

The Making of Oriental Rugs.
Origin of Their Weaving Lost in the Remoteness of Antiquity—Arabs Always Used Them—Is Probable That Abraham Sat Upon One—As They Are Used Now As an Adjunct to the Modern Furnishing of a House.

The origin of the rug-weaving is lost in remote antiquity. The Hindus, it is known, were versed in the art of weaving as early as 1,500 years before the Christian era. It is probable that Abraham, when resting in the cool summer evenings at the door of his tent sat on an Oriental rug or carpet. The Arabs of the desert, who are said to be his descendants through Ishmael, do exactly the same thing at the present day. And it is the proud boast of these fierce eastern warriors that their manners and customs have remained unchanged since the time of their great ancestor.

The various Oriental nations have been from the earliest ages, and they are now the great rug-makers of the world. The eastern rug-weaver, whether Turk or Persian or East Indian, does not look upon the rug he weaves as merely an article of merchandise. As its beautiful color combinations, patterns and designs are brought into existence by his skilled fingers and artistic brain he rejoices as an artist rather than as an artisan. It is the same as regards the other articles of merchandise which the Orientals produce—whether it is a vase, or a piece of bronze, or silverware, or porcelain, or carving, or what not. Probably the most fascinating thing about an Oriental rug is its artistic beauty. The Oriental rug weaver has acquired his skill as a weaver, and his artistic taste from his ancestors who were engaged in weaving the same kind of rugs in the same way for perhaps hundreds of years. His skill, therefore, is inherited, as well as acquired.

It is a custom to start working at this weaving at a very tender age, and most of it is done in Turkey and Persia by girls and women. It is not uncommon in these countries to see whole families from the youngest to the oldest, engaged in weaving the same rug. It can easily be seen, then, that patterns and designs which have been worked over and over again through innumerable generations reach a perfection that cannot be equaled by any other method.

In Persia it is the custom for each family of rug weavers to have its own special design, which, as a rule, is worked into small sized rugs only. The designs of the larger-sized rugs are generally the property of the village or district in which the rugs are woven; thus some rugs have a design of their own; Khorasan rugs have their own design, and so on.

Oriental rug weavers have in an unexampled degree the faculty of combining various colorings. They can take any of the primary colors and produce from them the most wonderfully artistic combinations and effects. But, after all, Old Father Time is the best rug artist among the Orientals, as elsewhere. After a lapse of many years the colors, which, perhaps, when the rug was first made were somewhat crude, take upon themselves an extraordinary richness and mellowness of tone which cannot be imitated.

The Orientals have also the habit of washing their rugs at least once a year. This is done by placing them in a running stream, where they are left about 24 hours. The rugs are then exposed to the sun to be dried. This has the effect of helping to soften and mellow the colors and giving them that indescribable gloss and polish which most antique Oriental rugs possess.

Oriental rugs are made to last. With proper care they are practically indestructible. Of course our mode of using rugs is different from the Eastern custom. In the East a rug is never trodden on with shoes. In coming into a temple, mosque or private house the people remove their shoes. Besides this, no article of furniture is ever placed on a rug. Brought with hard usage an Oriental rug will last from 10 to 100 years. As just stated, when properly taken care of, there is no limit to its durability.

A friend of the writer of this article has seen rugs in use in the Eastern mosques which have a well-authenticated pedigree, dating from the fifteenth century. He also knows of a small prayer rug in a mosque in Pergamos, in Asia Minor, which actually was on the floor of the mosque for over 3000 years, and its present condition is perfect. It has a turquoise blue center with a magnificent cream border in Arabesque design. The size is only about four by six feet, yet \$400 has been offered and refused for it. This particular rug has been stolen three times from the mosque, and three times it has been recaptured by the mosque authorities before it got out of the country.

the strands are fastened to the lower part or roller of the loom. At this stage of the operation the woven strands have somewhat the appearance of the strings of a harp, and the closeness of the strands depends on the quality of the rug to be woven. For example, a common rug which will have six to seven strands to an inch, will require for a rug nine feet wide 756 strands, and if there are 14 strands to the inch it will have twice that number.

