

## **Oriental rugs are an investment**

Believe it or not handmade Oriental rugs fall into the category of art work. Unlike paintings and sculpture, Oriental rugs can be used throughout their lifetime and represent one of the best investments you can make. They can be enjoyed as an art form, useful in their utility as a floor covering and represent an investment that will appreciate in value over time. They can also be passed down from generation to generation as it is not uncommon to find rugs over 100 years old that remain in usable condition.

At 50 years an Oriental rug is considered semi-antique.

At 100 years an Oriental rug is considered an antique.

The 3 fundamentals of an *authentic* Oriental rug:

- It must be made of natural fibers. (Wool, cotton or silk).
- It must be woven completely by hand.
- It must be of Asiatic origin such as Iran, India, China, Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Russia, Tibet, Nepal; hence the term, "Oriental rug".

Machine made Oriental design rugs lack at least one of these requirements and usually only last about 20 years. Where-as a high quality hand made rug can last 3 or 4 generations. An Oriental rug may be genuine and still not be of fine quality. The quality of an Oriental rug is dependent upon the use of the finest wools, the truest of color-fast dyes, and the most skillful hand-weaving techniques.