

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A "HAND LIBRARY"
ON ORIENTAL CARPETS and RUGS, IN ENGLISH
(NOTE : MANY ARE NOW NO LONGER IN PRINT)**

ANTIQUE RUGS

Wilhelm von BODE & Ernst KÜHNEL "Antique Rugs from the Near East", London 1984

A major work by a major German connoisseur (von Bode) who was a leading figure in the German museum world (many of the most desirable pieces in the Berlin Museum had been acquired by him) and one of the most respected authorities of his day on Oriental rugs. His monograph first saw the light of day in 1902 and was reprinted many times. It ran to four editions in German and it is this fourth edition that the mid-20th century expert & scholar translated into English and published in 1958. 26 years later he was persuaded to update that first translation.

The text is of great importance to all rug lovers. It is richly illustrated with 122 monochromes (many full page) PLUS a very few colour plates. The rugs shown are of great distinction but the colour printing, alas, is not in the least exciting.

GENERAL BOOKS

Lee ALLANE "Oriental Rugs, a Buyer's Guide" London 1988

Allane's books seem to focus more on modern and "semi-old" rugs, in other words, the sort of pieces that customers in the 1980s and 1990s could expect to find in their local department store. Today, alas, such retailers are few and far between and, in any case, their stock is now much more modest than 20/30 years ago.

Ian BENNETT (editor) "The Country Life Book of Rugs and Carpets of the World", London, 1973

A really thorough, reliable and well-illustrated overview of the world of Oriental rugs. The smaller, but still substantial, end section of the book is devoted to European hand-made rugs (i.e. Aubusson, Axminster, Ryjy and so on). This book is very large in size and in weight, and was enormously popular. It has had to be reprinted many times. Later editions had the title foreshortened to "Rugs and Carpets of the World".

Maurice (Moritz) DIMAND and Jean MAILEY : "Oriental Rugs", New York, 1973

A superb catalogue raisonné of The Metropolitan Museum of Arts' world famous collection, which contains many "world class" items. It is beautifully illustrated, much in colour. The main body of the book was from the pen of Maurice Dimand who, at the time, was certainly one of the greatest authorities on rugs. The second, minor, part of the book is Jean Mailey's section on Chinese Rugs.

(NOTE : the Museum Shop might still have a few copies for personal shoppers visiting the Museum).

Murray Lee EILAND Jr, and Murray Lee EILAND III "Oriental Rugs : A Complete Guide". London, 1998

The Murray Lee Eilands ("M.L.E.") are well-known rug-dealing family in the "Bay Area" (San Francisco and its surrounds). M.L.E. Jr is of the second generation and M.L.E. III is from the third. The former had already produced several books on rugs which sold well, but none them begins to compare with this joint effort with his son which is, in our opinion, the very best general book on Oriental Rugs.

It is a massive work (turning the scales at around 2 ½ kilos) and has 348 pp of illustrated text (350 colour illustrations - many full page -19 drawings and 15 maps). The calibre of the colour printing, which was undertaken in Belgium, was excellent. Most unfortunately, the book's publishers remaindered this title as it is now somewhat rare.

Charles Grant ELLIS : "Oriental Carpets at the Philadelphia Museum of Art", Philadelphia & London, 1988

This superb British printed, American catalogue raisonné covers the 81 pieces in Philadelphia's much admired Museum of Art. Perhaps the most interesting item is their so-called "Admiral's Carpet". The book consists of a catalogue raisonné of 283 pp (incl. 56 colour illustrations and 114 monochromes) together with 31 superb colour illustrations on 21 pp. The colour printing was exemplary.

The author was widely recognised as one of the most competent in the field of oriental rug research.

Kurt ERDMANN "Oriental Carpets. An Account of their History" (translated from the German by Charles Grant ELLIS). London, 1960 (2) ; second edition Fishguard, 1976.

A wonderful 48 page monograph (with some 20 drawings on the text pages) which refers to a wealth of classical carpets, mainly museum pieces. Each such item is to be found in substantial plate section : no less than 179 monochrome pictures PLUS 8 colour plates.

