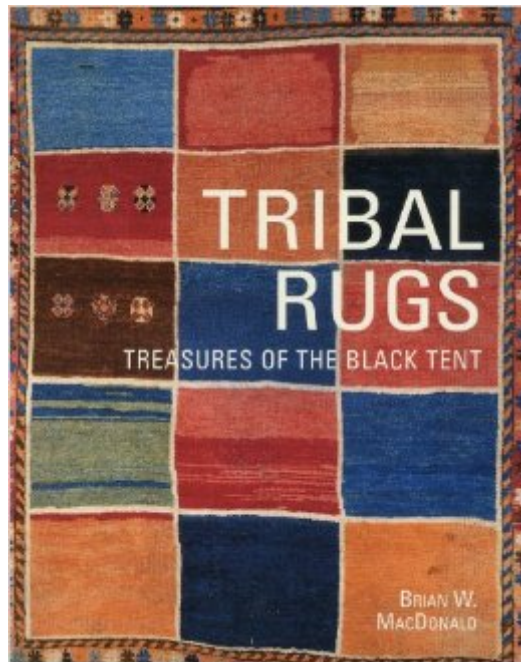


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# Tribal Rugs: Treasures Of The Black Tent



## Synopsis

- A fascinating study of the weaving history of the nomadic tribes of Asia - Illustrated with each tribe's finest work, including many previously unpublished photographs Tribal Rugs is an exploration of one of the most ancient crafts of the world. Beginning with the discovery of the oldest complete rug, which has been dated to the fifth century B.C., the reader is led through the weaving history of the nomadic peoples of Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Each chapter introduces a different group of tribes and illustrates the rugs, carpets, kilims and utilitarian bags attributed to their weavers. Tribal weaving, together with the use of natural vegetable dyes, began its swift decline around the turn of the twentieth century under the twin assaults of civilization and commercialism. This book is both a celebration of the woven legacy left by the tribes and a tribute to the skill and artistry of the women who created these wonderful works of tribal art. It is hoped that it will provide an introduction to the novice and excite the more knowledgeable to further study. The book is illustrated in color throughout with examples of the finest work of each tribe, and the majority of them have been previously unpublished. This is a completely new edition with updated text and many new photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book deals with Middle Eastern Tribal Rugs only. Urban production is not covered. It is beautifully illustrated with top examples and striking ethnographic photographs. This and James Opie's Book Tribal Rugs are essential treatments of this subject. Covering much of the same ground

but also the history of rug making and urban production as well, is Murray Eiland's *Oriental Carpets*. This is the most scholarly and best illustrated overview of the subject, but only get the 1998 or later editions as the earlier ones are not as comprehensive or nearly as well illustrated. These are the three most important books either a beginner or expert can obtain. This is MacDonald's second edition and is somewhat altered with a few different illustrations and a minimally edited text.

To begin with, *Tribal Rugs: Treasures Of The Black Tent* is by design a comprehensive reference work. Dealers and collectors will be well-served by Brian W. MacDonald's exhaustive survey of the carpets of Central Asia. But as one spends time hypnotically absorbed in the patterns of the incredibly intricate weavings presented in these pages, and learns a bit about the tribal cultures of the people who created them, one sees that *Tribal Rugs* is also a profound portrait of a highly evolved art form. An art form that is not pursued in order to create art. But rather unselfconsciously, in a utilitarian way. Because the weaving is always done for practical purposes, to meet the needs of the family as it travels from region to region throughout the year. Which makes the infinite patience and unstinting devotion to aesthetic ideal with which the work is accomplished that much more remarkable. My thought about these rugs, about their visual and emotional impact, is that each depicts a rarefied landscape of uncompromising beauty. A landscape that intrinsically possesses meaning and maybe even sacred qualities (many weavings are in fact uniquely configured as prayer rugs). To study carefully these landscapes reveals a world of otherness that endlessly fascinates, captivates, and ultimately challenges thoroughly perceptual complacency with salubrious result.

Wonderful book about a very niche topic. The author, who spent years in Iran first as an archeologist and later as a collector of tribal rugs, provides lots of interesting background about the people who make the rugs and what they are used for. Great photos of the rugs and the people who make them.

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