

## The Mysterious Garden on the Carpet of the Ancient Silk Road - Centered on the Carpet of Xinjiang<sup>1</sup>

HaiMu Li <sup>a</sup> Fuli Meng <sup>a</sup>

Shihe-zi University, School of Literature and Art ,  
Shihe-zi 832003, Xinjiang,China  
315405141 @qq.com

### Abstract

*Handmade carpets on the ancient Silk Road are an important carrier and witness of cultural exchange and artistic fusion between the East and the West. Thesis to the Silk Road garden theme handmade carpet as a research object, the author draws on art, human geography, history and other research methods and results, from the handmade carpet garden theme, cultural connotations, aesthetic qualities, the value of the times and other aspects, revealing the East and West civilization to the Silk Road as a link between the various nationalities of the exchange of the exchange and the mingling of the historical experience and the brilliant results, the study of cultural prosperity and regional economic development of the "Belt and Road" has certain revelations. Belt and Road" cultural prosperity and regional economic development has certain enlightenment.*

**Keywords: Silk Road; handmade carpets; East meets West; botanical motifs; religious beliefs**

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The Silk Road is an ancient trade route and cultural route that runs through the exchanges and interactions between the civilizations of the East and the West, the establishment of which has brought about convenient trade exchanges, the import and export of plants and animals, and the mutual collision of arts and crafts, all of which reveal the exchanges of different civilizations as well as the combination of Eastern and Western cultures across time and space and ideas for different regions, making human civilization more and more brilliant and fascinating. Handmade carpets, as one of the important elements of daily life and political diplomacy in the regions along the routes, have witnessed regional interactions under the global perspective, promoted cultural exchanges and prosperity among different regions, and promoted the development and innovation of art. The spread of handmade carpets is also of positive significance to national integration and the protection of cultural diversity.

During the interaction and trade on the Silk Road, craftsmen from all over the world kept exchanging experience and technology, which made the carpet-making process continuously improved. The spread of carpets on the Silk Road was not only an exchange of goods, but also an exchange of culture. Through the spread of carpets, the cultures of different nationalities could understand and integrate with each other, which promoted the communication and unity among nationalities. At the same time, the diversity of carpets also demonstrates the richness of cultures around the world, which helps to protect, pass on and share the common cultural heritage of mankind.

### **1. Carrier and Witness of Cultural and Artistic Exchanges between the East and the West**

The trade of carpets along the ancient Silk Road often represents the intersection of different civilizations and the collision between various arts. Carpets in different countries represent distinct signs of each region. They not only have beautiful and unique style patterns, but also record special life information such as geographical climate, living environment and religious beliefs. The style, theme, composition and craftsmanship of handmade carpets can reflect the local aesthetic intention and craftsmanship of the countries along the Silk Road while creating their own carpet characteristics. This just proves the fact that the cultural identity of all ethnic groups and the sharing of civilization achievements in the process of civilization communication. The patterns on these carpets are also the spiritual sustenance of people. There is an idiom called 'the picture will be intentional, and the meaning will be auspicious.' (Weiwei Liu & Wenliang Li, 2023) When these different meanings of the handmade carpet after a long journey, gathered into a new territory, will also spread their unique spirit to all over the world, so that people understand each other, so that the seeds of art with the wind sow.

### *1.1 East-West cultural empathy in terms of constituent elements*

#### (1) Handmade carpet profile

Handmade carpet is an important object for examining the history of the Silk Road, which originated from nomads, flourished in the ancient Persian region, i.e., today's Iranian Turkey and other places, and entered China by the Silk Road. (Xiangrong Wang, 2020) The different shapes and styles of handmade carpets, patterns and motifs, and traditional materials in the spread of the Silk Road can be used as criteria to judge the origin of civilization. Different civilizations intermingled their cultures through trade, wars, and population flows, and it was the entry of different civilizations into different regions that made human civilization starry-eyed. (Maqian Si, 1982)