Erdmann worked for many years in Turkey and his work is the fruit of endless, patient research into Oriental carpets in general, and into Turkish ones (to which he got privileged access) in particular. In consequence the author does show somewhat of a bias towards Turkish carpets and their origins. Nevertheless, this is a book that should form the corner stone of every person who wishes to know about the Oriental rug.

Kurt ERDMANN "700 Years of Oriental Carpets", London, 1970.

Bussesche Verlag, the publishers of Germany's leading textile magazine "Heimtex", had long dedicated the rear section of the magazine to Oriental rugs. This often carried useful articles and eventually Busse decided to request the much respected Kurt Erdmann to do a series of illustrated essays for them. When these came to an end Busse then brought them all together and re-issued them in book format in 1966 under the title of "Siebenhundert Jahre Orientteppich". It was square in format and not all that pleasing to handle.

This English edition which followed four years later is, fortunately, traditional in format. The English-speaking world has to be grateful to Dr. May Beattie of Sheffield, the "Grande Dame" of British carpet studies, who undertook its translation (and added a few corrections !). There are 42 articles in all on its 189 text pages (including 286 monochromes and drawings) plus 20 full page colour plates.

P.R.J. FORD, "Oriental Carpet Design. A guide to traditional motifs, patterns and symbols", London 1981

The author had spent the whole of his working life selling Oriental rugs from a major warehouse in London (the OCM, who were the only rug wholesalers properly to train all their staff, even the porters handling the goods !). In due course he also became responsible for the ordering of goods from some of his company's suppliers.

His magnificent work approaches the subject by category of design (unlike Stone, see below). There are 299 pp. of text featuring 353 colour pictures, 301 monochromes and over a hundred drawings. There are also 27 pages of plates : 20 in colour (44 illustrations) and 7 monochromes (31 illustrations). All this useful material is backed up with various maps etc, and a very useful working index.

Reinhard HUBEL "The Book of Carpets" London, 1971 (Originally published in Germany in 1965 as the "Ullstein Teppichbuch").

A very reliable, richly illustrated and wide ranging text. There are 28 fine colour plates and over 150 monochrome ones as well as many illustrations in the text. The book had the success it deserved which meant that it was reprinted several times. Unfortunately the reproduction of the monochrome plates in later print runs leaves much to be desired.

The author was a rug collector (his collection was featured in public exhibitions including one in Liverpool) and this shows in the tenor of the text : he focuses mainly upon good collectable 19th C. pieces.

Georges IZMIDLIAN “Oriental Rugs and Carpets Today. How to Choose and Enjoy them”, Newton Abbot (GB) 1977

This author’s texts are so like those of Liebetrau’s 1963 book (see below) that it reads almost like a second, revised and improved edition of that author’s pioneering work. It should be said in its favour, however, that the binding, the 34/32 colour plates and the printing of the texts are all far superior.

Preben LIEBETRAU “Oriental Rugs in Colour”. London, 1963

As an introductory text it could hardly have been bettered : it is succinct and correct. Unfortunately, despite its title, the colour plates were poor. This pioneering text achieved enormous success, was translated into many languages, and is reputed to have sold more copies than any other rug book.

Ivan NEFF & Carol MAGGS “DICTIONARY OF ORIENTAL RUGS, with a monograph on identification by weave”. Johannesburg, 1977

The book comes in three parts. There are 39 pp of introductory text which is as interesting as it is useful. This is followed by a 91 page list of carpet names with much useful commentary .

The most important part of their work is the third section. : 84 pages featuring fine colour plates of 42 rugs, all more or less typical of their kind , all full page with, on the facing page, a full size photo, again in colour, of a 10x10 cm. area of the back of the rug. As everyone knows, dealers and experts alike always look at the back of the rug to confirm their belief as to its origin and quality. This picture is accompanied by a few lines of commentary. So far as we know, no other contemporary book shows this absolutely invaluable information.

