

SA1195954

Antique Large Turkmen Storage Bagface, Ersary Tribes, Beshir Region, Turkmenistan, Central Asia.

Price

GBP 2,350

| USD \$3,180 | EUR 2,750

Item Reference: SA1195954

Date of manufacture: 1860

Dimensions

Height = 100 cm (39.4")

Width = 148 cm (58.3")

Description

This magnificent storage bagface or 'chual' was made by Ersary Turkmen in the region of Beshir during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Such large chuvals were normally made in pairs and used in nomadic life to store clothes, bedding, pots and pans etc. with each bag hung on the flanks of the camels during migrations. In this case, the bag has lost its plain-weave back, which I suspect was either damaged and removed or cut away by some unscrupulous dealer in Turkmenistan in order to make more money as a floor rug! Nevertheless, this bagface is in excellent overall condition, with a beautiful range of natural colours including a subtle green and golden-yellow. It has a tiny re-weave in one corner. The Ersary Turkmen of Beshir suffered a harsh drought in the mid 19th century and, fearing for their survival, a young woman of the tribe was quoted as saying "We may lack water, but we can weave strength together". With threads of wool from every family, she made a rug filled with protective symbols, blessings and signs of unity. When the rug was placed in the Khan's yurt, its presence inspired courage. Soon the rains returned and the tribe thrived, remembering that...

Internal Ref: BM2241

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