

De Zee (The Sea)



Figure 143. *De Zee* carpet.

De Zee was one of the carpets exhibited in Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum in a 1923 retrospective of Colenbrander's carpets and ceramics. The Dutch art critic Albert Plasschaert praised this carpet as being truly worthy of a lasting place in a museum. He wrote:

Whoever designs a carpet like the large one that is displayed here, one full of symbols of the sea and therefore rightfully named "The Sea," deserves a place in a museum immediately. He is, after all, one of the few, along with Lion Cachet and Poggenbeek, who unites deep color, deeply living color, with imaginative form. And if they are not given a lasting place, then to whom else should one be given? The carpet "The Sea" belongs in a museum; it is a witness to our rich time that should not be lost; it may serve a purpose, but should not be entirely lost due to this purpose; feet should not wear away its beauty. The owner of such a work has a responsibility to his country. He