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# **Oriental Carpets: A Complete Guide - The Classic Reference**



## Synopsis

This comprehensive, authoritative volume by the most regarded names in the field reviews the history of the art of weaving & explains basic carpet-making materials, tools & techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Murray L. Eiland Jr. has traveled extensively conducting field research and collecting rugs for study in the Middle and Far East. He is the author of *Chinese and Exotic Rugs* (1979). His son, Murray Eiland III, recently finished his doctorate in Near Eastern archaeology at Oxford. Both authors have conducted field research in the Middle East during 1996 and 1997 in preparation for this book.

Pretty detailed but a little dated. Informative but you need to dig for that info. A little pedantic and too scholarly but still a book most people interested in collecting Oriental carpets will want to have. The above was my original review but I sat down and started to actually read the entire book. The section on dyes is worth the price of entry. The details are the point and worth reading through. The section on China is excellent - better than his 1979 book on *Chinese and Exotic Rugs*. A must have for anyone interested in Oriental rugs. The big five are this one, *How to Read Islamic Carpets* by Walter Denny, *Oriental Carpets from the Tents, Cottages and Workshops of Asia* by Jon Thompson, *Oriental Rugs Today* by Emmett Eiland, and *Tribal Rugs* by James Opie

Caveat: You won't know a thing about rugs until you start to shop around, until you start touching them. You'll have to look at the knots, at the foundation and the edges, and run your hands over the pile. You'll need to feel the difference between a silk weave and a wool weave. That said, this book gives a thorough informational grounding in the topic. The book starts with an account of what little is known of the origins of carpet making. The next chapter describes how carpets are constructed. Weavers make short knots that form the visible pile; the pile is woven on an invisible foundation of warps and wefts. There are many types of knots, and surprisingly many types of warps and wefts as well! The book then explains what materials are used--mostly wool, cotton, and silk--how they are spun into yarns, and how they are colored, with either natural or synthetic dyes. The colors are of course central to a carpet's designs, which is the topic of the following chapter. The authors then proceed to review the great carpet making regions. There's a huge chapter on Persian rugs, followed by a chapter on Turkish rugs. These are followed by shorter chapters on the rugs of the Caucasus, India & Pakistan, China, Turkestan, Tibet, North Africa, and the Balkans. Rugs are like wine, or like any fine object. One cannot learn the topic from a book, one must learn from the things themselves. A good book though is invaluable in reducing how long it will take to feel comfortable with the topic. One last word. There are 348 illustrations of extremely high quality, making the book itself a very beautiful object. It's a great coffee table book. Vincent Poirier, Tokyo

Good help

excellent!

I wanted to educate myself about Oriental rugs as I am thinking of importing the same. A must have for a person who wants to educate himself about rugs. The authors are very comprehensive and knowledgeable. They have done their research and the reader gets an idea about the history, weaving and different types of Oriental rugs. A great read.

This is a beautiful book, but the coverage is overwhelmingly for geometric oriental rugs, with a large section added for Chinese. I was looking for the more ornate styles (Heriz, Tabriz, Sultanabad, and so on) that are so very beautiful. These are grossly underrepresented in this book, if at all (e.g., most are not). I am sorry I purchased the book.

Great reference book for anyone interested in carpets.

A definitive work!

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