Jon THOMPSON “Carpets from the Tents, Cottages and Workshops of Asia”, London, 1993

There was a major rug exhibition held in the Barbican Gallery in London on the occasion of the fourth I.C.O.C. in 1983 which was entitled “Carpet Magic”. Most of the pieces exhibited had come from private collections and were little known. The accompanying beautifully illustrated handbook-cum-catalogue was written by Jon Thompson.

The gallery kept the rights to the name “Carpet Magic” but Thompson kept the copyright of his work, the contents of the handbook. This he arranged to re-issue at a later date with a new title, shown above. He writes very fluently, so his texts are a pleasure to read. Better still, he also writes very intelligently, so that his texts are profitable to read.

Peter STONE “Tribal and Village Rugs. The Definitive Guide to Design, Pattern and Motif”, London, 2004.

This item covers much the same ground as P.R.J. Ford’s but the author’s knowledge stems from the close study of rugs essential when repairing them. His approach divides the subject geographically : he distinguishes six specific areas :

- Anatolia • Balouch, and neighbouring tribes
- Caucasian • Kurdish • Persian • Turkmen

There are 319 pages of very richly illustrated text.

AFGHAN RUGS

Richard J. PARSONS, “Oriental Rugs, Vol. 3 : The Carpets of Afghanistan”, Woodbridge, 1983

Since few of the rugs and carpets of Afghanistan that can properly be attributed to the 18th and earlier centuries, their study has been largely neglected. In the 1950s and 1960s there was a seemingly insatiable demand for the sturdy modern red carpets. In Denmark, in fact, there was a chain of retailers (“Den Røde Loper”) that sold virtually nothing else !

As one of the very largest dealers in such carpets, London’s world famous OCM needed a buyer resident in Kabul, and it is he who wrote this splendid handbook. His many years of “hands on experience” contribute to the authority of his texts.

The book is well written. There are 86 pp of text (incl. 97 monochromes) together with forty colour plates (116 pictures). The many illustrations in the margins of the text are mainly of the country and of its people and, obviously, are on the small side.

ANATOLIAN (TURKISH) RUGS

Werner BRÜGGEMANN & Harald BÖHMER “Rugs of the Peasants and Nomads of Anatolia”, Munich, 1983

115 interesting Anatolian rugs were exhibited in Frankfurt/M in the winter of 1980 under the title of “Teppiche der Bauern und Nomaden in Anatolien”. These rugs - and their pictures - form the basis of this award-winning book of the same name which appeared a couple of years after the exhibition. It was published simultaneously in German and in English (the English title is shown above). All 115 pieces are illustrated, and appear on 105 fine colour plates. The most authoritative text on its subject.

Kurt ZIPPER & Claudia FRITZSCHE “Oriental Rugs, Vol. 4 : Turkish Rugs”. Woodbridge, 1989

Like the other titles in this series, the authors focus more upon the rugs that could be found on the market rather than on “museum” grade items. The work appeared simultaneously in the original German and in an English translation. Both editions have the same pictures. The heart of the book is a catalogue raisonné of 225 pieces on 212 pages, all illustrated (212 in colour, the other 13 in monochrome).

Virtually all manner of rugs from Turkey/Anatolia, including modern ones, are featured.

CAUCASIAN RUGS

Siawosch AZADI, Lyativ KERIMOV and Werner ZOLLINGER : “Azerbaijani-Caucasian Rugs”, Hamburg, 2001

Most of this rather substantial book is based upon the Ulmke Collection. The work was originally entrusted to Kerimov (the “puppet master” of the Caucasian Rug industry in Stalin’s time) but he died before he could complete his work. However, it meant that the work was given to Azadi who was (and still is) very knowledgeable about rugs both as a dealer, and as a connoisseur and researcher. The texts are excellent and the print quality is superb.

From the pictures it would appear that the rugs in the Ulmke collection were acquired more upon their physical condition than on their artistic merit. The difference becomes only too evident when the illustrations in this book are put next to Schürmann’s seminal work (see below).

