

# RUGS DESCRIPTION

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**Rug Number** CU-1131

**Title** Antique Persian  
Tehran Rug

**Size** 11ft 05in X 23ft  
11in  
3m 47cm X 7m  
28cm



**Description:**

The Zil-i-Sultan (Shadow of the Sultan) design is a nineteenth century Persian all over pattern of repeating vases, birds, flowers, bouquets and other decorative small elements. Not all Zil-i-Sultan employ all the motives, however the pattern seems to derive from textiles probably European printed or brocade from mid-19th century. The pattern was popular in several Persian rug weaving centers, Feraghan, Malayer, Kirman and Tehran and in more tribal renditions Abadeh rugs from south Persia. Backgrounds are all ways ivory beige or off white. The pattern is related to other contemporary designs derived from Kashmir shawl textiles. The term Zil-i-Sultan literary means shadow of the Sultan. The crown prince or other heir apparent to the Shah, it is generally, but erroneously believed that Crown Prince Nasir a din Shah was responsible for its creation, more likely the pattern was suitably aristocratic and associated with members of the ruling family. The pattern was popular from the 1860's to 1920's rugs with the Zil-i-Sultan design finely woven and with excellent wool and finish. They are almost all in sizes 4'x6', with a few larger rugs including this example, which is an extraordinary approx. 11'x 24', the rug is clearly a custom order for a most discerning client -

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