

Red Carpet Treatment

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Claremont Rug Company of Oakland, Calif., has announced the acquisition of a major, 180-piece collection of antique oriental carpets. Called the Bostonian Collection, it was purchased directly from a family in that city that began collecting in the late 19th century. Claremont owner

[Jan David Winitz](#) calls this "the third collection we've been able to get in the last decade that was both extremely large and extremely fine."

The original collector first saw oriental rugs at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, says Winitz. He sought out mainly classical Persian rugs, "floral city pieces," while the second generation branched out into village rugs such as the Bakshaish and Serapi Sultanabad types, and the third generation acquired more rustic tribal rugs on trips to the Middle East and the Caucasus. The fourth generation "didn't really have the collector's bug," says Winitz; thus the Bostonian Collection's availability on the market.

"One of the greatest rugs in the collection," says Winitz, "is an oversize Laver Kerman [shown here] from the second quarter of the 19th century, extraordinary in its colors, with an abundance of Tyrian purple, signed 'Malek Baba.' It's virtually mint and when you go beyond 80 or 90 years old, you don't expect to see a carpet in mint condition."