The shape of handmade carpet is rich and colorful, and it can be classified according to its shape. According to the geometric figure, the most common is the rectangle. The biggest advantage of this shape of handmade carpet is that it is easy to carry and can trade at any time. Secondly, the circle is also very common, which is generally used in decoration ; square is also the only choice of carpet, very practical, often will not go wrong ; in addition, there are carpets with irregular geometric shapes, which are generally more artistic and unique, and can attract people 's attention. According to the special graphics, the handmade carpet can be divided into concrete and abstract. In general, most of the figurative shapes are animal and plant shapes, which often represent the corresponding different meanings, and also make the carpet more vivid and interesting, and the decorative effect is more suitable. Abstract handmade carpets are full of creativity. These very personalized carpets often mark their own sources more clearly, with strong regional cultural characteristics.

#### (2) Artistic Elements of Handmade Rugs

The appearance of the same element in different regions ( empathy ) such ornamentation appears on the items of ancient Greek, Roman and Middle Eastern nationalities, indicating that the wave head pattern on the textile unearthed in Sampula adheres to the exotic cultural tradition, and the source should be in ancient Greece, Rome and the Mediterranean coast.

Handmade carpets can be divided into patterns and texts according to the content of the patterns, in which the patterns include different themes, such as plants, animals, scenery and geometric figures. Plant patterns are generally decorated with blooming flowers and wonderful vines to show the vitality of flowers. Flower carpets are not only full of natural atmosphere, but also express people's pursuit and worship of nature.(See Figure.1)

Animal-themed carpets will leap up with viid poses and exquisite details, and most of the common images are tigers, lions, eagles, etc., which show the people's careful observation of life, and also imply strength, bravery and other good qualities.(See Figure.2)

Geometric patterns are an essential part of handmade carpets. These patterns are composed of simple lines, geometric shapes superimposed on each other and the content of the carpet is neatly laid out, balanced and beautiful, in a form equivalent to

an Islamic garden, with similarities and differences.(See Figure.3)



Figure.1.Plant elements on handmade carpets. The picture comes from the handmade carpets in the homes of local residents in Xinjiang



Figure.2.Tiger pattern on handmade carpet



Figure.3.Geometric elements on handmade carpets The picture comes from the handmade carpets in the homes of local residents in Xinjiang

In addition to the pattern part, the text style on the carpet is also unique. Ancient Persian carpets are often painted in Arabic or Persian, and these languages generally have other meanings, such as blessings, prayers, verses, or aphorisms. The integration of text makes the handmade carpet more cultural and artistic value, and also makes the whole carpet content more complete. However, Chinese handmade carpets generally divide the contents of the text compiled in the carpet into four categories : there are many words in the inscription that pray for Zhenxiang auspicious Qi, which are mostly influenced by the social trend of thought and Taoist culture at that time, such as the desire for wealth and longevity, the hope of children and grandchildren, and the meaning of happiness ; the inscriptions of ' Xiang Xian Mu Shen ' are numerous in the inscriptions. .(See Figure.4)In traditional Chinese culture, the concept of immortals was formed in the Warring States period ; in the flourishing period of the Han Dynasty, in order to meet the needs of political rule, the theological view of heaven changed, from ' heaven ' as the core to ' monarch ' as the center, from emphasizing ' divine right of monarch ' to ' monarch and heaven live together ', theocracy was differentiated by monarchical power, the status of monarch was more noble and lofty, and the respect for monarch and king was valued by the world ; in addition to the above types, there are also a class of historians in the inscriptions. The brocade is the gold in the gold, which is bound to be the most commemorative, symbol or hope. It is also bound to reflect the relevant history of that time, such as ' Five stars out of the East to benefit China ', ' Confronting the South Qiang ', ' The new gods have lived for a long time ', ' Looking at the four seas, riches and longevity is the national day ', etc. Among them, ' Five stars out of the East to benefit China ' is not only related to the vast astronomical phenomena and the five elements culture, but also the carrier of the word ' China ' first seen in the brocade.(Weiwei Liu & Wenliang Li, 2023) .

Regarding the swastika pattern, there are similarities between Persian and Chinese

carpets. The swastika pattern in Persian carpets signifies the wheel of fate, a sign of good luck and a symbol of abundance. In Chinese carpets, the swastika pattern is often used in the edge of the carpet, continuous, also to symbolize the auspiciousness of the deep and long, rich and noble prolonged.