There are ca. 140 pp of introductory texts of which roughly 50 pages are ascribed to Kerimov (the section on : “The General Background on Azerbaijan-Caucasian Rugs”) the rest being by Azadi. The 232 colour plates all have, on the facing page, a brief description

as to place, age and dimensions accompanied both by a commentary and by a technical analysis of the weave.

Ian BENNETT "Oriental Rugs, Vol. 1 : Caucasian Rugs". Woodbridge, 1987

A revised version of the earlier work by Doris Eder of NAGEL, the Stuttgart auction house, and illustrated with the same plates. Most of the rugs had been sold at auction and this, in the original German version, enabled the author to indicate their sale prices. The big difference between the two versions is that Bennett ignored the Eder texts and wrote his own instead.

There is a catalogue raisonné of 494 pieces on 294 pp (incl. 278 colour and 154 monochrome illustrations) and there are also 62 full page colour plates. The book is an invaluable guide to Caucasian rugs woven in the main during the late 19th century..

Ulrich SCHÜRMANN "CAUCASIAN RUGS. A detailed presentation of the art of carpet weaving in the various districts of the Caucasus during the 18th and 19th century". London, 1965

The author was a rug dealer in Cologne (Köln) who specialised in Caucasian rugs after the war. He decided to publish a catalogue of many of the pieces he then had in stock (plus, a few which he had recently sold) by way of a marketing ploy. It was hugely successful and came to the attention of a leading German publisher of art books. They encouraged him to make amplify his work into a proper study of the subject and the present book is the consequence of this

There is a 35 pp introductory text, with 18 colour illustrations on 5 pp. This is followed by a 142 pp bilingual catalogue raisonné (German and English) of 142 pieces each of which is shown full page facing the relevant text.

The book was re-printed but, in each successive reprint, the colour plates - though good - are progressively less fine than in the first impression.

Despite later serious criticism about his attributions (many of which were derived from his many consultations with Sahagian, an Armenian-born rug dealer living in Brussels) this still remains an essential book for any hand library on Caucasian rugs.

CENTRAL ASIAN RUGS

Sławosch AZADI "TURKOMAN CARPETS AND THE ETHNOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR ORNAMENTS" Fishguard, 1975.

Despite its age, this is still one of the best books on Turkoman carpets in particular its explanation of why the Turkoman weavers made so many small pieces in peculiar shapes.

Uwe JOURDAN "Oriental Rugs, Vol. 5: Turkoman Rugs". Woodbridge, 1996

Quite the most useful monograph on the subject; translated from the original German by Ian Bennett.

Jourdan defines seven ethnic sources (Arabatschi, Ersari, Salor, Saryk, Tchaudor, Tekke and Yamout) and deals with each of these separately. In all, there is a catalogue raisonné of 309 items (on 255 pp, incl. 292 colour and 30 monochrome illustrations). Despite much pressure on the publishers, a second print run never materialised which, for so important a work, really is a shame.

Louise MACKIE and Jon THOMPSON "Turkmen. Tribal Carpets and Traditions" Washington, 1980

The handbook to the exhibition mounted by Washington's world famous Textile Museum on the occasion of the third International Conference on Oriental Carpets ("ICOC"). The pieces which were on display are of considerable importance, and so are Jon Thompson's critical commentaries.

There are 79 pp of text (six papers) followed by the catalogue raisonné which had 84 pp of text (incl. 46 colour illustrations, and 23 monochromes) and accompanied by 44 colour plates (46 items illustrated).

(NOTE : Hamburg hosted the 1993 ICOC, and put up what was perhaps an even better show of Turkmen carpets and rugs in their Völkerkunde Museum. The exhibition guide had a few useful texts but no illustrations. However, Messrs. Azadi, Rautenstengel and Sienknecht came together to make a proper record of the event under the title of "Wie Blumen in der Wüste. Die Kultur die türkmenischen Nomadenstämme Zentralasiens". In this all 127 exhibits were recorded in full - and excellent - colour on 80 plates. Each had a facing page carrying appropriate commentaries. There was, very sadly, no English version).

