

Editors' Note

As the icy winds of Winter begin to bite and the frost begins to harden the ground beneath our feet, it is the perfect season to wrap up warm with a cup of something hot and settle down with the latest issue of *Acta Via Serica*, Volume 7.2.

This issue is especially meaningful as it showcases some selected papers initially shared at *Acta Via Serica's* International Conference held on 3rd-4th November 2022 at Keimyung University where scholars gathered to exchange ideas about the wonder, beauty, and transmission of carpets across the Silk Roads.

In the spirit of carpets and the enchantment associated with them, we invite our readers to step on our very own carpet, painstakingly woven from the threads of antiquity as we float through the history of motifs, design, trade and more across the historical lands of Persia, Russia and Asia and the Middle East.

We begin with an article by He Zhang, who takes on a journey of exploration across Europe and Asia presenting research comparing carpets, mosaics, and stone thresholds in “Central Asian Carpets, Assyrian Stone Thresholds, and Greco-Roman Mosaics – Cultural Exchange and Integration on the Silk Road.”

Next, Davood Shadlou and Amir Shadlou, shares valuable research about horse saddlecloth design and patterns in an article entitled “Jul Designs and Patterns in the Sāsānian Period.”

Highlighting the creation of an imperial vision on carpet weaving as something distinct from western influences, Sohee Ryuk shares vital insights in the article, “Patterns and Collections: Carpets from Central Asia in the Imperial Russian Imagination.”

Momentarily shifting our focus from carpets to other precious articles associated with the Silk Roads, Michael Jung and Claudio Seccaroni take us on a voyage through Central Asia and the Middle East as they outline the origins of lapis lazuli in the research paper, “The Provenance of Lapis Lazuli, the Written Sources and its Distribution as Pigment in the Wall Paintings of Central Asia and the Middle East.”

Next, Hirbod Norouzianpour explores the influence of Persian Garden motifs in the manuscript, “The Reflection of Persian Garden in Persian Carpet Design, A Comparative Study.”

Marco Ferrario explores the complex nature of the commercial networks that flourished across Central Asia under the aegis of Achaemenid Great Kings in the article, “Before

Serindia: Achaemenid Textiles between the Empire and the Steppes.”

Finally, Hyunjin Cho provides a fascinating account of the links between palmette patterns of Sassanid Persia and Korea in “A Study on the Relationships between the palmette Patterns on Carpets of Sassanid Persia and Silla.”

This issue of AVS also features several book reviews, scrutinizing some of the latest updates in the field of Central Asia and Silk Road studies. Filippo Costa Buranelli reviews the title, *Central Asia: A New History from the Imperial Conquests to the Present* authored by Adeeb Khalid. Next, Joseph Tse-Hei Lee reviews James A. Milward’s title, *Eurasian Crossroads: A history of Xinjiang, Revised and Updated* and finally, Oxana Karnaukhova reviews *Turkish-Russian Relations: Competition and Cooperation in Eurasia* by Asli Fatma Kelkitli.

Acta Via Serica strives to serve the academic community through its regular updates on scholarly works submitted to the journal, hosts academic events, and overall promotes engagement with the complexities and expansions in the field of Silk Road studies. We extend our warm thanks to all the contributors, anonymous peer reviewers, and staff who have worked hard to bring this issue to fruition.

The Editorial Team would also like to take this opportunity to send seasons greetings to the scholarly community and extend our best wishes for a wonderful New Year. As always, we welcome comments, feedback, and your original manuscript submissions as we gear up for the summer issue of *Acta Via Serica*, to be published in June 2023.

AVS Editorial Committee