### (3) Handmade carpet making materials

The materials of handmade carpets are rich, mostly pure wool, cotton, cotton thread, and even some expensive carpets will be accompanied by silk, silver, gold and other materials. The choice of these materials not only takes into account the availability and practicality of a variety of uses, but also reflects the different cultural and regional aesthetic.

Wool, as a traditional material for carpets, is popular for its excellent warmth and durability. In particular, high-quality wool, such as Cork wool commonly used in ancient Persian carpets, makes the carpet more diverse in color and pattern due to its delicate texture and excellent dyeing properties. Silk is a luxurious material in the carpet. Silk carpet is highly praised for its soft touch, bright luster and unique hand weaving process. On the Silk Road, silk is an important trade commodity, and its application has gradually been introduced into the carpet weaving process, which further improves the texture and beauty of the carpet. In addition, cotton yarn and cotton thread are also commonly used materials in carpet making. They are relatively economical, but also have good durability and weaving performance. On the Silk Road, these materials are widely used to make carpets of various styles and specifications to meet the needs of different consumers. The richness of the carpet's colours and patterns also benefits from pigments extracted from natural plants and minerals. These pigments are not only colorful and enduring, but also make the carpet more national characteristics and regional culture. (MengXiang&ZepingXu,2022.)

## *1.2 The exchange and mutual appreciation of craftsmanship between the East and the West as seen in the handmade carpets.*

### (1) Spatial distribution of the origin of handmade carpets

The Silk Road is closely related to the development history of handmade carpets and involves and connects many countries in many ways, and each country has its unique style and characteristics of carpets. It is the trade, craftsmanship and cultural exchanges of handmade carpets in these countries that make it possible to say that the development of handmade carpets is not limited to a certain country, but is the result of the cultural convergence of many regions, which has become an irreplaceable part of the human civilization and proved that The development of handmade carpets is not limited to a certain country, but is the result of the convergence of the cultures of many regions, which has become an irreplaceable part of human civilization and the star that proves the clash of cultures and the friendly exchanges of people from different countries.

Persia (present-day Iran ) : Persian carpets are known for their long history, rich patterns and bright colors. The patterns of Persian carpets are often complex and fine, and common themes include flowers, animals and geometric figures. Its color is bright and enduring. In terms of craftsmanship, Persian handmade carpets have

complex weaving techniques. Craftsmen skillfully weave materials of different colors together, and are also careful in detail processing, such as color transition and edge modification.

Turkey : Turkish carpets are also praised for their exquisite craftsmanship and rich patterns. The pattern of Turkish carpets is often simple and generous, and the color is soft. In addition, Turkish carpets have also made innovations in materials, such as the use of silk and wool blends.

China : China 's carpet also has its uniqueness. Influenced by the Central Plains culture, Chinese carpets often show an elegant and restrained style in pattern and color. Common patterns include animals, flowers and traditional auspicious patterns, with bright colors such as red, yellow and blue.

Ancient Rome : The handmade carpets in ancient Rome used wool, linen, silk and other materials to ensure that the carpets were soft and comfortable. The color is also unique, using natural plants and minerals to extract the color, bright color and beauty. In addition, other countries on the Silk Road, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and so on, also have their own unique carpet style. These carpets are different in material, craft, pattern and color, which fully demonstrates the diversity and integration of different cultures on the Silk Road.

#### Similarities and differences in processes

When it comes to the production process, handmade carpets are quite delicate and time-consuming, no matter which country they are made in. The basic production process is more or less the same, including steps such as designing patterns, dyeing, weaving and trimming. However, there are obvious differences and similarities in the specific processes and details.

