



# ORIENTAL RUG SOCIETY OF NSW

25A Creek St, Forest Lodge NSW 2037

[www.rugsociety.org.au](http://www.rugsociety.org.au)

Vol 42, No 6

**ORS End-of-Year Party**  
**Sunday December 10**  
**Perryman Carpets Gallery**  
**100 Queen St, Woollahra**

**3 to 5 pm**

***Fabulous food! Rug Quiz & raffle with great prizes!***



Please remember to:

- . **Bring cash** for raffle tickets (\$2 each, 3 for \$5).
- . **Bring a pen/pencil** for the Rug Quiz.
- . **And best not to arrive before 3.00 pm**, as we'll be setting up till then.

As usual, the Rug Quiz is based partly on our talks over the year, including Central Asian suzanis, the Memling gul, Caucasian rugs. Hope to see you there!

If you haven't RSVP'd (we've responded to all received so far), please do so asap to: [info@rugsociety.org.au](mailto:info@rugsociety.org.au)

Entry, **\$30 members, \$40 guests**.  
You may pay by **cash** or **card** on the day,

or pre-pay by electronic transfer to:

**Oriental Rug Soc. of NSW**

**BSB: 062 217**

**Acct no: 10491173**

**Description: your surname & "Party".**



## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Now is an opportune time to renew your ORS membership for 2024; see the attached form. For your diary, our 2024 meeting dates:

**Feb 8   Apr 11   June 13**

**Aug 8   Oct 10   Dec (TBA)**

## **TEXTILE EVENTS**

**HALI Tour: Decorative Arts of Iberia. Spain & Portugal. 8-20 April 2024** (places limited).

Register at: [halitours@hali.com](mailto:halitours@hali.com)

**International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC), Istanbul, 6-9 Jun, 2024.**

Details: [hali@itkib.org.tu](mailto:hali@itkib.org.tu)

ICOC also plans a tour of **Carpets and Collections of the Swiss Alpine Area. Sep 16th to 22, 2024.** Details:

[ftt-textilundteppichkunst.ch/icoc-swiss-alpine-tour-2024](http://ftt-textilundteppichkunst.ch/icoc-swiss-alpine-tour-2024)



## LAST MEETING: RUGS OF THE CAUCASUS

ORS Committee member Ian Perryman's presentation on Caucasian rugs attracted a large audience at our October 12 meeting. As well as explaining the history and various types of rugs, Ian highlighted the qualities of colour and design that make Caucasian rugs so seductive—as you can observe in the following images supplied by Ian.

Caucasian rugs aren't of tribal or nomadic origin like so many rug groups in Central Asia and Iran. Instead, the highly-prized 19<sup>th</sup> and very early 20<sup>th</sup> century pieces were woven by self-employed village artisans, and in some cases by several weavers in small workshops, mostly across what are now Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Republic of Dagestan.

Their repertoire of motifs and patterns, mostly geometric, often reflect the cultures that have taken root in the region over the centuries, particularly Persian, Ottoman Turkish, and Kurdish, often with hints of Islamic decorative principles.

Ornamentation includes striking medallions, stylized birds, animals and floral arabesques, trees, feathers and clouds, as well as compositions and patterns whose meanings, if they had any, are lost in time.

Ian observed that Caucasian weavers delighted in filling almost every available space with a stylized figure or geometric motif of some sort.



A 'Pinwheel' Kazak



**Shirvan region**

Ian examined the major groups and subgroups of Caucasian rugs by origin and design, such as Kazak, Shirvan, Karabagh, Kuba and Daghestan—usually former Russian administrative areas or Turkish/Persian Khanates.

Rugs are mostly of handspun wools with symmetrical ('Turkish' or 'Ghiordes) knots. Their brilliant polychrome colours are produced with natural dyes, such as combinations of madder, cochineal, pomegranate, euphorbia, indigo, walnuts and other organic materials.

Ian briefly covered the pioneering work of Latif Kerimov, who first categorized Caucasian rugs by geographical origin and built the Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku; well worth a long visit if you ever travel there.

All the rugs we enjoyed that evening, whether spread across tables or the screen, were extremely finely woven, striking in appearance and in pristine condition—a treat to behold.

Kuba Region (Perpedil design)



Kazak region, 'Lombalo' design



Karabagh region, 'Cloudband' design

