



Area Rug Evaluation

January 7, 2023

Rug Type: A Kerman Carpet, Southeast Persia, Wool on Cotton Foundation.

Description: The pale rose field with an all over design displaying a mass of flowering plants and blossoming vines, within a complementary complex floral border.

Approximate Age: Circa 1930s.

Length: 174 Inches **Width:** 118 Inches

Additional Information: The reverse knotting detail and style of design confirms this to be of the origin as stated in the Description Line. Kerman refers to both a city and a province in South Central Persia (Iran). The city itself is one of the great historic weaving centers of Persia, and is place to which one of the most distinctive groups of late 16th and mid-17th century carpets is attributed, the so called 'Vase' carpets. Despite the fact that Kerman has been a center of carpet production since the 17th century Safavid period, the golden age of carpet making from this city and surrounding town and villages including the important center of Ravar dates from the late 1800s. From this time the volume of textiles and carpets to European and North American markets dramatically multiplied in a short period of time, due to increased wealth across a wider audience from economic growth. A shift or revival of interest in 'all things Eastern' became apparent and like other urban centers of carpet production, Kerman and neighboring villages responded accordingly and produced versatile and varied carpet designs including; medallion designs, all-over patterns, panel or diaper designs, prayer formats and pictorial compositions with or without hunting scenes, or those including figural subject matter. Carpet weaving in Kerman and in the town of Ravar had been established as a tradition long before the end of the 19th century. When Sir Percy Sykes (then Major Sykes) established the first British Consulate in command in 1895, he wrote that there were about 1000 carpet weaving looms in Kerman, 100 in Ravar, and about 30 in the surrounding villages. The earliest post- Safavid looms in the district were erected in Ravar, 100 miles Northeast of Kerman, dated carpets from there go back to 1866 AD. With the expansion of the carpet industry in Persia towards the end of the 19th century primarily because of demand from Europe, carpet importing firms from Britain and America established offices in Kerman. The export of Persian Kerman carpets was continuous and increased with 90% of the production going to the United States by the 1930s. Ravar has long been the origin of some of the finest of Persian Kerman handmade carpets. The historical explanation appears to be that as a result the late 17th Century conflicts associated with regional feuding Khans, much of Kerman was destroyed and a large part of the population, among them many highly skilled carpet Ustaden and equally skilled carpet weavers, fled to the neighboring town of

Ravar where workshops became established over time. Although the weavings are characteristic of Kerman, the high quality carpets produced in Ravar soon gained recognition and significance in the 'Revival' of the Persian carpet industry with carpet designs and subject matter recalling the 'Golden Age' of woven art, synonymous with 17th Century Safavid Dynasty (1502-1736), royal patronage.

Characteristic of the 'Revival' also saw the emergence of varying subject matter, which include a range of varying pictorial rugs, with detailed depictions of people, and animal scenes, often a mixture of both, woven with great detail and fineness associated with the established handmade Kerman carpet tradition of excellence in technical quality and visual impact. This Kerman carpet displays an extremely detailed floral design, packed with a huge variety of floral forms. This is consistent with the Kerman carpet weaving style associated with their weavings made between 1930 and 1960. This style was particularly popular in western markets during this time span. Their popularity has declined in recent decades despite the fact they are finely woven products. The market in recent decades has been more focused on less pattern and more muted color tones, all based on fashion trends, which to a large degree dictates values in an ever-changing market place.

Value: \$2500.00 - \$3500.00 **Insurance Value:** \$5500.00

Notes:

The value determination of this area rug is based on the textile knowledge and experience of our Rug Master, comp, research values, and auctioneer reporting.

Valuation by,

Troy A. Lusk
Rug Master



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