Take Chinese handmade carpet as an example, it is mainly produced in Xinjiang, Ningxia and other regions with strong ethnic and local characteristics. Xinjiang carpets are mainly produced in Hotan, Kashgar, Lopu, Kuqa, Urumqi, etc. Especially Hotan area is famous for its abundance of high quality carpets. The pattern designs of the carpets are often closely linked to traditional Chinese culture and natural landscapes, with soft and layered colors. Secondly, we intend to take the excavated handmade carpets in Xinjiang as the object, and explore the Chinese culture of the central and western regions of China, which is the same frequency of Chinese national communication and interactions, in terms of the layout structure, text type, pattern, weaving technique, and so on.

Regarding the location of carpet trading in Xinjiang, the Silk Road has historically played a key role. Since Zhang Qian 's mission to the Western Regions opened the world-renowned Silk Road, Xinjiang handmade carpets have been continuously introduced into the Central Plains along the Silk Road, which has played a great role in promoting the development of the Central Plains carpet industry. Xinjiang carpet has its communication and interaction with the Central Plains in different periods of history. For example, in the Eastern Han Dynasty, Ban Chao went to the Western Regions, and his brother Ban Gu wrote to him to exchange silk for carpets in the Western Regions ; during the Tang Dynasty, Xuanzang returned from India and noticed the production of local carpets when passing through Hotan. These historical events have shown the close relationship between Xinjiang carpet and the Central

Plains.(SimaQian,1982)

In recent years, with the continuous development of archaeology, many ancient wool fabrics and 'flocked carpets' have been found in Xinjiang, which further proves that Xinjiang is the birthplace of Chinese handmade carpets. In summary, the source of Xinjiang carpets is closely related to its nomadic culture and historical background, and the Silk Road is the main channel for its trade and dissemination. Through the Silk Road, Xinjiang carpets not only spread to the Central Plains, but also had extensive exchanges and interactions with other countries and regions.

Persian carpet is a world-famous carpet art treasure. Its production process is also exquisite, paying more attention to details and complicated pattern design. At the same time, Persian carpet is famous for its high density weaving. If the Central Plains carpet is close to the Persian carpet in weaving density, it may be affected by the Persian weaving technique. Persian carpets are mostly made of wool, with bright colors and strong contrast, and the patterns are full of the unique charm of Persian culture. On the Silk Road, the Persian carpet trade points are numerous. Among them, some important cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Kashgar, etc., are important distribution centers for Persian carpet trading. These cities are located on the important nodes of the Silk Road, with convenient transportation and merchants gathered, providing favorable conditions for the Persian carpet trade.( PingwuWang&Siman Jiang Yakufu,2022). The patterns and forms on Xinjiang handmade carpets are significantly similar to Persian carpets. This is mainly because Xinjiang and Persia are closely linked in history, culture and geographical location.

From the point of view of pattern design, Xinjiang carpet and Persian carpet have adopted complex and fine pattern design, which are often full of strong national characteristics and local style. In the Xinjiang carpet, you can see a variety of flowers, animals and geometric patterns, which are also common in Persian carpets. From the perspective of color application, Xinjiang carpets and Persian carpets both pay attention to the comparison and matching of colors. The colors they use are bright and layered, and through clever color matching, the whole carpet looks more vivid and dynamic. In addition, from the perspective of weaving techniques, Xinjiang carpets and Persian carpets have adopted a manual weaving method. This weaving method makes the texture of the carpet more fine and the pattern clearer. At the same time, they also pay attention to the details of the processing, such as the edge of the decoration, color transition, etc., which makes the carpet look more perfect.

Similarly, from the details and ideological connotation of weaving technology, there is a big difference between the two. First of all, Persian carpets use unique knotting techniques, while Chinese handmade carpets use flat knots, buckles, etc. In the cultural connotation, the Persian carpet contains a strong Islamic culture, while the Chinese carpet integrates Chinese traditional culture and embodies different aesthetic views and ideological spirit.

Stimulated by frequent trade, the ancient Silk Road developed into a hub for the production and trading of oriental hand-woven carpets. China's Turkestan region is one of the birthplaces of oriental hand-woven carpets. It is from here, through the Silk Road, the art of handmade carpets spread all over the world. It was also through the

Silk Road that China's silk was transported to the West, and Persia has been a transit point for China's silk shipments to the West for centuries. Silk has gradually been applied to the carpet weaving process, become the most advanced raw materials, and handmade silk carpet came into being.

