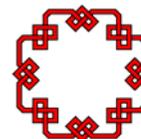


The International Conference on Oriental Carpets



April 15, 2006

Dear Colleagues, Collectors and Friends of ICOC,

In December of 2005, ICOC* announced a campaign to raise funds to conserve many of the approximately 1,600 rare early carpets in the Turk ve Islam Eserleri Muzesi (TIEM) in Istanbul. While most of the rugs are Turkish, there are also significant holdings of Caucasian and Persian weavings. Almost all are in desperate need of conservation. Many have never even been cleaned since they came into the TIEM.

During the Istanbul ICOC in April of 2007, the TIEM plans to exhibit 108 of its outstanding pieces. Working with Mrs. Tekeli and with Dr. Sahin, we jointly devised a new plan for the cleaning, conservation and installation of these and other TIEM carpets. We conceived of the TIEM Conservation Fund to meet the financial needs of implementing the work. Ninety-percent of this fund money will be directed to the TIEM to pay for materials and additional professional conservators for this important and time-consuming work. Ten percent will be used as seed money to create a fund for other conservation projects in deserving museums around the world. Our immediate goal was \$25,000. Thus far, we have received almost \$5,000 from generous individuals, rug societies and dealers.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the TIEM Conservation Fund pledge drive organized by ICOC has just received a **Challenge Grant of \$10,000** from a generous American source. In making this significant contribution, the donors will match your gifts, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$10,000, meaning that we would raise a total of \$20,000 through this challenge!

For now, these donors have asked to remain anonymous. Once we achieve the goal of \$10,000 from other sources, we will let you know who these angels really are. When making this pledge, they added:

"We strongly support this cause. It helps ICOC by creating a major draw to increase attendance, and it is a long-lasting contribution to Turkey and to the life of these invaluable pieces."

If Oriental rugs have brought you personal satisfaction, delight and other rewards, we ask you to accept this challenge now and make your gift to this worthy endeavor. There are many of you for whom the activity of collecting, dealing, and convivial camaraderie has changed your lives in a very positive and uplifting way. Join the others who have already made their donations. And after you make your pledge, please forward this message to someone else who would enjoy the gratification of becoming a donor.

Please send your check (payable to **PHILADELPHIA 8th ICOC, Inc.**) to: ICOC/TIEM Conservation Fund, c/o Wendel Swan, 2106 Woodmont Road, Alexandria VA 22307.

To read more about the TIEM Conservation Fund and ICOC Istanbul 2007, go to www.icoc-istanbul.org. For other information about ICOC, go to www.icoc-orientalrugs.org Conference registration is now available on the website. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks in advance for your support. I'm looking forward to greeting you in Istanbul,

Dennis Dodds
Secretary-general, ICOC
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*The International Conference on Oriental Carpets (ICOC) is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation registered in the state of Pennsylvania. All of our officers serve voluntarily and without pay.