



Persian Rugs and Carpets, The Fabric of Life Essie Sakhai, ISBN: 978-1-85149-507-8, Antique Collectors' Club, ~~£55~~ £49.50
Subject: An encyclopaedic illustrated guide to 20th century Persian workshop carpet production, this large format, sumptuous coffee-table book is the record of the collection of Essie Carpets established in Mayfair, London.
Style: Each carpet is illustrated in full colour and accompanied by a detailed caption which provides excellent information on the historical background and design elements of the piece. It is disappointing that tribal rugs and kilims are not covered in any detail nor is there technical analysis of these masterpieces of weaving.
Shelf life: This book is so heavy that you need both hands to pick it up! It would be a good addition to any library for reference. For anyone studying the development of urban Persian production, it gives a valuable insight into the inner workings of the Persian carpet trade.
Snippet: It is fascinating to read about the pictorial carpets which bring to life Persian history and religion. Looking at a carpet which depicts the lion (shir), symbolic of the Imam Ali and the Shia branch of Islam, combined with the Sufi attributes; an axe, the stretched cat skin, the curved knobby club and hanging boat-shaped qashgul or begging bowl, brings to life the Tree of Knowledge which is the central feature of the Persian carpet. ●●● **Joss Graham**



Quilting, Patchwork & Appliqué, A World Guide Caroline Crabtree and Christine Shaw, ISBN:0500513732, Thames and Hudson, ~~£24.95~~ £22.45
Subject: Renewed interest in these allied crafts make this global survey timely. From German narrative appliqué to Central Asian camel trappings, it brings together a dazzling collection of artefacts and enables similarities to be observed and comparisons to be made.
Style: The text is readable though a few sweeping generalisations crept in, perpetuating some assumptions and longstanding myths.
Shelf life: Large, attractive and colourful, this book is a feast for the eyes and takes a broader perspective than many books on quilts.
Snippet: Perhaps the greatest ingenuity and variety is demonstrated in appliqué, from the complex pictorial arrangements of Indian hangings to the bold floral designs of the Pacific Islands quilts. ●●● **Dr Susan Marks**