Chinese carpet weaving technology with China's Silk Road through Central Asia came to the Middle East and Europe, but also to the Persian civilization of the Persian carpet into China. Since the Western Han Dynasty, the two ancient civilizations have been learning, exchanging and learning from each other. The patterns on Xinjiang handmade carpets are similar to Persian carpets, which not only reflects the cultural exchanges and integration between the two countries, but also shows the important role of the Silk Road in spreading culture. Although there are similarities and differences in the craftsmanship of handmade carpets on the Silk Road, they all reflect the unique charm of national cultures and people's pursuit of beauty. These carpets are not only daily necessities, but also the crystallization of art, bearing rich historical and cultural connotations.

## **2. The construction of a mysterious garden on a handmade carpet on the silk route**

Carpets distributed on the Silk Road, as objects of daily use, reflect the natural base and humanistic temperament of a certain region and at the same time reflect the common pursuit of people's ideals for a better life in different regions. This study takes the carpet on the Silk Road as the object of investigation, explores the landscape form and value characteristics it contains, and will try to carry out the research in terms of expression, garden art, theme construction and other aspects.

### *2.1 Natural materials and the shaping of local identity - the art form of handmade carpets*

Botanical motifs have a close and secret connection in handmade carpets from different regions. This manifestation is not only in the choice and design of patterns, but also reflects the cultural environment of different regions. Interestingly, the botanical motifs in carpets are sometimes not real depictions of plants, but artfully treated and distorted patterns.(LiangYan,2021)

Taking China in Central Asia as an example, a variety of plants often appear on handmade carpets, and each has its own meaning. For example, lotus, also known as lotus, is one of the traditional Chinese patterns. As early as in the poetry of the Zhou Dynasty, the lotus was used as a metaphor for the beauty of women. The lotus was compared with the cattail grass, symbolizing the love between men and women. Later generations referred to the lotus flower and the lotus seed together, meaning fertility and many children. In the Tang Dynasty, the exchange of culture with foreign countries was inclusive, and the lotus flower was endowed with the artistic image of graceful and smooth branches and leaves, and the auspicious meaning of continuous continuity, which was called 'twining lotus'. The lotus branches on the court blanket of the Qing Dynasty were winding, soft and peaceful, the flower shape was more complicated, and the branches were more curved. The Buddhist halls, Taoist temples



and other sacrificial places in the court laid carpets with lotus patterns, and the sacrificial Shamanism in the Qing Dynasty also laid carpets with lotus patterns. The velvet yellow tapestry lotus carpet now paved in Kunning Palace is copied according to the records of the sacrificial archives of Kunning Palace in Qing Dynasty.

In the palace painting, there are many descriptions of the wrapper lotus pattern carpet, such as ' Wanshuyuan Gift Banquet Picture ' (inside the yurt), ' Xiyuan Banquet Picture ' ( outside the yurt ). The wrapper lotus pattern on the carpet is very clear. Among the existing cultural relics, ' Green Zhangrong Lianzhilian Wall Clothing ', ' Felt Painting Lianzhilian Kang Felt ', ' Huang Zhangrong Lianzhilian Feihe Round Carpet ', etc., all show the image of Lianzhilian decoration in various carpets.

Taking Persian handmade rugs in West Asia as an example, antique rugs are highly prized for their timeless designs, use of natural dyes in colors and excellent wear resistance, and most antique rugs often feature intricate vine patterns or rich flora and fauna as design highlights.

Indian carpets also like to use symmetrical forms and extremely complicated patterns as the filling of handmade carpet content. There is a handmade carpet with natural materials and plants - Indian pearl carpet, which looks like a giant pearl work as a whole. Its white background is all filled with Basra natural pearls collected from the Gulf waters, with an estimated 2 million embellishments, while its colorful silhouettes are made up of countless glass beads in series. The three dazzling rose patterns in the centre are also set with hundreds of large diamonds in gold and silver base ; the small rose flower patterns around are also inlaid with small diamonds, in addition to rubies, sapphires and emeralds as a foil.

