

Gdańsk, November, 2013

Anatolian Carpets from the Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu

The National Museum in Gdańsk has the pleasure to invite the public to the exhibition of Anatolian Carpets from the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu, Romania. The exhibition's opening ceremony will take place on **16 November 2013 at 18:00** at the Museum's Department of Old Art, ul. Toruńska 1, Gdańsk. This is already the third exhibition in our four-year collaboration with the Romanian museum.

This will be a unique opportunity for the Polish public to discover a very fine sample of small Turkish carpets which survived in the Protestant Churches of Transylvania. The entire *corpus* has almost 400 examples, from the golden age of Ottoman weaving. This is the largest and the best preserved ensemble outside of the Islamic world. The use of Muslim carpets (woven by women in Anatolia) to decorate Christian churches and the preservation of these textile jewels in such numbers in Transylvania is a unique intercultural phenomenon and a testament to the universality of art, which knows no borders, languages or religion.

The exhibition will feature **24 Anatolian rugs, from the 16th-18th centuries**, from the collection of the Brukenthal National Museum. The carpets are in outstanding condition, since they were used to adorn the great Lutheran Church in Sibiu and other Saxon churches in Transylvania; most likely they have never used to cover floors.

This exhibition will mark 100 years since the great Budapest exhibition of 1914, when the Transylvanian rug patrimony came to the attention of a wider public. It is the first time since 1914 that 24 carpets of the Brukenthal collection will be exhibited again. For carpet enthusiasts and connoisseurs, this is indeed a **once in a century** event, that will have a vast resonance.

To accompany the exhibition, the National Museum in Gdańsk has published a Companion Book which is **the first ever Polish publication on the subject of Transylvanian carpets**. The Companion Book's concept was developed by the independent carpet scholar Mr Stefano Ionescu, who is author of the Catalogue notes; Dr Beata Biedrońska-Słota is the academic editor for the Polish version.

During the Gdańsk exhibition's run, the public can participate in the academic and educational programme developed by the exhibition's organisers. On 17 November 2013 at 12:00 we will host a lecture entitled *Tracing the Ottoman Rugs in Transylvania*, delivered by Mr. Stefano Ionescu at the National Museum in Gdańsk, Department of Antique Art. A detailed schedule of further lectures and meetings will be available soon at www.mng.gda.pl.

The exhibition of Anatolian Carpets from the Brukenthal National Museum is a result of the partnership between the National Museum in Gdańsk and the Brukenthal National Museum, Romanian Cultural Institute, the Lutheran Church of Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs.

The Companion Book was published with the financial support of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Bucharest.

The Exhibition and its accompanying Catalogue are sponsored by Bank Millennium. The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Gdańsk City Office.

Exhibition curators: Beata Sztyber (National Museum in Gdańsk)
Adrian Luca (Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu)
Dr Alexandru Gh. Sonoc (Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu)

Exhibition opening ceremony: 16 November 2013 at 18:00 hrs.

Venue: National Museum in Gdańsk, Department of Old Art, ul. Toruńska 1, Gdańsk

Exhibition open: 17 October 2013 – 16 February 2014

Ticket prices:

- discount PLN 6
- regular PLN 10
- family PLN 18

* groups (children and young people) PLN 3 per person; tours PLN 6 per person. The ticket allows a single entry to exhibitions held at any Museum department, valid for one month from date of purchase

PLN 20: free Saturday children's workshops – only the children's carers (parents, grandparents, etc.) pay for tickets Friday: free admission ticket office: tel. +48 58 301 70 61 ext. 233 * Group tickets are available for children and schoolchildren.