



ORIENTAL RUG SOCIETY OF NSW

25A Creek St, Forest Lodge NSW 2037

www.rugsociety.org.au



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NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12 June 2025
7.00 PM: Refreshments
7.30: Presentation
National Trust Centre,
Observatory Hill



Meeting Dates for 2025

Thu 12 Jun, Tue 5 Aug
Wed 15 Oct, Sun 7 Dec

Last Meeting

We had a full house at our March gathering to hear **Peter Bichler**, visiting from Vienna, explore the commercial trade including rugs between the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

An interesting point in Peter's well-illustrated presentation, **Fez & Kilim**, was Austria's role as Turkey's main supplier of the felt hat, the Fez. This was the traditional headwear of Turkish men until 1925, when President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk banned it in his campaign to modernise Turkish society.

On the other hand, Turkey exported kilims by the bale to the Austrian court, some of which Peter illustrated, especially following the outbreak of "kilim-mania" in Europe. This fascination with kilims amongst European elites was triggered by the 1873 Vienna World Fair and the striking Anatolian kilims displayed there.

Peter, President of the Austrian Society for Textile Art Research, also looked at the lesser-publicised kilims, usually termed Thracian or Balkan, from what's now Bulgaria and eastern Serbia.

Amongst Peter's intriguing historical asides was the appointment by Ottoman Sultan Abdul-Medgid (1823-1861) of Italian Giuseppe Donizetti, brother of better-known opera composer Gaetano Donizetti, as instructor of his imperial military bands, and as his personal musical teacher.

Below are images of Peter and a display of members' kilims that helped set the scene.



Presentation

Please join us on 12 June when we screen a Zoom presentation, **Exciting Carpet Finds in Italy**, by oriental rug specialist, **Alberto Boralevi**.

Alberto illustrates some remarkable discoveries from his 40-year hunt through Italian palaces, religious buildings and other locations for unpublished oriental carpet masterpieces.

His discoveries range from classical pieces that once belonged to the Grand Dukes of the powerful Medici family, to offbeat but beautiful rugs of humble origins and interesting provenance.

Based in Florence, Alberto is well known for his contributions to oriental rug studies and his informative and accessible presentations on oriental rugs and textiles.

Entry, **\$20 members, \$30 guests**. Pay by **cash** or **card on the night**, or pre-pay by **electronic transfer** to: **Oriental Rug Soc. of NSW**

BSB: 062 217 Acct no: 10491173

Please assist our caterers by responding ASAP to info@rugsociety.org.au (we've acknowledged all RSVPs so far).