## *2.2 Carpet reproduction for garden art*

### *(1) Plant configurations that follow native and exotic novelties*

The patterns and elements on handmade carpets often represent different history, religion or folklore stories, and through the medium of carpets, people can learn about colorful exotic customs in different time and space. When handmade carpets are replaced, it also becomes a complex process of cultural exchange.

In the design of exotic handmade carpets, the Central Plains has a long history and splendid culture, and often incorporates rich and diverse elements of the Central Plains culture, the most obvious is the traditional patterns and motifs - traditional patterns and motifs, such as dragons and phoenixes, peonies, auspicious clouds, scrolling leaves, etc., are often incorporated into the design of exotic carpets. These patterns are not only decorative, but also imply auspiciousness, wealth and other symbols, which are loved by people. And some elements of Persian carpets can also be found in ancient handmade carpets unearthed in the Central Plains, which reflects the cultural exchange and integration on the Silk Road. The common ones are generally - floral, animal and mythological patterns. Persian carpets are often decorated with complex and fine floral, animal and mythological patterns. These elements are also reflected in the Middle Kingdom carpets, and although they may have been influenced by the culture of the Middle Kingdom, the basic compositions

and styles still maintain the characteristics of Persian carpets.

There are indeed some obvious differences in the use of plant elements between the Persian carpet and the Central Plains carpet. These differences are mainly due to the different cultural, aesthetic and historical backgrounds of the two places.

The plant elements of Persian carpet often show a continuous and meandering vine style, which is consistent with its pursuit of continuous and endless design concepts. Common elements in the pattern include Shahabas patterns, Paisley, rose knots, etc., as well as specific plant images such as cypress, hyacinth, and lotus. These pattern elements are interwoven in a repetitive manner on the Persian carpet, making the carpet more distinctive. At the same time, the color application of Persian carpets is also extremely rich. Bright and high contrast colors make plant elements more prominent. (Laufer,1964).

The use of plant elements in the Central Plains carpet shows unique Central Plains cultural characteristics. Influenced by Chinese traditional culture, the plant patterns of the Central Plains carpet are often more concise and lively, focusing on the smoothness of the lines and the overall harmony. The common plant elements include peony, chrysanthemum, lotus and so on. These elements are presented in a beautiful manner on the carpet, showing an elegant and dignified temperament. In the use of color, the Central Plains carpet pays more attention to the coordination and balance of color, and pursues an implicit and deep aesthetic feeling.

Common patterns on the carpet are vases, peony, cats, butterflies, lions, tigers, dragons, cranes, deer, plums, orchids, bamboos, chrysanthemums, bats, etc. Among them, vases mean peace and security, peony means grace and wealth, cats and butterflies mean longevity, lion, tiger and dragon mean power and mighty, crane and deer mean longevity, plum, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum mean four seasons, bats mean ' blessing ' and so on. In our China, the carpet pattern is very particular about, it must match the owner 's identity and status, age. Only in this way can we better reflect the master 's temperament and courage.

## (2) Double proof of ideal and realistic scenes

The dialectical relationship between matter and consciousness shows that matter and consciousness are identical and opposed. The existence of consciousness not only responds to matter, but also depends on it. When the picture on the carpet comes to life, it can be inferred that there must be a real carrier.

First of all, Persian carpets, as a representative of decorative arts, will also reflect people's living scenes as well as architectural features in handmade carpets. In the natural landscape, the majestic mountains and rivers of the Iranian plateau can be used as a prototype for the design. The designers skillfully compile the scenery in the carpet through the meandering curves and undulating line elements, showing the natural beauty of the Persian region and the reverence for nature. In terms of content, gardening elements play an important role, such as the "Garden of the Seasons," which presents a tranquil place through a central fountain, surrounded by trees and playful birds.

