



Tobacco bag Qadjar

A small bag in 'tirmeh' with a silver embroidered flower, probably used for tobacco. Persian Qajar period, second half 19th century.

Tirmeh is a fine textile already made in Safavid Persia (16th-17th century). The very soft underhair (kork) of young sheep is used to weave these very thin shawls and fabrics.

The weft is passed over two warp threads, creating a kind of herringbone pattern.

The technique is quite similar to that of Kashmir shawls, as well as the material and boteh motifs.

Sources often contradict each other when tirmeh is discussed. Some claim that under the Safavid era, the fabrics were imported from Kashmir (or if not the finished fabrics, at least the materials: pashmina wool). Others claim that they were traditionally manufactured in Yesd (Persia), where the kork wool equalled the pashmina in fineness.

Pearls and silver thread were also applied to some tirmeh. This processing is called sermeh doozi.