Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014
The Arts of the Islamic World
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

“Ex Oriente Lux: Luxury Textiles and Oriental Carpets” Carol Bier, 31 October 2014

Key Topics
Islamic Textiles, Technology, and Trade Our English textile terminology reflects trade in luxury
textiles from the Islamic world:
e.g. damask, muslin, calico, taffeta, chintz, khaki, cashmere, caftan, shawl, pajama Textile
functions: architecture/furnishings, clothing/fashion, containers, animal control Products of
technology; objects of trade; cultural artifacts; works of art Tiraz and rhila; Yemeni ikat Figural
silks and textile patterns Court and commerce; trade and diplomacy Oriental carpets and Islamic
textiles: luxury in a commercial world Meaning and metaphor; textiles and technology Opulence
and extravagance Ottoman caftans; Persian velvets

Online Resources
(Websites accessed 9 October 2014)
“Carpets and History,” Saudi Aramco World (May/June 1989),
http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/198903/carpets.and.history.htm
“Warp and Weft,” Saudi Aramco World Magazine (2009),
http://www.saudiaramcoworld.com/issue/200806/documents/ND08Calendar.pdf
L. Komaroff, on textiles in Early Islamic Art (Los Angeles County Museum of Art),
http://www.lacma.org/islamic_art/eia.htm
S. Krody, “The Sultan’s Garden: The Blossoming of Ottoman Art“ (exhibition on Ottoman textiles at The
Textile Museum in Washington, DC, 21 September 2012 – 10 March 2013),
http://museum.gwu.edu/sultansgarden-blossoming-ottoman-art
A. Liivandi and K. Ruehrdanz, “Cairo under Wraps: Early Islamic Textiles” (exhibition at the Royal Ontario
Museum, 21 June 2014 – 25 January 2015),
https://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitionsgalleries/exhibitions/cairo-under-wraps-early-islamic-
textiles
L. Mackie, “Floral Delights: Textiles from Islamic Lands” (exhibition at Cleveland Museum of Art, 13 July
islamic-lands
N. H. Munroe, “Early Islamic Textiles: Inscribed Garments,” Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition
Exhibition Blog, http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2012/byzantium-and-
islam/blog/topicalessays/posts/inscribed-garments
K. S. Rubinson, “Carpets: vi. Pre-Islamic carpets,” Encyclopaedia Iranica
http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/carpets-vi
D. F. Ruggles, “Muslim Journeys | Item #223: Islamic Textiles,”
M. Sardar, “Carpets from the Islamic World, 1600-1800,” Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History,

Additional Resources and Recommended Readings