In the human landscape, Persian handmade carpets can often be seen in the Islamic culture of the mosque tiles, palace stone carvings and so on. Secondly, the pillars as well as the dome pattern in the mosque can also immerse people in a solemn atmosphere, these domes generally radiate in all directions with a good ornate center of the circle, and the boundary is a precise and complex geometric figure, which adds a sense of mystery to the carpet through the complex lines and gorgeous colors. Among the Western handmade blankets, the antique wool carpet in the Perskerman area is also a classic 'heaven garden' as an example, and it is also a witness to the superb production level of carpets in central and southern Iran. It is well known that the Kerman carpet is famous for its unique design patterns and exquisite details, and the quaint and luxurious paradise garden carpet is a good proof of this point. The traditional paradise garden design uses a lot of garden architectural elements at that time, such as the central pond, and the sparkling geometric elements around the pond. These elements and details together add a lot of interest to this rare antique carpet. (See Figure.4)



Figure.4 The Paradise Garden in the Persian Garden carpet and the Paradise Garden in reality. Source : Artisan handmade carpet

The carpet pattern expression in Xinjiang, China in Central Asia also has mountains, trees, clouds, etc. as elements to landscape as the basis to express the natural landscape of the carpet. There is a female designer in Xinjiang, who takes Xinjiang Tianshan Mountain as the design inspiration and creates a handmade carpet combining geometric elements and natural elements with bright colors and beautiful shapes. This not only expresses the harmonious coexistence between Xinjiang people and nature, but also brings infinite possibilities for the development of Xinjiang carpets! (Ziqi Ding, 2022).

### 2.3 Theme construction - daily life and folklore on handmade blankets

If civilization develops in a place for a long time, it will be changed by the surrounding environment, which makes people develop a wonderful environmental complex, also called the spirit of place. This complex not only promotes the worship of natural things, but also reflects the inner desires of people from different classes. Even through these strange complexes, we can find the cultural connotations behind

them.

In the expression of hand-made patterns of the Miao nationality in China, there is a widely circulated folk story. The general content is : in ancient times, the world was desolate, and only one maple tree was born in the corner of the sky ; the maple tree is the tree of life of all things, with thousands of species. Later, the maple tree was wrongly stolen and cut down. Each part of the maple tree became loaches, swallows, waggies, bronze drums, owls, and sisters (butterflies). Butterflies and blisters ' Youfang ' ( in love ), gave birth to 12 eggs. Butterfly will not hug (hatch). Wagyu bird helped her to hug for 12 years, and hatched Jiangyang brother and sister, Leigong, dragon, elephant, buffalo, tiger, snake, frog, centipede, etc. Jiang Yang brothers and sisters are people, and people come here.



Figure.5.The left image and the right image of the garden and the current situation of the garden are designed for the King of Babur, respectively. Source : The miniatures in ' Book of Babur '

The creation of Persian carpets is rich in types and profound in connotation. The following Royal Tabernacle Carpet ( 625 x 398cm ), made in 1940, is a custom made by King Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran. The four corners of the handmade carpet are the iconic buildings of the Persian Dynasty. The whole carpet of superior wool woven in the warp and weft of silk, noble luxury, full of royal style.

The antique Persian carpet used in the coronation of Queen Victoria 's son Edward VII is also a treasure of the world. This wool-woven carpet has a very large size of 23 x 12 feet ( about 701cm x 366cm ), and the huge size is probably the main reason why it was selected as the coronation carpet.

#### (1) Intermingling of carpet and mental space

Since the primitive society, people have conveyed the meaning to be expressed through various symbols. At the same time, primitive humans will worship and appreciate the natural society, and the most characteristic of the carpet elements is the ' tree of life '. In Islamic culture, the tree of life symbolizes the bridge connecting heaven, human beings and the underground world. It usually appears with plant and animal elements, which symbolizes the beautiful meaning full of vitality. The ' tree of life ' is not limited to a particular tree. The palm tree in the Persian carpet represents

satisfaction and blessing, and the coconut tree in the Indian carpet represents a prayer. (Kuhn,2006).

There is also a special kind of Persian carpet, the pattern points to one side, known as one-way carpet. The most common one-way carpet is the prayer carpet. There are windows or doors on the carpet surface pattern, and there are shrines inside, all pointing to the direction of the holy land Mecca. Generally used in Muslim prayer, the carpet can be spread under the body.

