



## **Claremont Rug Company Announces Additional Hudson River Valley Collection**

### **Gallery Adds 65 Investment Level Carpets To “Once-in-a-Lifetime” Sale**

Oakland, CA—April 30, 2008— Jan David Winitz, founder and president of Claremont Rug Company, today announced a significant extension of the Hudson River Valley Collection inventory, referred to on Forbes.com as “one of the most significant single acquisitions of art-level antique rugs from a private source in the past decade.”

The first phase of the collection, 225 19<sup>th</sup> century Oriental carpets, was acquired from an undisclosed, retired Wall Street financier whose primary residence was in the Hudson River Valley of New York.

“I am delighted to report it is creating quite a stir among both American and European connoisseurs,” Winitz said.

“And now, his sister, also a lifelong collector, has offered us 65 consummate quality pieces she has collected. She was extremely pleased both with our transaction with her brother and by the reception from our clientele for his collection”, Winitz said.

Characterized by Winitz as a veritable “mother lode” of rare rugs, the first portion of the Hudson River Valley Collection was a “broad canvas” of carpets. The sister’s collection emphasizes area-size rugs and contains many highly collectible pieces.

“Her rugs are so awe-inspiring that she hung many on the walls like paintings,” he noted. The collection also includes room-size antique carpets from her two residences.

“As with her brother’s collection, her cache contains a series of once-in-a-lifetime, museum-level works of a caliber that virtually never come to market,” said Winitz. One

example, a Bakshaish Camelhair Long Rug dating to the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century “presents a one-in-the-world use of archetypal designs and artful asymmetry.

“Her room size Ferahan Sarouk inscribed with a date corresponding to 1804 A.D. and signed ‘Masterwork of the Delmaghani family,’ features an unfathomable level of preservation at over 200 years old,” he said. “This monumental work of woven art demonstrates the pinnacle of craftsmanship and reaches a profound artistic height achieved very occasionally, even in such early pieces.”

Winitz, an internationally recognized authority and author, has been acquiring museum-level carpets for more than three decades. “The depth and quality of both Hudson River Valley collections is utterly astounding,” he said.

“The two generations of this family have been very serious, major collectors of this art form over a 50-year period and I have tremendous respect for how exhaustive and uncompromising they were. Both the brother and the sister inherited masterworks from their parents’ massive collection and strategically supplemented them with many important purchases of their own. Several of the rugs are of a caliber that has been unseen in the international market for decades.” he said.

Claremont Rug Company was founded by Winitz in 1980 and is internationally recognized for its extensive collection of art-level antique Oriental rugs.