

**Tapestry**, *n.* [Fr. *tapiserie*, from *tapis*, a carpet; Lat. *tapete*; Gr. *tapes*, *tapetos*, also *dapis*, *dapidos*, a carpet.]

A kind of rich hangings, commonly composed of wool and silk, having pictorial representations wrought in them. This species of curtain covering for walls was known among the inhabitants of eastern countries at an extremely remote era. The most grotesque compositions and fantastic combinations were commonly selected for the display of the talents of workmen in this department of oriental art, which was afterwards imported into Greece. At length, the refined taste of Athens became visible in the structure of tapestries. The old grotesque combinations no longer, as formerly, covered their surfaces, but were confined to the borders only; and the centre received more regular and systematic representations. In modern times, this description of embroidery has been executed with very great success, and has often employed the talents of the greatest masters in the art of painting. In Flanders, particularly at Arras (whence the term *arras*, signifying *tapestry*), during the 15th and 16th centuries, the art was practised with uncommon skill, and tapestries were executed there after the design of Raffaele in his cartoons. The first manufacture of *T.* in Paris was established under Henry IV., in 1606 or 1707, by several artists whom that Monarch invited from Flanders. Under Louis XIV., the manufacture of the Gobelins was instituted. Tapestry-work is distinguished by the workmen into two kinds, — that of high and that of low warp; the looms, and consequently the warps, being differently situated in the one case from what they are in the other; those of the *low warp* being placed flat and horizontal to the horizon, and those of the *high warp* erected perpendicularly. See BAYEUX TAPESTRY, GOBELINS, &c.

—*v. a.* To furnish or adorn with tapestry; as, a *tapestried* room.

—*a.* Made of, or resembling tapestry; as, a *tapestry* carpet.

*Tapestry-carpet*, an elegant and cheap kind of twoply or ingrain carpet, in which the warp or weft is printed before weaving, so as to produce the figure in the cloth. — *Simmonds*.