



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

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## **Ten Tips for Beginning Rug & Textile Collectors**

Interested in collecting rugs and textiles but don't know where to start? Planning a trip abroad and hoping to bring back textiles? Our ten tips can guide the novice collector on how to begin a textile collection.

Sheridan Collins, a member of The Textile Museum's Advisory Council and Docent Corps, has been collecting rugs and textiles for 30 years.

"Collecting rugs or textiles takes work but reaps great rewards. At its heart, the process helps us understand the world we live in and the human need in all cultures to create and appreciate things of beauty."

--Sheridan Collins

1. Find inspiration by visiting **The Textile Museum** in Washington, DC (2320 S Street, NW), which has one of the world's best rug and textile collections.
2. Handle as many rugs and textiles as possible. Decide what type of textiles appeal to you.
3. Research, research, research! Books and the Internet are great ways to learn more about the area of textiles you want to collect.
4. Join a rug or textile society to make connections with other collectors and professionals.
5. Plan and budget for your collection. Buy the highest quality pieces you can afford.
6. Buy what you like, not what's in vogue.
7. Find dealers whom you can trust. Beware of Internet buying.
8. Look for pieces with great color, pattern and physical integrity. Technique, function, age and rarity add value.

9. Learn how to care for your collection. You're buying pieces to preserve them, not to use them up. See The Textile Museum's "Care & Display" guidelines for more information.
10. Constantly upgrade as your knowledge increases. Don't worry about sunk costs in pieces you may have outgrown.

For more information on collecting rugs and textiles, attend Sheridan Collins' Rug & Textile Appreciation Morning at The Textile Museum.

### **The Accidental Collector: An Introduction to Collecting Rugs and Textiles**

*Saturday, February 10, 10:30 am*

Join Sheridan Collins on her 30-year journey to become a rug and textile consultant. Collins will present highlights of her collection, recounting the how and why of her acquisitions. This program is designed especially for novices. FREE; no reservations required.

If you would like to schedule an interview with Sheridan Collins, please call Communications Assistant Molly McMullen at (202) 496-5074.

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Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts. The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art. With a collection of more than 17,000 textiles and rugs and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 'S' Street, NW in Washington, DC. The Museum is open Monday - Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is free; suggested donation is \$5.00. For further information, call 202-667-0441.

**For more information or images**, please contact Cyndi Bohlin at 202-496-5061, or by email at [cbohlin@textilemuseum.org](mailto:cbohlin@textilemuseum.org) or visit [www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm](http://www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm).