



FARNHAM

ANTIQUÉ CARPETS

10 Year Anniversary Collection





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10 Exceptional carpets from Farnham Antique Carpets

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As we celebrate 10 years of bringing antique carpets and rugs to properties across the UK and beyond, we have produced this unique catalogue to showcase 10 exceptional carpets from our collection.

It is close to 50 years now since our predecessor, Karel Weijand, opened his rug business in the town of Farnham in Surrey. After his sad passing in 2008, we vowed to continue the work that he had undertaken with such verve.

Together we now offer more than 70 years of combined experience advising clients who are searching for that perfect item. Roderic first began working with antique carpets in 1990, learning from Karel at the Farnham gallery. Kristian joined the business in 1996, and was followed by Stephen one year later.

As a team, our guiding approach has always remained consistent. We aim to enhance the way antique carpets are presented, sold and enjoyed, while helping clients to improve their knowledge and become as passionate as we are about these wonderful objects.

As you can tell from the carpets we have selected for this catalogue, we have never focused on just one area of carpet weaving. Our love of carpets spans Persia, Anatolia and into the Caucasus. Today, we pride ourselves on delivering a huge range of items from all over the world to our clients, always taking time to understand and respond to each individual's exact requirements.

As members of The British Antique Dealers Association and LAPADA (the Association of Art & Antique Dealers), we pride ourselves on maintaining the high standards these organisations demand. We exhibit annually at events including the BADA fair in Chelsea and the LAPADA Fair in Mayfair.

And as we celebrate a decade as Farnham Antique Carpets, it provides us with the perfect opportunity to thank everyone we have worked with in that time. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to help you find the ideal rugs and carpets for your collections and homes.

Looking back, the last ten years seem to have passed in a flash, but we hope the carpets we have shared with you all will continue to bring joy and inspiration for many generations to come.

With our very best wishes,

Roderic, Stephen & Kristian





Antique Ziegler carpet

Sultanabad, Persia

Circa 1883

295 x 236 cm (9'8" x 7'8")

Ref: 7400

In 1883, Ziegler and Co of Manchester, England established carpet manufacture in Sultanabad Persia, which employed designers from major western department stores such as B. Altman & Co of New York and Liberty, to modify 16th and 17th century Eastern designs for the more restrained western taste. Using highly developed dyeing techniques, and the best artisans from the region, the Ziegler Co created rugs with beautiful, all-over patterns and with softer palettes than their vibrant Persian counterparts.

This is a rare small format carpet from the famed and world renown Ziegler & Co workshop dating from the late 19th century. The wool pile is in remarkable original condition retaining its beautiful natural colour, with the design consisting of palmette motifs and cloud-band designs in the main field. An open border design on exquisite pale blue background compliments the field colour. Condition wise it is near perfect.

Ziegler & co workshop carpets have always been revered and desired by collectors and designers alike. Ziegler rugs developed an almost immediate following in the late 19th Century, especially among early collectors which included the Guinness family, who laid them in Elveden Hall, their Suffolk estate. Ziegler carpets are one of the only types of Persian carpet which were influenced by western designs and have become one of the most sought after carpets in the world today.

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Antique Tehran carpet

Persia

Silk foundation and highlights

Circa 1910

320 x 220 cm (10'5" x 7'2")

Ref: 8091

Tehran is the capital of Iran, the country historically referred to as Persia, the greatest carpet producing country in the world. However, while traditional rugs have been woven in a variety of styles throughout Persia for centuries, Tehran only became a centre of rug production after the great revival of Persian weaving in the late nineteenth century.

In perfect untouched condition, this antique Tehran carpet has been woven on a silk foundation with a vast amount of silk highlights within a finely spun wool pile. This rare and exceptional carpet has beautiful animals and elaborate flowers in the design and is a remarkably fine weave. Fine town carpets were often commissioned for important clients and private homes in the late 19th to early 20th century.

Tehran carpets would have been woven in workshops by the best weavers using a 'cartoon', this is a drawing of the carpets design so the weavers know exactly where to place each knot of wool and silk, as these workshops were looking for near perfection in the weaving of the design. The precision is quite remarkable and this exceptional piece highlights the skill of weaving from Persia during this period.

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Antique Seirafian carpet, signed S Seirafian

Isfahan, Persia

Silk foundation, kurk wool pile

Circa 1950

360 x 212 cm (11'9" x 6'11")

Ref: 8113

This exceptional carpet was woven by the late Master Seirafian's son's workshop - Master Sadegh Seirafian. He lived between 1922 and 2005 and was a great contributor to Haj Agha Reza Seirafian's business empire. After graduating from high school, the late Sadegh went straight into the carpet weaving business. He was very insightful and creative in design work he did for the Seirafian family business. The Late Sadegh Seirafian, decided to produce his own carpets while working at his father's store. His carpets carry the signature of his name 'S Seirafian'.

