

JIM DIXON Aug 26, 1943—March 23, 2020

Jim Dixon, a devotee of the late 'World Teacher', Jiddu Krishnamurti and a classical studies scholar, began his serious art collecting around 1975 and for 45 years gathered a radical amount of historically and aesthetically significant material, with a predominant focus on "oriental carpets". Prominent among his early mentors in this enterprise were legendary carpet and textile collectors Hillary Black Dumas and Dr. Gil Dumas, many of whose treasures now reside at the Met in NYC and at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

After a period of study, Jim embarked on his own solo collecting career and over time became one of the most highly regarded and dedicated carpet collectors in the world with his famous 'Hesperides Collection'. Past public displays featuring important works from this collection include the Trefoil exhibition at Mills College in Oakland, the Heavenly Gardens exhibition in Walnut Creek, California and numerous ICOC, ACOR and other assorted presentations.

Jim was well known for his fascination with mystery rugs of unknown origins and also endeavored to acquire early material as a rule. His vast botanical knowledge also informed his passion for transcendent artistic representations of the natural world and the collection reflects this intrigue in a multitude of garden, tree, and lotus palmette carpets. Condition was not of significant concern, as the Dixon collection reflects, and he was probably the most accomplished fragment collector ever.

Most of the rugs in the collection date from before 1860, preceding the dawn of synthetic dye stuffs and there are numerous things that date back to the 16th century if not earlier.