### **3. The rebirth of the handmade carpet of the ancient silk route**

Ancient handmade carpets, as treasures of human civilization, exude the artistic, cultural and economic values of the new era. From the point of view of artistic value, handmade carpets have brilliant human civilization, delicate skills and rich imagination. Secondly, from the viewpoint of cultural value, handmade carpets reflect the living environment and spiritual beliefs of local people, and contain rich historical and cultural connotations. From the point of view of economic value, handmade carpets have high collection and investment value, due to the complex skills, time-consuming and laborious, the quantity is often scarce, but also a certain potential investment.

#### *3.1 Preservation of everyday life and the promise of a better life*

Ancient handmade carpets are becoming more and more valuable in the market because of their historicity, scarcity and artistry, and they have appreciated over time. In daily life, handmade carpets are not only beautiful but also practical. They can generally be laid in the living room and study room of the home, and also has the characteristics of anti-skid and wear resistance. At the same time, handmade blankets are not only a kind of decoration, but also represent a kind of belief and culture. They are more like a good moral in people 's hearts, making the home full of love for life and awe of nature.

#### *3.2 Preservation and transmission of distinctive cultures*

In his speech at UNESCO Headquarters in 2014, President XiJinping said, 'When dealing with different civilizations, we should not be satisfied with just admiring the exquisite objects they produce, but should also appreciate the humanistic spirit contained in them, and we should not be satisfied with just appreciating their artistic representations of people's lives in the past, but should also make the spit embedded in them come to life.

Hotan silk reeling factory in Xinjiang was built during the first five-year plan period. In 1963, a batch of new weaving and printing equipment was added, which created conditions for the further development of production. A sericulture study tour group was organized in Hetian District, and came to Deqing County, Zhejiang Province, which has a long history of sericulture in Hangjiahu Plain, to learn the experience of sericulture. Through the collective efforts of everyone, the quantity and quality of Hotan carpet will be greatly improved.(See Figure.6&7)



Figure.6 Tieliu Commune three teams of sideline group is processing carpet factory work in 1964 Yue Guofang photography



Figure.7 Hotan modern handmade carpet weaving status picture

For the protection and inheritance of handmade carpets, people should first understand more about handmade carpets, appreciate the historical mystery and humanistic feelings behind them, and excavate the spiritual form behind them. Like

other intangible cultural heritages, inheritors are the key to pass on. Only when the craftsmen make the handmade carpets first, people can perceive it, and it is a kind of living inheritance. With the development opportunities of the Belt and Road, different civilizations are mingling and intertwining to be able to better immerse themselves in the consciousness behind the handmade carpets.(Ji Jiaqi&Tian Xiaodong,2020).

### *3.3 Important ways to enrich people's livelihoods and prosperity*

Handmade carpets also have significant benefits in enriching people 's industries. In some areas, due to traditional customs or family responsibilities, women may face difficulties in going out to work. The design and weaving of handmade carpets provide employment opportunities for women, so that women can work at home in a convenient and flexible way. This can not only bring expenses to the family, but also do the work they are interested in.

Secondly, the development of handmade carpet industry chain can increase the local economic growth. Handmade carpet is an ancient intangible cultural heritage, so it takes a lot of manpower and material resources. While producing handmade carpets, the local needs to provide more basic raw materials, tools and equipment, and a large number of jobs, which will promote the local industrial chain effect and inject new vitality into the local economic development. Finally, the weaving of handmade carpets can also inherit traditional culture, make different cultures blend, feel the charm of different civilizations, let more people understand this technology and skill, and promote the inheritance and promotion of intangible culture.

## **4. Historical experience and inspiration**

Reviewing the historical inheritance and regional classification of handmade carpets, through the search and summary of literature, it is found that the handmade carpets around the Silk Road are inseparable from the environment of the Belt and Road Initiative. The elements such as plant patterns on the carpet are equivalent to a series of encrypted passwords. Reading a handmade carpet is to crack one by one full of humanistic spirit, and we can 't help feeling the bright stars of mankind. Inherit our existing intangible cultural treasures and let them continue over time in the long river of history.

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