

Overview

Generally speaking, Colenbrander's carpet designs can be categorized in one of two ways: designs painted either by Colenbrander or employees of the factories that made carpets from his designs, and designs known only through existing carpets or contemporaneous photographs and publications. Arno Welten's book *Theo Colenbrander Tapijtenontwerpen (Theo Colenbrander Carpet Designs)*¹ published the designs in the first category, with the exceptions of very early designs, very late ones, and a group of designs in the author's collection. The "Designs and Carpets" section of the present book collects the designs in the second category as well as the designs in the author's collection and the early and late designs.

The first five designs presented in the "Designs and Carpets" section are all original designs painted by Colenbrander. Several have not been published previously, and none of them have been published in color reproductions. The author's collection also includes the original design of *Zon/Soleil*, but a copy of this design made at Colenbrander's carpet factory was published in Welten's book. The design is therefore not included here.

The next group of designs contained in this section are those that are known to have a name. Some of them, such as *Artisjok 2*, are shown as carpets (the original *Artisjok 2* design was never published and it no longer exists). Others are shown as photographs of the original designs, as many designs were published during Colenbrander's lifetime. The designs with names are followed by a group of carpets and designs for which no names are known. Finally, five carpets that may have been designed by Colenbrander are also documented.

Three inventory listings and a table of colors conclude the "Designs and Carpets" section. The first inventory lists all extant original designs created by Colenbrander. When known, the number of days required to finish a design and the date on which it was finished are specified. The second inventory lists the designs that are painted copies of the original designs. The original designs with handwritten annotations in Colenbrander's hand are in museum and private collections, while the copies were part of the KVT archives and are now in the collections of the TextielMuseum in Tilburg. The third inventory lists the names of all carpet designs that were mentioned in contemporaneous publications about which nothing else is known. A table specifying the colors used in Colenbrander's carpets concludes this section. Previous lists of these colors were always incomplete; the complete list of colors is published here for the first time.

1. Arno Welten, *Theo Colenbrander Tapijtenontwerpen*, Harderwijk (d'Jonge Hond), 2008.