expenses, individual transfers, etc.).

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I am voluntarily participating in the trip with knowledge that it involves some inherent risks and danger including, but not limited to, forces of nature, terrorism, civil unrest, strikes, wild animals, theft, cancellation or changes in itinerary, negligent action of others or their agencies, or means of conveyance or accommodation which may not be operated nor maintained to standards common in the United States. This includes health-related issues, and I am aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during all or part of my trip. This includes emergency medical care, presence of physicians, and adequate medication. It is the passenger's responsibility to judge the appropriateness of the travel activities to their own physical capabilities. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies they agree with these terms and conditions and that they do not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create hazard for them or other passengers. TM/TRT and its suppliers take no responsibility for special arrangements or problems incurred by passengers unable to participate in the planned activities. The right is reserved to decline any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time.

INSURANCE: All participants are required to be covered by medical and emergency evacuation insurance and must show proof of coverage at least 30 days prior to departure. We also strongly recommend that all participants are covered by a travel insurance policy covering trip cancellation and lost/theft of baggage. TM/TRT cannot be responsible for these expenses.

CHANGES IN SERVICES: Rates: Rates are based on supplier fees in effect at the time of printing. We reserve the right to alter our prices. Individual transfers for those traveling independently are not included in the land cost unless otherwise stated. If the group falls below the minimum paying passenger requirement, the expedition is subject to cancellation or re-pricing. Itinerary: TM/TRT reserve the right to cancel or make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. TM/TRT reserve the right to cancel any tour before departure, in which case a full refund of all amounts paid to TM/TRT will be made.

PAYMENT/CANCELLATION POLICY: All requests by travelers for cancellation must be received in writing. A deposit of \$750 per person is due with completed reservation form. The deposit is fully refundable if the reservation is cancelled by January 31, 2012. The balance of the tour cost must be paid by March 15, 2012. There is no refund for cancellations made after March 15, 2012.

ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the performance there under, including without limitation any claim related to bodily injury, property damage or death, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Washington, DC, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association and Washington, D.C. law. This agreement to arbitrate does not waive or modify the liability release contained in the foregoing paragraph.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY: As a condition of acceptance each participant understands and has agreed to all information above and the following release of liability. I/We have carefully read the schedule of activities, requirements, the "Terms & Conditions" provided by the brochure, and I/we are aware that the tour involves the risk of personal injury, death or loss (damage) to property. In consideration of the benefits derived by the trip, I/we voluntarily recognize and accept all risks thereof. I/we understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, executors, and assigns, to release and hold harmless TM/TRT and any of its officers, employees, agents, or representatives, from any and all claims, including but not limited to liability for delays, monetary damages, illness, injuries, death, or for the loss of or damage to property resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions. I/we agree to abide by the conditions set forth under the "Terms & Conditions" and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. I/we affirm that I/we are covered by medical insurance which is valid overseas. I/we affirm that I/we have not relied on any additional oral or written representation of TM/TRT or their suppliers for executing this release. I/we further acknowledge receipt of this release and I/we understand and accept its terms and conditions. Any questions I/we had concerning this release have been answered to my full satisfaction.