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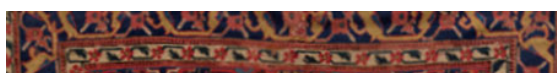
HALI

NEWSLETTER No. 517 • 8 August 2025



An unusual silk dress made from World War II 'escape and evasion' maps, on loan from Worthing Museum and Art Gallery, is currently on display at the **National War Museum** in **Edinburgh** as part of the exhibition '**Maps: Memories from the Second World War**'. Originally designed for Allied airmen and soldiers, these maps served as vital survival tools, concealed within uniforms and used to aid escape if captured beyond enemy lines. This exhibition runs until **4 October 2026**.

Visit the [National Museums Scotland](#) website for more information.





EXHIBITIONS

‘Enduring Traditions’, The Textile Museum

From vivid festive robes to striking palace carpets, the textiles in ‘**Enduring Traditions: Celebrating the World of Textiles**’ exemplify the cultural importance of The Textile Museum’s collection on the occasion of its centennial. A highlight is a late 18th/early 19th-century Fars carpet from southern Iran (above). This show runs from **16 August–20 December 2025** at **The Textile Museum, George Washington University**.

Visit the [The Textile Museum](#) website for more information.



EXHIBITIONS

‘Engaging the Elements’, Baltimore Museum of Art

Rose, a printed textile by William Morris from 1883 features in ‘**Engaging the Elements: Poetry in Nature**’ at the **Baltimore Museum of Art** from **17 September 2025–8 February 2026**. A selection of textiles, drawings and prints illustrate the elements of air, water, earth and fire. These artworks serve as a commentary on places affected by environmental disasters and the relationship between humans, art and the planet.

Visit the [Baltimore Museum of Art](#) website for more information.





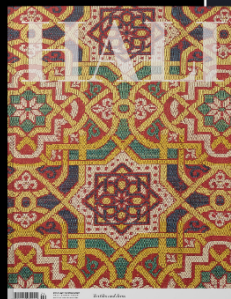
HALI 224: A five-claw dragon mat

This week, [#FridayFocus](#) centres on an exceptional five-claw dragon mat (*khagangma*) from Tibet—an example of the mats made as seats of honour on which a high-ranking guest was welcomed into a home, or for use by lamas in a monastery. It is part of a superb collection of Tibetan carpets and textiles collected by Thomas Murray, now acquired by the Minneapolis Institute of Art in a part-gift, part-purchase arrangement. There, it joins the Buddhist Shrine Room: the Alice S. Kandell Collection. Thomas Cole offers an appreciation of the newly acquired pieces in HALI 224, writing of this piece (MIA, 2025.3.20):

‘While Ming- and Qing-period dragons were highly codified, Tibetans weaving outside a formal workshop environment felt free to embellish their work with variations that are strictly Tibetan. Woven with great care, the body of the dragon features blue and red knots made up of strands of different colours, spun together to form a lively appearance. The effort required to achieve this effect indicates that the weaver followed a level of discipline rarely found outside formal workshop settings.’

The full article can be accessed via a digital subscription to [HALI](#) magazine.

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