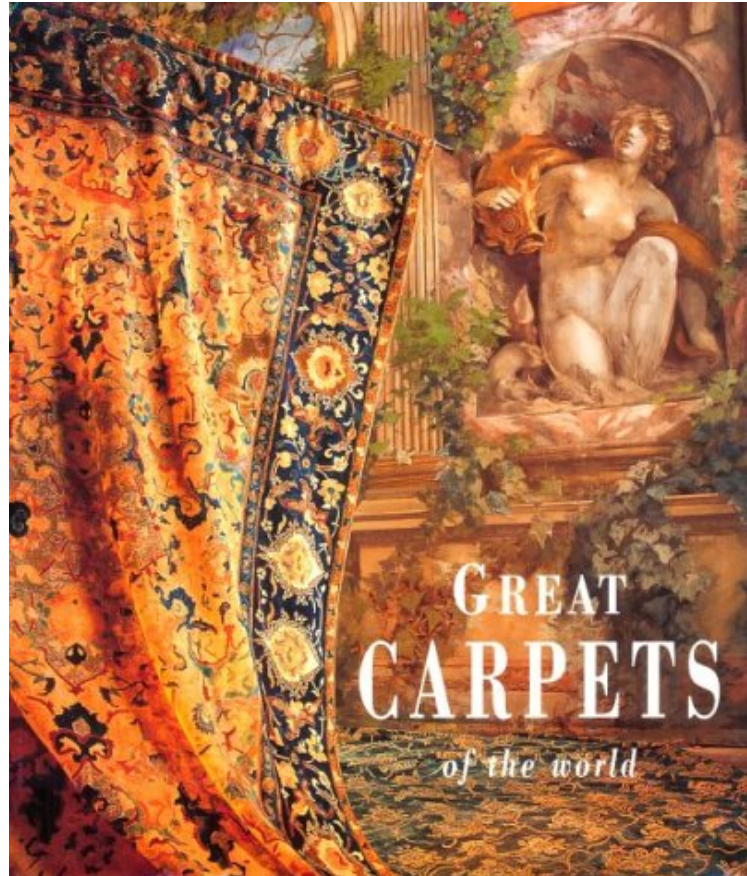


Carpets of the World

Valerie Berinstain

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Valerie Berinstain : Carpets of the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carpets of the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Please note the accurate title is Great Carpets of the World. This is the best carpet book in my large library By Jane in Milwaukee This review is of the 380-page English 1996 Vendome Press edition. When I put up reviews on books, I almost always upload pictures from the Images above. I won't here because, first, this book is over-sized and heavy and would be hard to maneuver onto my scanner. Second, there's no need: just imagine any photo of any rug whether in a museum, showroom, home, or in use by its makers and you'll find it here. The authors are a group of experts and historians who've dedicated their professional lives to the study of carpets. While the subject is relegated to "only" Oriental carpets, it is as comprehensive a book as you'd want. The terms carpet and rug are use interchangeably and the book starts at the very beginning of recorded time, with the first textiles discovered to be included in "recorded." First came clothes, then came textiles for coverings which include carpets. Many of my oriental carpet books discuss the famous Pazyryk carpet in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg; it was discovered in a royal tomb in 1949 and is believed to be the oldest most intact high-quality carpet

still in existence, dating to the end of the 5th century B.C. From the detailed diagrams of individual knotting and weaving techniques to the glorious color photos that can cover both leaves of the open book, you are able to practically feel the carpets. There is an intense discussion of the origin and development of the carpet from every corner of the earth in terms of design and make. In photo after photo, the expert discussion leads to appreciation and understanding. This is just a beautiful book. Because it's huge, it can be pricey...but it's worth it. Probably the best one in my large collection of oriental carpet books.

Seven experts--curators, scholars, and a librarian--discuss the history, design, and manufacture of this form of textile art

From Booklist Colonial Americans might have coined the revolutionary cry, "Don't tread on me," but the saying is just as applicable to the phenomenal array of carpets-as-artwork displayed here. Unlike most compilations, which tend to bury erudition beneath jargon and overly complicated language, the seven experts here--curators, scholars, and a librarian--present information and research in an open, communicative prose that even a dyed-in-the-wool minimalist would find difficult to dismiss. And unlike other tomes on aesthetics underfoot, it is easy to assimilate and appreciate the data, mixed with a panoply of color photographs and illustrations. The reader learns, among other things, about the differences in and identification of Oriental carpets and that Chinese-designed rugs are the only Eastern carpets not associated with religion. Barbara Jacobs Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French From the Back Cover The seven authors of this lavishly illustrated book, each of them a recognized expert, lead us step by step through their respective fields, revealing the secrets of the 'trade', explaining production and restoration, exploring unresolved problems and their fascination. Unlike many books on the subject, Great Carpets of the World covers the subject throughout its historical and cultural spectrum as well as in great depth, from the remote origins of knotted fibers through the techniques of large-scale manufacture. Carpets from the great weaving centers of Turkey and Persia are examined at length, along with the custom of combining calligraphy with abstract and naturalistic design. Also discussed are Indian carpets of the Moghul Empire, the carpets of China, France, Great Britain, Spain, the Caucasus, and North Africa. A special bonus is the full and clear technical chapter, which presents and explains every aspect of carpet weaving - knotted pile, kilim and tapestry, and even needlework, concluding with a revue of the various means of conservation and presentation of old and antique carpets.