

## Caucasian Carpets and Covers: The Weaving Culture

*Richard E. Wright, John T. Wertime*

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**Richard E. Wright, John T. Wertime : Caucasian Carpets and Covers: The Weaving Culture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Caucasian Carpets and Covers: The Weaving Culture:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Aesthetically, Ethnographically and Technically the Most Advanced Study in the Field By rastaman This book is one of the few in depth analyses of flatweaves from the Middle East and the only on the Caucasian area. Beautifully illustrated with classic and rare examples. The authors are the best researchers in this field and the most knowledgeable about the many complex flat weave techniques practiced so brilliantly in this area. John Wertime provides the technical and aesthetic expertise for the most part, and Wright the ethnographic angle. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Caucasian Kelims---history for your floor! By karen andonian This book is a fantastic resource for collectors of rugs and kelims. The images are well photographed, the backstories and history amazing and you will want to seek out these pieces for your own home!

This is a comprehensive view of Caucasian pilewoven rugs and flatwoven textiles, following recent research. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the consequent liberation of communication and trade links between the west and the newly independent Caucasian republics has resulted in the release onto the market of previously little-known traditional "heirloom" items, particularly flatwoven covers. The authors of this book argue that these new developments call for a re-evaluation of the subject of Caucasian weaving, and that the flatwoven textiles are the truly

traditional products of the region's weaving culture. They also argue that large numbers of Caucasian knotted-pile rugs, which have hitherto been assumed to be early village weavings, are in fact products of large-scale commercial production for the Russian and western markets.

From Library Journal Sakhai, a London rug dealer from a family of carpet weavers, shares his expertise on history, identification, and value of oriental carpets in this reasonably priced book. He offers tips on judging materials, dyes, patterns, age, and condition when selecting a carpet to buy. In handy guidebook format he describes different types of carpets, accompanied by color and black-and-white photographs (color photographs not seen). The author discusses value in comparative terms only, so prospective buyers will need to study the market to determine fair prices.

Caucasian Carpets Covers is a scholarly work by the curators who assembled the 1994 exhibit "From Kuba to Kars" at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. Their book includes knotted pile rugs from the Caucasus in addition to the materials in that exhibit. The text is detailed and comprehensive, accompanied by maps and photographs, mostly in color. Much of the historical material is from Russian sources available only in the former Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, full-page color-detail photographs have no captions, making it necessary for the user to search through the volume for the source photograph to identify the detail. Otherwise, the presentation is excellent; this is a major work in the field. Both books are highly recommended for both public and academic libraries. Constance Ashmore Fairchild, formerly with Univ. of Illinois Lib., Urbana-Champaign Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.