

SA1203448

Antique Scissor Bag, Shahsevan
Tribes of Hashtrud, East
Azerbaijan Province,
North-West Persia.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1203448

Date of manufacture: 1880

Dimensions

Height = 45 cm (17.7")

Width = 11 cm (4.3")

Description

Scissor bags, as the name implies, were specifically used for containing the scissors or shears for shearing the sheep. This beautiful scissor bag or 'quirkhlig' as they are known, was woven in soumak technique by the Shahsevan nomads of Hashtrud in east Azerbaijan during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Today, these 19th century utilitarian bags are a rare find, with few having survived the ravages of use in a nomadic life that was hard to say the least. I have to refer here to a magnificent book and research by Mr Peter Umney-Gray who published a most comprehensive work on scissor bags a few years back now, and is the first time any serious thought has been given to these important containers. As Peter states in his book 'Scissor Bags & Sheep Scissors in the Nomadic Tradition', and I quote "As utilitarian objects, scissor bags were made, used, discarded and replaced in a continuous cycle. They normally had a short lifespan compared with other small weavings due to the nature of the scissors with their sharp points, which eventually destroyed their integrity. Like other small tribal weavings, scissor bags were never intended for sale: this idea would probably ...

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