

# The Ottomans | Exporting Luxury

‘Among the most eminent woven goods exported by the Ottomans were carpets.’

Textiles were a vital part of the Ottoman economy, particularly since the Ottoman domains included substantial portions of the ancient silk-trade route. Their importance only increased as their value was appreciated in Europe and elsewhere. Among the most eminent woven goods exported by the Ottomans were carpets whose beautiful designs and outstanding quality made them popular with the wealthy classes of Europe. Evidence of this can be seen in European paintings contemporary to the classical Ottoman period. Artists such as Hans Holbein and Lorenzo Lotto depicted wealthy or noble individuals (including King Henry VIII of England) surrounded by symbols of prosperity and luxury, including carpets with distinctly Ottoman designs. Such carpets are now known as ‘Holbein’ and ‘Lotto’ carpets.



**Name:**

Rug

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 1023–43 / AD 1614–33 Ottoman

**Details:**

Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities (Medelhavsmuseet)  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**

The coat of arms on this rug is evidence that it was made for a European archbishop.

---



**Name:**

Carpet

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 11th century / AD 17th century Ottoman

**Details:**

National Museums of Scotland (NMS)  
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

Carpets with similar patterns appear in the paintings of Lorenzo Lotto.

---



**Name:**

Uşak carpet (Bergama)

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 10th / AD 16th century Ottoman

**Details:**

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Justification:**

The painter Hans Holbein depicted carpets like this in his portraits.

---



**Name:**

Carpet

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 10th / AD 16th century Ottoman

**Details:**

Victoria and Albert Museum  
London, England, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

The intricate patterns found in Ottoman carpets appealed to European buyers; the style of this particular carpet is known as a Medallion-Ushak.

---



**Name:**

Brocade

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 9th–10th centuries / AD 15th–16th centuries Ottoman

**Details:**

Museum of National Antiquities  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**

Many Swedish ecclesiastical garments were made partially from fabrics imported from Persia and Turkey.

---



**Name:**

Embroidery

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 11th century / AD 17th century Ottoman

**Details:**

Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums  
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

Many similar types of embroidery were influenced by the brocades and velvets that were designed and made for the Ottoman court.

---