In order to keep the strands tightly rolled, a wooden peg is used to roll the top horizontal bar around. As soon as these strands are put in order, and the frame tightened up, the operation of weaving the rug begins. First the balls of colored wool are hung on the horizontal bar near the top of the loom, and the deft fingers of the weavers commence their work. As the operation progresses the finished part of the rug is wound up from the bottom.

Some of the patterns are copied from designs given the weavers by European and American rug importers. In that case they have the design before them, and copy from it as they go on. But if more than one rug is woven of the same pattern the design is discarded, as by the time that one rug is woven the weavers have the pattern well fixed in their minds and work from memory. Very often the designs are entirely of their own conception, and in that case the weavers do not work from designs, but from their own ideas as the work progresses.

It is very interesting to stand by and watch one of these rugs being woven. The balls of wool are deftly unwound, and the work goes on the design develops itself, and a beautiful one it generally is. After the rug is finished it is cut down from the loom, and should there be any tufts of wool left on the surface, it is sheared and swept.

Probably the most difficult part of rug weaving is to properly tie the knots. These knots are made by passing the wool between two of the strands, putting one over and one under, the knot being tied tightly, and cut with a sharp knife. This leaves a small end of the wool hanging, and this, as already stated, is sheared off line by line, the width of the rug. This is done, however, after it is combed down tight and put into its proper place.

The dyes used by Oriental rug weavers are mostly vegetable. Some few are animal dyes, such as cochineal. Mineral dyes are seldom if ever used. A great part of the beauty of Eastern rugs is due to the skill of the Orientals in producing these dyes, the secret of the manufacture of many of them being known only to certain tribes. These secrets are handed down from father to son, and are jealously guarded.

The selection of the wool is also a matter of great care. Many of the wandering tribes of the interior of Asia are extensive owners of flocks of sheep whose wool is peculiarly adapted for rug weaving. The fine quality of the wool is due to climatic conditions, and also to the pasturing. The experiment has been tried of acclimating these sheep in other countries, but without success. It is even found that in different districts of the same countries of Asia there is a difference in the quality of the wool. This is owing to a difference in the pasturing and water. For example, the wool grown in the Vilayet of Broussa, where the celebrated Ushak rugs are produced, is finer than the wool of the Vilayet of Hounavendikar, which produces the Ghoidre rugs.

This is the reason for the difference in the quality of these two weaves of rug. The principal countries of production of Oriental rugs are Turkey, Persia and India. In Turkey, as well as in Persia, they are mostly made by nomad tribes, none being made in factories as is the custom in European and American countries. Each rug is generally the product of a whole family's work, the dyeing, shearing and cleaning usually being done by the grown-up male members of the family. The weaving proper, as already stated, is done by the women and children.

Sulphur from Louisiana.
Only Place in this Country Where the Supply is Plentiful.
There is now only one place where sulphur can be got in the United States in any quantity, that being in Calcasieu Parish, says the New Orleans Picayune. Late last week instructions were sent to the owners of these mines that every ounce of sulphur taken out should be reserved for the use of the government. The owners will at once put extra forces at work upon the mines, and additional machinery has been ordered. The government, from what is learned, is depending entirely upon these mines for its supply, and with its millions of money to back its demand, there is no doubt but that the mineral will now be taken out in large quantities.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—Thankful words written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Grotton, S. D. "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs; cough set in and finally terminated in Consumption. Four doctors gave me up, saying I could live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Saviour, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs, Colds. I gave it a trial, took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and thank God I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at F. Potts Green's drug store. Regular size 50c and \$1.00. Guaranteed or price refunded.

Humors, pimples, boils, are very annoying. They quickly disappear when the blood is purified by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Business Notice.
Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.
Fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on the wrapper of every bottle of Castoria.

