

# THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

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## It's a Genuine Oriental . . .

By Helen Jewell

### Ponder Rugs Before Buying

**T**HE rug plays a part in the decorative scheme in a room as well as serving as a floor covering and a protector against the cold. Therefore, the choice of a rug is a matter deserving careful consideration.

When people buy modern rugs, they usually consider only price, pattern and color. When it is an oriental rug they want, they consider age of the rug, regardless of pattern, durability, and colors used.

Whether modern or oriental, the color, design, and quality should be thought of as well as use and price. It is generally accepted that color and design of a carpet should be quiet enough that it stays on the floor. To obtain the calm effect, shaded colors should be used and space must be well filled.

Quality of pile surface depends upon kind of yarn, number of tufts inserted to a square inch, and closeness of weave. The best rugs are closely woven of worsted yarn, which is wool in long combed fibers. They are made durable by insertion of pile tufts vertically into foundation so the wear will come directly on ends of fibers. Instead of worsted yarns being used in cheap rugs, poor grade wool, cotton, jute or even paper are employed. The woolen yarn differs from the worsted in that it is made up of short wool fibers twisted into longer yarns to improve wearing quality. Cotton lacks the life that wool possesses and does not wear so well. Jute makes up weight in the body of the rug, but because it decays easily it is barred from use in the better rugs. Paper wears poorly and completely goes to pieces if laundered.

Rugs may be laundered as any cloth, the results obtained depending on quality of the carpet. Rugs made entirely of worsted yarn wash much the best and retain softness and life the longest. Rugs made of cotton foundation lose much of their luster and life; also they mat down, especially if they are woven loosely.

Carpets may be divided into two main classes: modern and oriental. The modern as well as the oriental have been subdivided into different makes. The most important of modern rugs are: body Brussels, tapestry Brussels, Wilton, velvet, Axminster, Chenile, and synthetic rugs.

The body Brussels is a rug of looped pile. It is called body Brussels because all of the wool used is in the body except the yarn used on the surface. Worsted yarn used in the higher priced Brussels gives a close, smooth surface, while rugs of poor quality are coarse, due to loose weave.

The wearing quality of looped pile is good, for the end of the loop must be worn through before actual wear begins on the pile. Some authorities say that the loop pile rugs are most sanitary floor coverings of any pile carpet on the market because the dust collects on the loop instead of becoming imbedded between the filaments of the pile.

Brussels rugs are not the most expensive, but rather compete with rugs of medium price. In spite of price they are going out of use as a result of competition with cut pile carpets, which are velvety and give a more luxurious appearance.

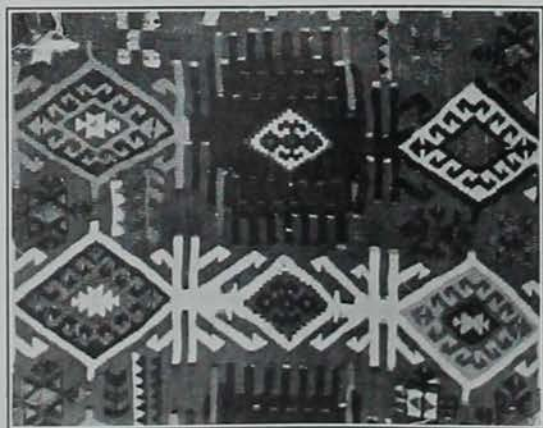
The tapestry Brussels differs from the body Brussels in that it is not a body fabric; only one set of wool yarn is used. The material is not yarn dyed and the pattern is printed on, giving a less clear-cut design. Jute and cotton are used to give what body there is and wool is used only on top.

Wilton rugs are the most expensive modern rugs made. Due to the high price

of the better quality Wiltons, people have come to believe that any Wilton is better than any other rug. This is not true, for cheap Wiltons often do not compare in quality with other rugs of the same price. However, the best Wiltons are very well made of good yarn. They are distinguished by close cut pile of worsted yarn, and they resemble the body Brussels in foundation structure.

Velvet rugs are made similar to tapestry Brussels, only the pile is cut. They are inexpensive and give much the same appearance as Wiltons.

