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FRAGMENT OF A PILE "SELJUK CARPET," WOOL

ANATOLIA; C. 1400

H: 302; W: 187 CM

This fragment has traditionally been linked with a number of carpets found in Konya and dated to the 13th century. Nearly all of them have a *Kufi*-like border and simple, geometric main field. The fragment, which was found in Beysehir in 1929, has a related border, but its main field has stylized, flowering palmettes. Experts have consequently believed that this is the youngest in the group, something that has since been confirmed by carbon-14 dating.

The other half of the carpet was acquired by an English collection in 1971. The two fragments together measured c. 500 × 260 cm.

Anatolian carpets were praised in exalted terms by travelers such as Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta in the late 13th and 14th century.

Published in:

Rudolf M. Riefstahl: "Primitive rugs of the "Konya" type in the mosque of Beyshehir" in *Art Bulletin*, 13:2, 1931, figs. 1, 2, 13 and 15;

Agnes Geijer: "Some thoughts on the problems of early Oriental carpets" in *Ars Orientalis*, 5, 1963, pp. 82-84, fig. 3 - about the whole piece, not specifically ours;

Friedrich Spuhler: *Islamic carpets and textiles in the Keir Collection*, London 1978, pp. 28 and 31-32 - about the whole piece, not specifically ours;

Serare Yetkin: *Historical Turkish carpets*, Istanbul 1981, p. 23;

Oktay Aslanapa: *One thousand years of Turkish carpets*, Istanbul 1988, pp. 26-28;

B. W. Robinson (ed.): *Islamic art in the Keir Collection*, B. W. Robinson [et al.], London 1988, p. 51, note 2;

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Michael Franses: "An early Anatolian animal carpet and related examples" in Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom (eds.): *God is beautiful and loves beauty: the object in Islamic art and culture*, New Haven 2013, p. 252, fig. 235;

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