Middle East Galleries: Textile Rotations

**The Middle East Galleries** will contain a case featuring rotating collections of textiles, thanks to support from the Coby Foundation (see “The New Penn Museum: Transformation Update”). In particular, the Museum holds two remarkable textile collections that will be showcased. The first, from the 16th and 17th centuries, includes extraordinary luxury fabrics like NEP6 (at right), with cut velvet and gold-wrapped thread in intricate floral patterns. These silks were last on view at the Penn Museum in 1918 and are on par with collections like that of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Secondly, the Museum also holds fascinating Turkmen textiles from the 19th century, like the silk frock, hats, and boots at right. These and other objects for daily use were collected by Museum representative Zelia Nutall, who traveled to Russia in 1896 for the coronation of Czar Nicholas II. These objects have never been displayed.

**ABOVE, CLOCKWISE:** Persian brocade detail, 17th century CE, PM object NEP6; Silk frock, 19th century CE, Russia, PM object A1790; Red and white cotton hat, Middle East, PM object 43-12-144; Embroidered hat, ca. 1940s, Afghanistan, PM object 86-23-55; Fez, Turkey, PM object 29-165-8; Boots, 19th century CE, Russia, PM objects A1760 AB.

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**Penn Museum Biennial Golden Gala**

Isabella de la Houssaye and David Crane
Lily and Peter Ferry
Co-Chairs

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

Celebrate the opening of the new Middle East Galleries before our official opening on April 21, 2018. For more information or to be added to the invitation list, please contact Emily Herchenroether at eherc@upenn.edu.

**LEFT:** Gold wreath from Ur, PM object B17710. Photograph by Anna Marie Kellen.