Axminster rugs rank among the thicker quality rugs. They are comparatively inexpensive and the most wear for the money can be obtained from them. They resemble Wiltons in appearance, and the structure of the weaving is similar, although all the wool used shows on top. Cotton and jute used for filling and foundation make them less expensive and



An Ancient and Valuable Kilim

they have to be sized before laying to give necessary body. Due to their appearance and durability, Axminster rugs

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small yellow tray. He takes this to his teacher. He then serves the other two children at his table and himself last. When he finishes, another child serves his table, and so on.

Before the children begin to eat, the older ones pour the milk. In the smaller room the teachers do this. Each glass holds  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cup, and together with the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup in the food, takes care of the 1 cup we supply each child. He may have another cup after he has eaten all his dinner, including his dessert, which he is not allowed to have until his plate is clean. Helen used to be what we call a "dawdler" until she was allowed to help prepare dinner. Now she finishes in time to help with the younger children. To help prepare dinner is a very great privilege for one of our children.

It is twenty minutes past twelve and three or four children have finished dinner so they get ready for their nap. The older children put on their wraps and go back to the red brick building, and the younger children go upstairs.

Dinner is over until tomorrow.

### It's a Genuine Oriental

(Continued from page 1)

have largely replaced Brussels in hotels, offices, and even in homes.

Chenile carpets are made entirely differently from other pile fabrics. First, a chenile fur is made and then woven into the carpet, being bound by fine linen or cotton threads. They are expensive and popular because of the seamless effect produced, but not very durable because of the curious yarn construction.

There is a new synthetic rubberized back rug on the market resembling Wiltons in appearance. The rug is made of goats' hair instead of wool and the pile is inserted vertically into a rubber composition. Because of its durability and seamless effect, it is becoming popular and beginning to compete with other moderately priced rugs.

When one hears about an oriental rug, he immediately sees in his mind a rug of luxuriant appearance, with deep pile, beautiful patterns and colors. The public having been misinformed by salesmen and advertisements, has been led to buy orientals of poor quality and imitation orientals treated with chemicals. Many people fail to realize that it is better to own a well made modern rug than a poorly constructed and poorly designed oriental. Two most important features to notice when buying orientals are the characteristic knot at the base of each tuft of pile and the pattern showing on the back.

Oriental rugs may be divided into two main classes: the plain weaves and pile rugs. Starting with plain weaves, the

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Kilim, a tapestry weaves, is one of the best known. It belongs to no special country, for every country which makes pile rugs made Kilims. They are no longer made and are characterized by the way in which the design is put in. A yarn of one color only is woven back and forth in one design instead of being carried along the entire width of the carpet. At the end of each design, which is usually a geometric form, is a slit at which the yarn is turned to go back again.

The Soo Chow, a modern Chinese rug, also a tapestry weave, uses birds and plant forms as motifs. It is different from the Kilim in that the designs are interlocked with the background, leaving no slits. In our own country the Navajo blankets resemble this weaving technique.

Of the pile fabric orientals, the Bokara is one of the most beautiful. The pile is close, fine, and short, resembling Wilton rugs. The most commonly used colors are mulberry, blue, violet, ivory, and henna, carried out in geometric designs.

Daghestan and Kabistan, which are Caucasian or Nomadic rugs, are very nearly alike in pattern and construction and have geometric designs in fullest expression. The latchhook design is especially characteristic of the Nomadic rugs. The use of lusterless camels' hair in the pile is also a characteristic feature. Other typical characteristics of the Nomadic rugs are the use of brown and black dyes, which in old ones destroys the fibers, the S design and the sawtooth design.

Of the pile rugs, the Turkish ones are the most shaggy, and the colors used are unexcelled. The Turks made a great many prayer rugs, which were all similar in that they had a pointed field, which they turned toward Mecca. Different tribes had different shaped fields and niches. For instance, on the prayer rug in Antique Ghiordes the niche is high, while that on the Kulah rug is low and notched.

The Persian rugs are better known to us than any other oriental and are more frequently copied in which is termed as American oriental. They excelled in floral ornament and filling of space. Birds, flowers, borders, and symmetrical effects are all expressive of Persian design.

**Club Sandwiches**

Select carefully girls of fine spirit and even disposition. Remove any crusts of brusqueness and misunderstanding. Bind together with a filling made of equal parts of cooperation, intensive work and good programs, seasoned well with pep. Arrange in any school or on any campus, and garnish with a sprig of appreciation.

—Ellen D. Brewer.

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