

RUGS ALWAYS GO UP IN VALUE, MAKING THEM A SOUND INVESTMENT

Market trends show that investment-quality rugs, usually antique or semi-antique, go up in value. When buying a new rug however, you should always look at your selection first and foremost as a beautiful decorative item that will enhance your living environment. Depending on market conditions and the quality of new rugs, they also may appreciate in value. But this should never be your main reason to buy a new rug. Simply evaluate it for its appeal to you in the setting you have in mind.



Myths About Oriental Rugs



© The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, "Carpet Merchants", Artist, J.L. Gerome

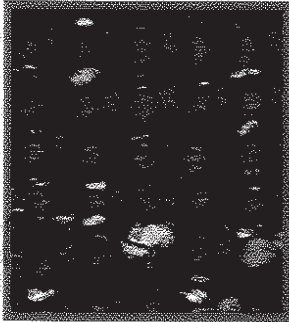


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A FINELY-KNOTTED RUG IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN A COARSELY-KNOTTED RUG

In many rugs, such as some tribal Turkish, Afghan and Caucasians, the larger, coarser knot is complementary to their bold designs. These



BACK OF RUG, DISPLAYING A LOW KNOT COUNT

loosely woven rugs are often of greater value than ones with triple the knot count. A 125-knot-per-square-inch Turkish tribal rug may be considered fine, yet very coarse for a fine Persian rug such as those from Kashan.

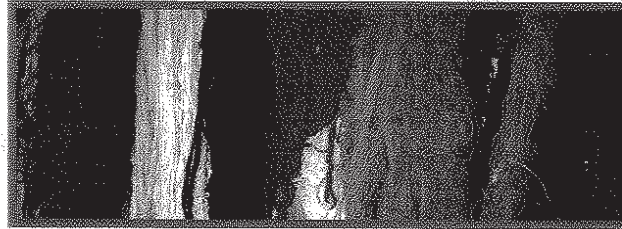
YOU SHOULD NOT BUY A RUG THAT HAS SYNTHETIC DYES

In the mid-19th century this applied to the highly unstable aniline dyes that were first used. In the early 1900's these dyes were outlawed in Persia with very stiff penalties, as they caused the colors to run. Today, chrome dyes



TURKISH WEAVER, VILLAGE LOOM

(along with natural ones) are used and are extremely reliable, safe and do not run.



SYNTHETIC-DYED YARNS

THE DESIGN SHOULD BE SYMMETRICAL AND THE BORDERS PERFECTLY STRAIGHT AND RECTANGULAR

While these concerns do often apply to traditional city and contemporary rugs (such as examples from the cities of Kashan, Tabriz and Kerman), the fact that rugs are not perfect does not necessarily mean they are of poor quality.

Some of the most admired tribal and nomadic rugs are known to be somewhat unrefined or irregularly woven. This is in part due to the fact that their looms are not as sturdy as the ones used in the city since they are designed to collapse for easy portability. Often tribal rugs are expressions of the weaver's individual artistic creativity and spontaneity.

THE HEAVIER THE RUG, THE MORE DURABLE IT IS

The quality and durability of a rug depends on many factors, including construction and especially the characteristics of the wool. Soft and fluffy wool is generally not as durable as finer "harder" wool. Harder-wearing wool depends on a higher content of lanolin and the greater strength and elasticity of the fibers.



NON-SYMMETRICAL RUG

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