

CARPET HISTORY

Rug making is one of the oldest art known to humankind and its origin can be traced through various civilizations. It is believed that Nomadic tribes of Central Asia had developed the first rugs when they realized they could use the hair of their sheep and goats to make floor coverings, rather than killing their livestock and using their fur for carpets. Because of the nomads' mobility, the art of rug-making was exposed to other people, and in this way the craft passed to other cultures.

Even though the word "rug" evolved much later than the craft itself, it was discovered in 1949 by Russian archaeologists in a tomb of a Scythian chief on a Siberian mountain, that the oldest hand-knotted rug in existence is the Pazyryk Rug. Because it was covered in permafrost, it was preserved. The tombs were 2,400-2,500 years old. The rug, now in a museum in Leningrad, has 232 knots per square inch. Rugs were initially made for utilitarian purposes as coverings to keep the tribes warm in cold seasons. Over the years, the beauty of rug has so spread that it has become not just a useful floor covering but an exclusive art. In fact, many museums and galleries around the world are well known for their collections of ancient and contemporary rugs.

One need only glance at these rugs to realize that their makers possessed a keen artistic eye; their designs are complex and richly detailed, not just in their design, but in their color as well. As the rug made its way into other cultures, those cultures adapted rug-making to fit their own local needs and their individual ingenuity. Both vertical and horizontal looms were developed. Knotting styles diversified, as did designs. New touches were added, such as fringe finishes on the corners and edges of rugs. Another important evolution was the introduction of new materials into the rug-making process.



Persian (Senneb) Knot



Turkish Knot

Two types of knots are traditionally used in weaving. The single knot (Persian Knot) is generally found in eastern rug weaving countries, while the double knot (Turkish Knot) is used in western regions. Either style allows weavers to create the intricate patterns that give oriental rugs their beauty and exceptional durability.

It takes just 2 seconds for a skilled weaver to tie each knot. But even at this pace, it can take days to weave a single rug, as row after row of knots are tied, pounded into place, and trimmed.

Over time the carpet weavers have grown to creators, artists, who could weave a story into their designs with every knot they tied, crafting every piece with their hearts and making their creation symbols of aestheticism.



Aupta
Carpets