

# Ask *the* Experts



**Pride of Persia Rug Co.**

Persian Rugs

## What is the meaning of a "signature" rug?

A signature does not necessarily make one rug more valuable than others. The vast majority of rugs, including some of the finest, are not signed at all. Some of the most famous weavers never signed their rugs, and yet to the expert eye, their work is unmistakable. That said, rug dealers often use the presence of a signature or any kind of writing on a rug as a marketing tool. Buyers should be aware that several kinds of "signatures" may be found on rugs. Some of these signatures identify the rugs, whereas others simply obscure their origins.

It is important to consider whose name appears on the rug. Although the signature may be the weaver's name, it could also be the name of the person who owns or commissioned the rug. Another weaver may have copied the signature, or it may have been faked during the weaving process.

In the final analysis, a good rug is a good rug regardless of whether or not it is signed. Very few village or tribal rugs are signed, yet these are among the most desirable pieces. Not sure about the inscription on your rug? Show it to an expert.

*For more than a decade, Mehdi Abedi and Lisa Slappey have taught "The World of Persian Rugs" through Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. They are the owners of Pride of Persia Rug Co., which specializes in older Persian rugs.*

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