

## TO WALK ON ART

Hamadan, sirouk, bokhara—  
such rugs can take a year  
or more to weave.

Colored

with vegetable dyes, the hues  
intensify and blend the more  
the rugs are used.

A royal

bokhara requires three hundred  
hand-tied knots per square  
inch.

Conceding that only God  
is perfect, the weavers tie  
the first knot wrong by choice ...  
My father dealt in oriental  
rugs and knew each type  
by name.

He saw them all  
as more than goods.

Sculptures

and paintings were made to be seen,  
but rugs for him were usefully  
beautiful.

Often after decades  
he would buy back rugs  
from their original owners  
for the price paid or more.  
He walked on oriental rugs  
with care as if in tribute  
to the weavers who went beyond  
art for art's sake to make  
what turned more beautiful with wear.