This rare ivory ground, Seirafian carpet is in exceptional condition with a fine kurk wool pile. Woven on a silk foundation, this carpet has no damage or repairs of any kind, having spent its life hanging on a wall in a private collection. As a work of art it has been treated as such, with the silk fringes all complete, the detail and workmanship is quite breathtaking with beautiful natural dyes.

This carpet has been verified by the original Seirafian carpet workshop in Iran. We are in direct contact with the original Seirafian family who help us to validate the signature and authenticity, which they agree is genuine and dating from the mid 20th Century.

Isfahan is situated virtually in the centre of Iran, and was once the capital city. The carpets and rugs are woven in the city itself and the surrounding villages. Weaving started back in the early 17th century, with the Isfahan and Seirafian name still revered throughout the world to this day.

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Antique Serapi carpet

Heriz region, Persia

Circa 1870

435 x 295 cm (14'3" x 9'8")

Ref: 2023

Like carpets woven in Heriz, Serapi carpets have a multiple concentric medallion format that emits jutting branches or vines ending in large stylised palmettes, leaves, or flowers, with framing corner pieces at the periphery of the field. The main border is usually some variant of the flower and vine scroll pattern. In terms of design, what distinguishes Serapis from Heriz carpets is their more open, bold designs. The articulation of the medallions is crisper, more finely linear and open, and always the highest grade in terms of weave, and the oldest type in terms of age.

This rare example on an ivory ground dates from 1860-1870 with beautiful natural dyes we associate with these early tribal carpets. Serapi carpet weavers frequently used large areas of un-dyed wool, these ivory off-white tones provide amazing contrasts to the wider range of beautiful vegetable dyes. The large geometric leaves and subtle medallion motif are sublime, with pale greens, rust brick tones and muted blues all made from vegetable dyes.

Heriz carpets are generally coarser carpets than Serapi with as few as 30 knots per square inch. They also have a deeply depressed warp structure with a markedly ribbed back surface. Serapis, in contrast, have a higher knot count, sometimes attaining 80 knots per square inch. Their backs are relatively flat, and they have ivory cotton weftings. Generally they have a softer handle than Heriz, and they are thinner. On the whole, it appears that what we call Serapi carpets are simply the oldest, most well-designed, and finely woven Heriz carpets.





Antique Amritsar carpet

India

Circa 1890

462 x 350 cm (15'1" x 11'5")

Ref: 7485

An elite group of the very finest 19th-century Agra region carpets is attributed to the town of Amritsar. These are known for their extremely fine craftsmanship, extraordinarily lustrous wool, and highly artistic designs and colour combinations.

This antique Amritsar carpet has an exquisite scrolling vine design, connecting with diamond floral motifs. Beautifully refined and woven in the late 19th century, the variety of dyes used are remarkable to produce these luxurious fine carpets from India, combining light blues, yellows, teal, burgundies and mauves. The gold yellow tones on the highly refined scrolling leaves appear to float over the light mauve background and are a wonderful combination with the light green floral eight-pointed star designs.

Amritsar adapted their traditional carpet designs to correspond with western tastes and European influences, this piece is a fine example of their changing designs. Using high grade wool, Amritsar rugs are manufactured with a cotton foundation, double weft and an asymmetrical knot - all of which contribute to the luxurious feel.

Amritsar rugs and carpets are produced in the city of Amritsar located in the northwest of India, near the Kashmir region. While India does in fact boast a long history of weaving fine rugs and carpets, Amritsar rugs are unique in the wide gamut of traditional Indian styles. This is because the weavers of Amritsar had not developed a distinctive style of rug making until the early nineteenth century hundreds of years after other regions of India had first developed their own weaving traditions. While regions of southern and western India began weaving Persian-influenced rugs during the reign of the Mughal Emperors, who preferred the traditional aesthetics and design elements of the Persians, the weavers of Amritsar took their direction from somewhere different: the sensibilities of the West.





Antique Tabriz carpet

'Haji Jalili' workshop, Persia

Circa 1880

467 x 335 cm (15'3" x 10'11")

Ref: 6237

A glorious antique Tabriz carpet from the master weaver workshop known as 'Haji Jalili.' Carpets woven in this workshop are extremely fine in their execution, and were always made using excellent dyes that have mellowed beautifully. The soft palette is due to the carpets age, woven around circa 1880 the dyes would have been much stronger and have faded to give a wonderful saturated feel. The soft pale blue dyes are exquisite and highlight the carpets stunning central medallion which is decorated with birds, snakes and fish.

