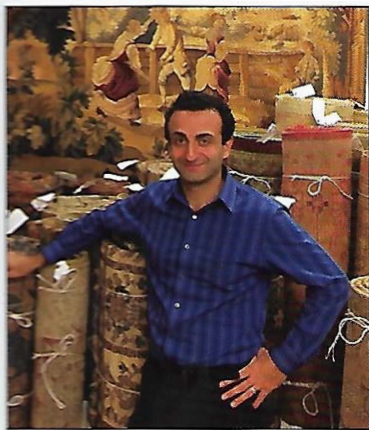


The Lost Treasure of Henry VIII Found at PGNY?



Rodney Hakim,
Persian Gallery New York

It's rare for rugs or textiles to make news outside of the industry itself but that is precisely what happened late in 2016 after researcher Professor Mary Beard of The University of Cambridge inquired about an impressively sized tapestry owned by Persian Gallery New York.

"We had purchased the piece about fifteen years ago at auction during a period in which we were building up our inventory of tapestries," says Rodney

Hakim of Persian Gallery New York. "We knew it was an important piece given its size at 13.9' H x 15.0' W (4.19m x 4.57m), the level of detailing, the colors, and the overall quality. It was, and is, featured on our website alongside the rest of our inventory and that is how Mary Beard came to find it: by searching the internet."

Ms. Beard, an academic conducting research on a forth-

coming book on roman iconography immediately contacted Persian Gallery New York after her search and made arrangements to see the tapestry on her next visit to the city.

"She told us she believed the tapestry to possibly be one of a set of ten commissioned by King Henry VIII of England." Mr. Hakim continues, "The 'Julius Caesar' tapestries hung at Hampton Court Palace and are reputed to be amongst the most treasured items in the royal treasury of the period."

The last sighting if you will of the tapestries occurred in a 19th Century watercolor painting where they appear in the background. Afterward they mysteriously disappeared with only a few purported but unverified pieces surfacing over the intervening years including various rumors and speculation regarding their disposition during World War II.

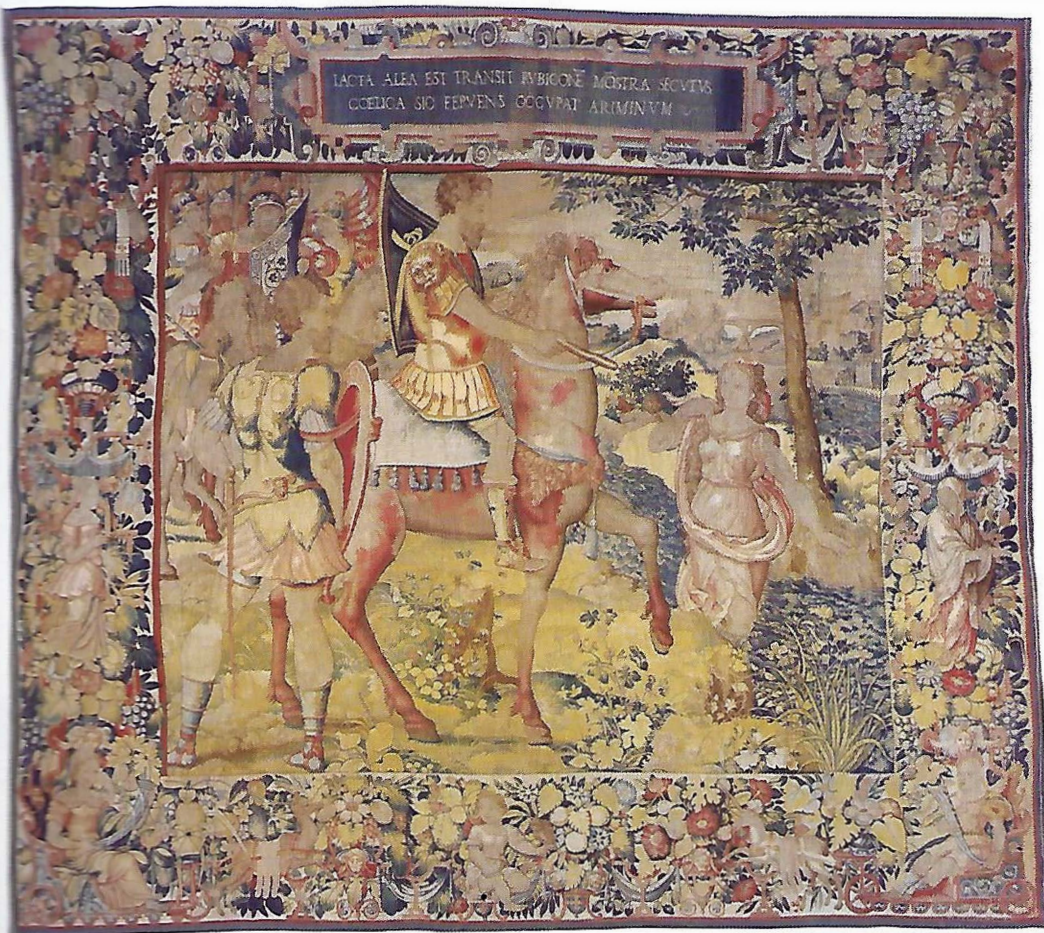
"We really don't yet know if this is one of Henry VIII's original tapestries, a later reproduction, or one from various other period sets depicting Julius Caesar commissioned for European nobility and The Vatican," Mr. Hakim adds.

Roger Michel, director of the Institute of Digital Archaeology, who hopes to return the piece to Hampton Court should it prove to be authentic states: "The existence of the Henry VIII set is as well documented as it could possibly be. They are recorded in inventories and also in paintings, but after about 1820 they just disappear to the four winds. Where

did they go, how could they possibly have been sold off without anyone knowing?"

Before news of this potential discovery broke in the mainstream media Persian Gallery had been asking a price 'in the low six figures' but since have fielded numerous offers from around the world, both from institutions and private collectors. No offers have yet to be accepted as they await the results of further study being conducted to hopefully determine the true provenance of the piece. As Mr. Hakim concludes both literally and metaphorically, "the ultimate value remains to be determined."

A further technical description of the tapestry can be found online at Persian Gallery's website (www.pgny.com/item27065) or by contacting Persian Gallery New York at: (212) 683-2699.



Tapestry depicting Julius Caesar on horseback crossing the Rubicon. Origin: Brussels; Material: Wool with silk inlays.