Valentina Georgievna MOSHKOVA "Carpets of the Peoples of Central Asia", Tucson, 1996

The original Russian text 1970 was a posthumous publication, Moshkova having died 18 years previously. Her intention was to emulate the work that Ricard and others had done for the carpets of French North Africa.

Her book was based on her field work in Turkestan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, and among the Arabs of Kashka-Darya, in the years between 1929 and 1945. During this period there were still many nomads who could remember the customs and traditions of the 19th century with regard to the making of carpets : their weaving techniques, their patterns, and their dyes. But for her tenacious research, much of this would have been lost. She was able to distinguish between the weavings of no less than 15 groups : Arab, Arabachi, Beshir, Chodor, Ersari, Igdır, Karakalpak, Kirghiz, Salor, Saryk, Shikh, Tekke, Turkmen-Uzbek, Uzbek and Yomud.

The American edition consists of a free translation of Moshkova's original text, to which O'Bannon has added extensive commentaries based upon his own experience. Those who knew the original Soviet publication were delighted to see that O'Bannon had abandoned the awful colour plates in the original. In their place there are splendid colour photographs of largely analogous items from American museum collections. The book has drawings galore and a most substantial bibliography.

CHINESE RUGS (incl. Tibet & Samarkand)

Lee ALLANE "Chinese Rugs, a Buyer's Guide", London, 1996

Allane's books seem to focus more on modern and "semi-old" rugs, in other words, the sort of pieces that customers in the 1980s and 1990s could expect to find in their local department store. Today, alas, such retailers are few and far between and, in any case, their stock is now much more modest than 20/30 years ago.

Hans BIDDER "Carpets from Eastern Turkestan, known as Khotan, Samarkand and Kansu Carpets", Tübingen, 1964

The author first started collecting such carpets when he was in China in 1925 and became most knowledgeable about them. His 74 page monograph includes 29 monochromes and many drawings. In addition there are 20 colour plates (with 28 items), 9 monochrome plates (with 17 illustrations), and 3 plates of drawings (with 39 drawings).

Trinley CHODRAK and Keshang TASHI "Of Wool and Loom. The Tradition of Tibetan Rugs". Bangkok, 2000

The most useful, and certainly the most up-to-date, of the few books on the subject. The authors are Tibetans (Tashi himself is a dealer in Tibetan rugs in New York) and both of them know what they are writing about.

There is a 54 page introduction with 36 pp of text (with 9 colour illustrations) and 18 colour plates (17 items illustrated). This followed by 86 pp. of coloured plates featuring 165 items.

Konrad LORENTZ "A View of Chinese Rugs from the 17th to the 210th Centuries.", London 1972

Until the publication of this work collectors and dealers had virtually only three places to look for information : [1] The Tiffany's "Antique Chinese Rugs" (New York, 1908) ; [2] Hackmack's "Chinese Carpets and Rugs" (Tientsin, 1924). Both of these are now blessed with the aura that comes with age but neither really has any intellectual significance. And [3] Gordon Leitch's "Chinese Rugs" of the 1930s.

Lorentz' work was a masterpiece. Though a German, he wrote it in English and then translated it back into German for the German edition ! There are 133 pp of text with 33 monochromes and this is followed by 100 colour plates on 68 pp.

Most unfortunately the author died in an accident in his home before he could finish his revisions for a second, improved and enlarged edition.

Charles I. ROSTOV & Guanyan JIA, "Chinese Carpets", New York, 1983

Rostov was a leading New York dealer who specialised in Chinese rugs and his co-author was a leading personage in the Chinese rug-weaving industry. Together they created a modest but useful text (93 pp, incl. 10 colour and 12 monochrome illustrations) which is followed by no less than 93 pp of colour plates (92 items, one being a two-page spread) with the emphasis on modern rugs. The production of the book was excellent and the colour plates are superb.