At the end of the 19th century, after a prolonged period of dormancy, the Persian City of Tabriz experienced an artistic revival and successfully reasserted itself into the forefront of the rug-making world. Perhaps one of the most important figures in this reawakening of Tabriz as an important rug-making centre was the master weaver Haji Jalili, from the nearby of city of Marand. Haji Jalili is best known today for his incredible and unique approach to rug-making and his preference for distinctive colour palettes and design elements.

The major city of Tabriz, located near the Turkish border, is the centre of classically designed antique carpets in Northwest of Persia. At the foot of the beautiful Elbruz Mountains, Tabriz has a noteworthy history, both as the Persian market centre most linked geographically to European and Western commerce, and as the source of the most venerated weavings: the inspired carpets of the Shah Abbas period during the 15th and 16th centuries.





Antique Sivas carpet

Ardebil design

Anatolia

Circa 1890

480 x 395 cm (15'8" x 12'11")

Ref: 6165

A finely woven and exquisite ivory antique Sivas carpet woven in central Anatolia. Woven with a cotton foundation which allows for a tight, fine weave compared to other decorative Anatolian carpets such as Oushak. Woven with the classical 'Ardebil' design, the central medallion resembles that of the interior side of the dome of the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Isfahan, with two differently sized lamp motifs either end of the medallion, now seen as a deliberate use of graphical perspective, when looked at from the end with the smaller lamp the two appear the same size.

Ivory tones are common with Sivas rugs and allow them to be decorative floor coverings that work easily with many interiors. Condition wise this piece is very good indeed, the pile height is medium high, these carpets never had a full woolly pile due to their fine construction and the pile height being cut low at production.

Sivas carpets were often commissioned for the Western market, using elegant curvilinear designs from Persian rugs such as the Ardebil and intricate floral motifs combined with wide borders with repeating cartouche designs that we can see on this fine Sivas carpet. The cartouche is an elongated ogival compartment and when used in a border pattern a single cartouche form may be repeated, or two variant forms may alternate.





Antique Ziegler carpet

17th Century Polonaise design

Sultanabad, Persia

Circa 1883

510 x 430 cm (16'8" x 14'1")

Ref: 7642

Woven with a 17th Century Polonaise carpet design this is a scarce design from the Ziegler workshop and following extensive research it has been extremely difficult to find any other good examples of this design from the Ziegler & Co workshop.

Polonaise carpets, are hand woven rare carpets and rugs with a pile of silk and metal thread made in Isfahan in the late 16th and 17th centuries, at first for court use and then commercially. Because the first examples of this type to be exhibited publicly in Europe in the 19th century had come from Polish sources, it was assumed that these carpets were actually made in Poland, and, thus, they were called tapis Polonais. Some writers still insist on this. It is now generally recognised, however, that they were a Persian production, identifiable with the silk carpets of Isfahan cited by 17th-century travellers to Persia.

Dating between 1883-1890 the colours on this Ziegler use an exquisite palette of pale blue/greys, warm reds, mustard yellows and ivory and blues. The Ziegler & Co workshop produced some of the best dyes of the late 19th century and they have faded and oxidised over the years adding tremendous character.

In 1883, Ziegler and Co, of Manchester, England established weaving Persian carpets in Sultanabad Persia, which employed designers from major western department stores such as B. Altman & Co of New York and Liberty, to modify 16th- and 17th-century Eastern designs for the more restrained western taste. Generally producing larger carpets for Western homes they occasionally made smaller examples which are rare to find.

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Antique Ziegler carpet

Sultanabad, Persia

Circa 1890

554 x 390 cm (18'2" x 12'9")

Ref: 4826

Soft lambs wool on a rare white field Ziegler & Co workshop carpet with enlarged flowering cartoons of "Shah Abbas" palmettes and blossoms connected by flowering vines. Varying blues and greens in the border of stylised leaf and flower work, all in exceptional natural colours of ivory, red, sky blue, gold and rose. The floral medallion is both striking and beautiful, sitting upon an open field with subtle corner spandrels. In high pile throughout, an extraordinary collectable example.

Ziegler designs were originally cartooned after 16th and 17th century Persian "Shah Abbas" and "Vase" carpets using an interpretation of their colour and execution of design. Antique Ziegler carpets are among the most sought after in the decorative world and have been made in sizes ranging from small rugs to enormous oversize carpets.

In the late 1800's, a Swiss firm - the Ziegler Company who were originally based in Manchester, England set up their workshop in a North-West Persian town called Sultanabad. They began exporting their carpets from Persia and importing the rugs to England and America where the demand was high.





