

# Oriental rugs: imported, handmade

By Micki Haller  
Staff Reporter

Wall-to-wall carpeting is part of the American dream, but 2,500 years ago Persians were making rugs to adorn their homes.

Today, Lincoln residents can decorate their homes with fine Oriental rugs from Soltan Oriental Rugs, in the Candy Factory, 201 N. Eighth St.

Owner Mark Cheraghali said the store deals in new and antique Oriental rugs from Persia (now part of Iran), India, China, Pakistan and Turkey.

The rugs are imported and handmade, he said.

A rug must be handmade, individually loomed and from Asia to qualify as an Oriental rug, he said.

Cheraghali said the finest rugs come from Persia.

The Persian rugs are intricate, complex and eye catching. Cheraghali said they make good conversation pieces because each character and design, and even color, is a symbol. The rug may be religious, or may symbolize a wish for happiness for a newly married couple.

Before the 1700s, Cheraghali said the rugs were only made as gifts and as an artistic expression. After the 1700s, Europeans started buying rugs and created the market, he said.

Cheraghali is from Persia. He said he grew up around rugs. His uncle is in the carpet business in Iran.

Cheraghali came to Lincoln to study. After graduate studies, he began Lincoln's only Oriental rug shop, he said.

"Interest and demand are tremendous," he said. The store has been in business for two years, and has recently moved to its present location in order to expand.

The rugs are no longer luxury items, and people of all classes buy the rugs, Cheraghali said.

He said people buy the rugs because they are made to last. With normal traffic (20 people walking on the rug every day), the carpet should last 50 to 150 years, he said.

A rug under 20 years old still is considered new, while any over 50



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Mark Cheraghali, owner of Soltan Oriental Rugs.

are considered antiques, Cheraghali said.

The carpets are investments, he said. Cheraghali said their value and beauty increase with age.

A new carpets costs \$12 to \$40 a square foot, Cheraghali said. A 3-by-5-foot rug may cost \$400.

The rugs seem expensive, but

their long life makes them comparable to a normal carpet, he said.

When the amount of work on a carpet is taken into account, the rugs are a bargain, Cheraghali said. He said it takes 400 hours to finish a 3-by-5 rug. He said two people can weave about 2 inches of carpet in a 10-hour day.

Most carpets are made of wool, but a few are made of silk, goat hair or camel hair, Cheraghali said.

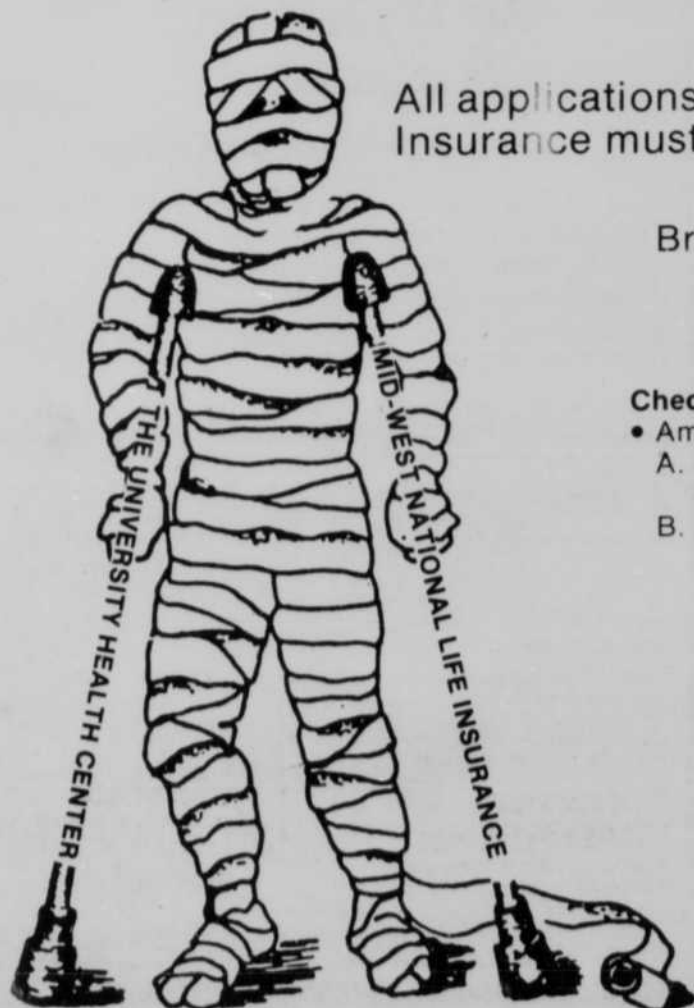
Cheraghali said his favorite carpet is a simple one that has been in his family for 130 years.

"I personally like rugs with dark red and dark blue in it. I appreciate older rugs myself," he said.

Cheraghali gets his carpets from the three major carpet centers in London, New York, and Hamburg, West Germany. He also can import some Persian rugs from Iran.

The Soltan Oriental Rug Shop is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

## September 23, 1987 is the Deadline!



All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by September 23, 1987.

Brochures and information are available at:  
UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER  
or call 472-7437

### Check these points:

- Am I still eligible for coverage under my parent's plan?
  - A. Is there an age limit? Most policies limit the age for dependent coverage to age 23.
  - B. Are you thinking of marriage? Most policies exclude a dependent after he becomes married.
- Have I declared financial independence from my parents by receiving financial aid, and no longer eligible as a dependent under their plan?
- Would a medical emergency deplete funds set aside for my education?

## Artist's guild donates works

The Lincoln Artists' Guild has donated a painting to add to its permanent collection available for check-out at the Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N streets.

The painting, "Still Life," by Emma M. Baegl was the 1987 Purchase Award winner at the guild's spring show. While living in Chicago, Baegl attended classes at the Chicago Art Institute and also took work with Professor Frank DeForest Shook on weekends. On returning to Lincoln Baegl attended evening art classes at UNL.

The guild has a long standing tradition of donating art work to their permanent collection at the library so the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County can enjoy original works of art.

## Great Nation performs pop hits at UNO

The four-man group, Great Nation, will perform a free concert tonight in University of Nebraska at Omaha's Pep Bowl, south of the Eppley Administration Building. The rain location is the Milo Bai Student Center Ballroom.

The group, under contract with Angle/Twin Tone Records, performs many pop hits by artists and groups such as Robert Palmer, Peter Gabriel, The Rolling Stones, Tears for Fears and others. They will also perform a recently released original single, "Beat the Wall."