Tourists.
Wisconsin Farm Lands.
There is a rush now to the choice unoccupied farm lands along the line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway in Central Wisconsin. Good quarter sections can now be had for \$7.00 and upwards per acre, one-third cash, balance on long time at current rate of interest.

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The Pioneer Limited
In the name of the only perfect train in the world, now running every night between Chicago, St. Paul and Minneapolis via the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway—the pioneer road of the West in adopting all improved facilities for the safety and enjoyment of passengers. An illustrated pamphlet, showing views of beautiful scenery along the route of the Pioneer Limited, will be sent free to any person upon receipt of a two-cent postage stamp. Address George H. Headford, general passenger agent, Chicago, Ill. 43-19-3t

The Omaha Exposition of 1898
Beats the Centennial Exposition which occurred in Philadelphia in 1876 away out of sight and is next to the World's Fair at Chicago in importance to the whole country. All of the States in the Trans-Mississippi region are interested, and our Eastern friends will enjoy a visit to Omaha during the continuance of the Exposition, from June to October, inclusive.

In Going to St. Paul and Minneapolis.
The wise traveler selects the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway.
Why?
It is the best road between Chicago and the Twin Cities.
It has the most perfect track.
Its equipment is the best.
Its sleeping cars are palaces.
Its dining car service is equal to the best hotels.
Its electric-lighted trains are steam heated.
Its general excellence has no equal.
It is patronized by the best people.
It is the favorite route for ladies and children as well as for men.

Tourists.
CALIFORNIA IN 3 DAYS.
THE PACIFIC EXPRESS
Leaves Chicago 10.30 p. m. every day in the year. Through Palace Sleeping Cars Chicago to Denver and Portland, with through Sleeping Car accommodations to San Francisco and Los Angeles; also through Tourist Sleeping Car Service Chicago to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland.

Medical.
A SCHOOL GIRL'S NERVES.
This Record is of Especial Value to Parents. It's a Message from a Loving Mother Dedicated to the Mother's of Growing Girls. A Truthful Narrative of the Utmost Interest and Importance.

It is important that the nerves are carefully guarded. Mothers who have young daughters of school age should watch their health more carefully than their studies.
The proper development of their bodies is of first importance.
After the confinement of the school room, plenty of outdoor exercise should be taken. It is better that children never learn their A, B, C's, than that by over-study they lose their health.

All this is self-evident. Everyone admits it—everyone knows it, but everyone does not know how to build the health up when once broken down, even the best physicians failing at times. The following method of Mrs. Stephen Barnes, whose post office address is Burney, Ind., if rightly applied, may save your daughter.
When her daughter Lucy was at that critical girlhood age of twelve years she grew weak and nervous.

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SOME MORE PROOF.
If THERE IS ANYTHING IN BELLEVILLE ENDORSEMENT YOU GET IT HERE.

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Travelers Guide.
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD AND
Schedule in effect May 17th, 1897.
VIA TYROSE—WESTWARD.
Leave Belleville, 9.53 a. m., arrive at Tyrose 11.10 a. m., at Altoona, 1.00 p. m., at Pittsburg, 3.50 p. m.
Leave Belleville 1.05 p. m., arrive at Tyrose, 2.15 p. m., at Altoona, 3.10 p. m., at Pittsburg, 6.05 p. m.
VIA TYROSE—EASTWARD.
Leave Belleville, 4.44 p. m., arrive at Tyrose, 6.00, at Altoona, 7.40, at Pittsburg, at 11.30.

Travelers Guide.
ST. LOUIS & SAN FRANCISCO R. R.
(PRISCO LINE)
BETWEEN
—ST. LOUIS—
AND—
SPRINGFIELD
JOPLIN PITTSBURG
WICHITA
EUREKA SPRINGS
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Travelers Guide.
LEWISBURG & TYROSE RAILROAD.
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MIXED EXP. EASTWARD. WESTWARD.
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