INDIAN CARPETS

Erwin GANS-RUEDIN "Indian Carpets" London, 1984

One of his series of carpet books written, he used to claim, at the express request of Indira Gandhi who had seen and admired his earlier book on Persian Carpets. As usual in his set of rug books, it is short on text but long on plates - in this work, all in excellent (Swiss) colour.

There are 121 items illustrated on 120 plates. 46 of these items are of great classical carpets, many from the collections in the Jaipur Palace ; other classical pieces came from the Kier Collection, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, and others. 43 items are of modern Kashmiri production, and the remaining items are from other parts of modern India.

NOTE : published by the Office du Livre in Switzerland who, unfortunately, used to "perfect bind" all their heavy square books on oriental rugs. Now, a third of a century later, there is barely a copy where the pages are not loose ... "caveat emptor" !

PERSIAN (IRANIAN) RUGS

Lee ALLANE "Tribal Rugs, a Buyer's Guide" London, 1996

It is not an adverse comment to say that this is a "popular" work. If anything, it is a commendation ! As everyone knows, size does matter and this book is of modest dimensions which means that the many illustrations are often on the small side. Though not an expert, the author was shrewd enough to take advice from many in the know, and this means that his text (like those in the other works of this series) is reliable.

A. Cecil EDWARDS "The Persian Carpet" London, 1953

This book has long been considered the rug-dealers' bible ! Edwards was a long serving director of the OCM, for many years the largest Oriental carpet business in the world.

The book has 166 pages of intelligent text (with 106 monochrome pictures, and 16 drawings) and there are no less than 313 monochrome pictures on 131 plates. Considering how important colour is in the appreciation of textiles, it was very disappointing that there were only 4 colour plates and these show just 4 factory carpets.

NOTE : when the publishers issued a second "revised" edition the only noticeable change was that, instead of a wealth of colour plates that was expected, only one single picture of no particular use to the reader was added - but the price was substantially increased.

James OPIE "Tribal Rugs. Nomadic and Village Weavings from the Near East and Central Asia", London, 1992

Following the success of his beautiful book on "The Tribal Rugs of Southern Persia" (which, by definition, featured mainly Shiraz rugs) this experienced and much travelled rug dealer had the generosity to share his knowledge with a public far wider than his immediate circle of clients. This is a beautifully presented and very richly illustrated book. The book was printed in Singapore had benefits from the excellence of that country's colour printing talents.

The items discussed fall into 11 categories eight of which 8 are in Iran/Persia. The other 3 categories are Anatolia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. There are 192 pp of text (with 157 colour and 27 monochrome illustrations) and there are 121 colour plates with a further 127 items illustrated on them.

FLATWEAVES (KILIMS)

Lee ALLANE "Kilims : a Buyer's Guide" London, 1995

It is not an adverse comment to say that this was a "popular" work. If anything, it is a commendation ! As everyone knows, size does matter and this book is of modest dimensions which means that the many illustrations are often on the small side. Though not an expert, the author was shrewd enough to take advice from many in the know, and this means that his text (like those in the other works of this series) is reliable.

Yanni PETSPOULOS "Kilims, The Art of Tapestry Weaving in Anatolia, the Caucasus, and Persia", London, 1979

This was a book conceived by Michael Franses and Yanni Petsopoulos but, in the end, it was the latter who did the writing and saw it through the press so, naturally, his name alone gets associated with this seminal work.

There are 38 pp of introductory text, followed by a catalogue raisonné of 343 items on 110 pp. The book is richly illustrated : 72 colour plates (72 items) and 140 monochrome plates (289 items)

NOTE : published by the Office du Livre in Switzerland who, unfortunately, used to "perfect bind" all their heavy square books on Oriental rugs. Now, a third of a century later, there is barely a copy where the pages are not loose ... "caveat emptor" !

THE CARPET TRADE

Antony WYNN "Three Camels to Smyrna" (London, 2008)

An authoritative, and very well written, account of the creation, life and eventual demise of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers (known all over the world as the OCM). In its time its various parts included "Carpet Nord Africaine" of Paris and "Fritz & la Rue" of New York.

