



N. VROUYR
ANNO 1917



Afghan Beluch

Decades of war and military presence have influenced daily life in Afghanistan. Many weavers introduced designs of what had become part of the landscape: weapons, rockets, military trucks, tanks, planes and helicopters as a new decorative elements in their carpets. Sometimes they were very obvious as a main subject, sometimes discreetly hidden in the pattern. Was it a therapy to exorcise traumas?

Till the third quarter of the 20th century, Afghanistan was producing rugs closely connected with the weavings of the Turcoman. When mentioning the Afghan production, one did expect rugs with several shades of red dyes and black octagonal patterns. When they became old or antique they turned into rusty-brown.

In the fifties, “antique wash” was very much in fashion as the chemical process was altering colours. The red colours were changed into shiny bronze. So, after washing the traditional Afghan rugs became “Golden Afghans”.

But it was a temporary fashion. At the dawn of the 21st century a new era started. New designs, both classical (many kilims) and modern, were introduced and Afghanistan carpet-weaving reacted to the challenges of the market by transgressing the boundaries of traditional patterns.