Antique Tabriz carpet

Ardebil design

Persia

Circa 1880

864 x 580 cm (28'4" x 19')

Ref: 2014

Woven in the Persian city of Tabriz, this remarkable enormous palace size antique Tabriz carpet has the famous 'Ardebil' design and once lived within the Bank of England. The quality is exceptional, with the finest weave and materials from the Haji Jalili workshop, usually his workshop was spared for smaller carpets and rugs.

Undoubtedly commissioned in the late 19th century with the classical Ardebil design, the central medallion resembles that of the interior side of the dome of the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Isfahan, Persia with two differently sized lamp motifs surrounding the large intricate medallion design.

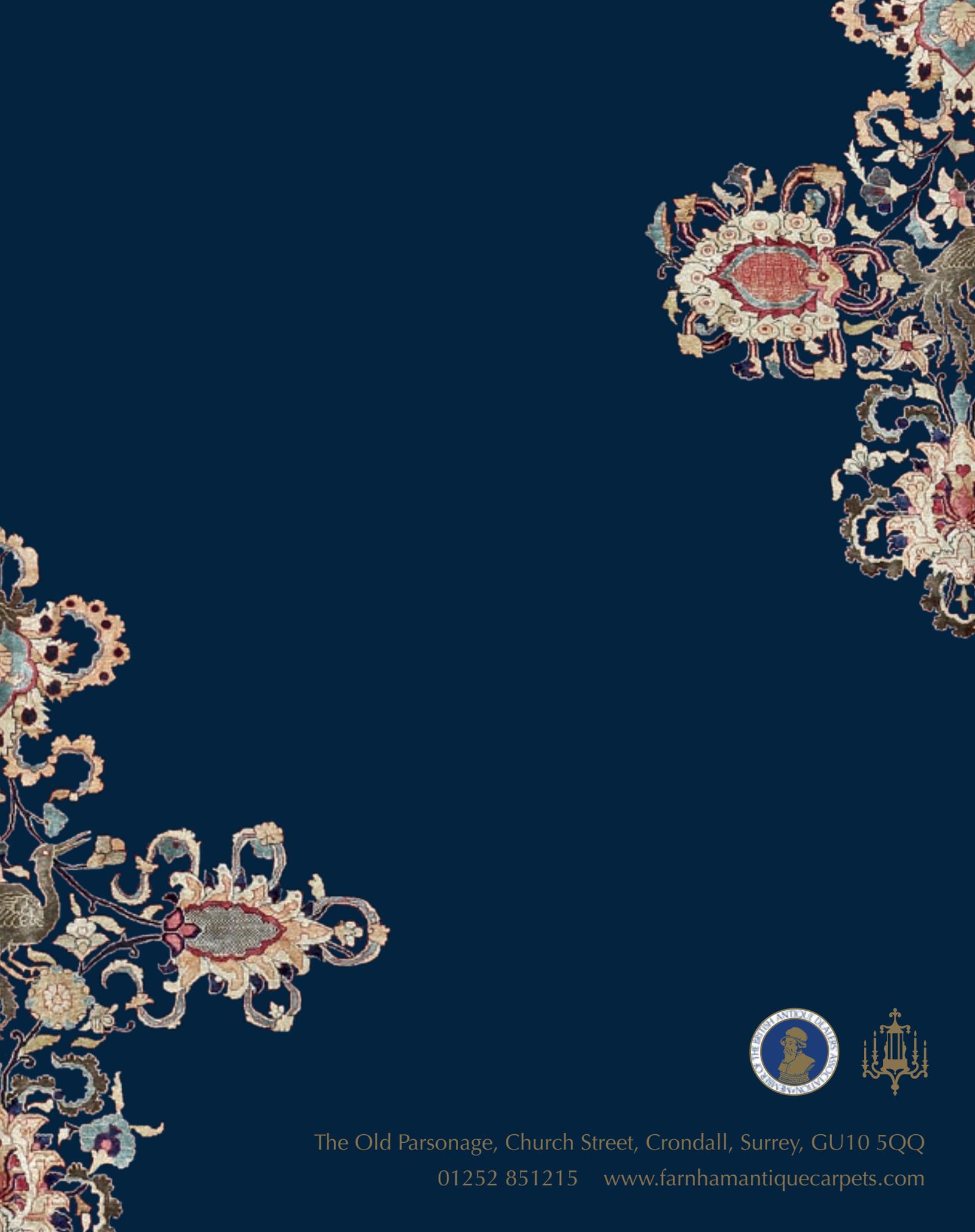
The original 15th century Ardebil carpet resides in the Victoria and Albert museum in London, Queen Victoria having been advised to buy it for the country by William Morris. This most famous design has been copied on many occasions, in fact an Ardebil design carpet resides under the dining table within No 10 Downing Street.

This enormous antique Tabriz carpet with the famous Ardebil design, has to be one of the best examples currently available worldwide.









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