The book is based on surviving company archives, and benefited from the author's very close and active collaboration with Brian Huffner, the OCM's last Managing Director who, rather sadly, died before it was published.

RUG REPAIRING

Peter STONE "Oriental Rug Repair", Buchanan (MI), 2000

The second revised and extended edition. For anyone needing to learn the art of rug repairing, this is not just invaluable, it is virtually unique. The author is a professional rug repairer who knows his subject inside out. There are 150 pp of text with 231 monochromes and 145 drawings.

WEAVING TECHNOLOGY

Irene EMERY "THE PRIMARY STRUCTURE OF FABRICS : an illustrated classification" Washington 1966

An impressive handbook with 375 monochromes on its 257 pages, on which no less than 350 different sorts of weaves are described. Each particular sort of weave had been specially woven on a miniature loom, specially created for this work, and then photographed. To assist her in this work, the author took under her wing the then young, newly established, Washington rug dealer John Wertime. The book had the success it deserved : it was reprinted in 1980 and in 1994.

Marla MALLETT "Woven Structures. A Guide to Oriental Rug and Textile Analysis" Atlanta (GA), 2000

There is but a brief introduction (11 pages) and this is followed by a 146 page illustrated glossary. There are 346 monochromes and 140 drawings.

MAGAZINES

GHEREH Published in Turin

As this is but a fraction of the size of HALI (see below) it is often overlooked. But it does carry quite a few interesting articles. It is virtually the "in house" magazine for the Italian Oriental rug trade. More details on www.ghereh.co

HALI Published in London

This is certainly one of the world's finest art magazines ... ! It carries much advertising and most of this features attractive rugs in full colour. The articles used to be narrowly focussed on antique rugs but with the passage of time, more modern rugs have been discussed. The authors are generally very well informed to the point that they are sometimes too academic to be easily read. There used to be a supplement in French but this ceased many years ago. Issued every two months. Further details on www.hali.com

ORIENTAL RUG REVIEW Published in New England

An American newspaper that started by recording the rug auction scene in the USA but which soon broadened its perspective to cover all aspects of Oriental carpets. After many years it changed format and appeared on coated paper (so that it was able to print in colour) and appeared as a magazine somewhat smaller than HALI. Sadly, it never measured up to the standards set by HALI.

Nevertheless it did contain many articles of interest, including a serialised reprint of Martin's famous - and VERY rare - "History of the Oriental Carpet Before 1800" to which was added current commentaries on the original texts. It has now ceased publication. For details, see their web site on www.rugreview.com/orr.htm

PICTURE BOOKS

These are often dismissed as being merely "coffee table" books, but they do offer the reader a wide range of superb plates. Unfortunately, these are not always illustrations of really good carpets or rugs. There are six such books by Erwin Gans-Ruedin of Neuchâtel. One, on Indian Carpets, is listed above. The other five were on • Modern carpets (mainly monochromes) ; • Antique carpets ; • Persian carpets ; • Caucasian rugs ; • and Chinese carpets. There were also in this series • Gans-Ruedin's friend Iten-Maritz on Turkish rugs and • Parviz Tanavoli, a Persian artist who now lives in Vancouver, on the Shahsevan of northern Iran. All these came from the Office du Livre of Switzerland, each appeared in an English, a French and a German edition ; and each, alas, was perfect bound so that 1/3 of a century after publication their pages are likely to be falling out (if they have not already done so !)

THERE ARE IMPORTANT RUG COLLECTIONS IN PUBLIC MUSEUMS IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES. ALL OF THESE ARE WORTH VISITING !

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| BERLIN | CAIRO | CHICAGO |
| ISTANBUL | KUWAIT | LISBON |
| LONDON | LYON | MILAN |
| NEW YORK | PARIS | PHILADELPHIA |
| PITTSBURGH | RIGGISBERG (near Berne/CH) | |
| SAN FRANCISCO | St. PETERSBURG | TEHRAN |
| TORONTO | VIENNA | WASHINGTON (DC) |

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