

# THE HOOK UP

A monthly newsletter from cat house rugs  
December, 2005

As rug hooking enthusiasts, we are dedicated to teaching and promoting the art of rug hooking.  
**THE HOOK UP** is our way of keeping you updated on the latest news from **Cat House Rugs** studio.  
Please forward this newsletter to anyone who enjoys rug hooking as much as we do.

(written by Mary E. Silva)

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Since this month's featured rugs are old ones, I am offering tips for purchasing antique rugs. First, never purchase rugs for investment purposes unless you have a qualified appraisal. Other than that, look for rugs that you enjoy and that are in good shape. Rugs called "hooked rugs" can actually be hand-hooked, machine-hooked or even rag punched, so do some research before you begin to purchase these rugs. A great resource is Jesse Turbayne's book, **The Complete Guide to Collecting Hooked Rugs**.

Jyl does rug restoration and she will tell you that you can spend more money on the repair of an antique rug than you spent to purchase it. Most of the restorations we see need edges restored and many need patches on the inside of the rug, which is a tedious process. The older the rug, the less likely it is that you can actually use it on the floor, however these rugs often make lovely wall accents if cleaned and mounted properly. Always clean the rug before introducing it into your home – a moth infestation can be devastating to your wool collection and other rugs. Obviously prices vary according to the condition, design and craftsmanship, but if you keep an eye out as you browse antique shops, you can find some good antique rugs for \$50.00 to \$500.00. The best ones I've seen that are "museum quality" can be as high as \$15,000. Once you start to be aware of them, it's great fun to find hooked rugs.

## FEATURED RUG

Title: Hunter's Jacket Rugs

Artist: unknown

Design by: unknown

Size: 29" X 34", and 20" X 34"

Cut: hand-cut

Hooked with: wool on burlap

I found these two little rugs in an antique shop on the coast of Maine last August and I thought they would make great Christmas accents. They are in great shape and needed only to be cleaned. They were hooked from plaid wool hunting jackets and I liked the simple geometric design. The tag said that they were circa 1930's, but I've since been told that they were probably a bit later than that. The type of burlap foundation indicated a date more like 1950's. I wasn't too disappointed though since the price was right and they will be fun to use this holiday season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!!! And happy hunting.



## THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER

The **ANNUAL DECEMBER SALE** will be Tuesday, December 6 thru Saturday, December 10. Everything in the studio (except selected books) will be 20% off. Did you know that we have a **Holiday Wish List** if you want to add your name and select a gift idea? We make lots of Santa's helper calls.



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Wednesday: 10 am – 7 pm  
Saturday: 10 am – 2 pm