

# Kashan Velvet & Rayon Mills, Ltd.

KASHAN - IRAN

FOUNDED : 1950

CAPITAL : Rls. 250,000,000 ALL PAID

REGISTRATION No. 38

CABLE : MAKHMALBAFI KASHAN

PHONE : 4024-5

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OUR REF. No.

TELEX No. : 2072 LADJEVARDI THN.

The week-end before that we went to Isfahan. It is 260 kilometers from Kashan to the south. We really enjoyed that weekend. Isfahan is more Persia to me than Tehran is. We stayed at the Shah Abbas Hotel and it was the most elaborate hotel we've ever been in. Abbas was Shah (or king) in the 16th century and Isfahan was the capitol. The hotel is on the sight of an old caravanserie (go to your dictionary and look that one up) and is built around a beautiful courtyard. The entire inside is painted with pictures from the time of Shah Abbas and someone told us it took 600 artists one year to paint the inside. The dining room is a very large room with a beautiful winding staircase to the balcony. The bannister to the staircase is very intricately carved and is simply magnificent. If the hotel were in the States we probably would think it ~~was~~ garish but it just seems to fit the setting it is in.

We took a sight-seeing tour and thoroughly enjoyed it. We went into 3 mosques and they are something to behold. It is just hard to understand how anyone can take such tiny pieces of colored tile and put them together into such elaborate scenes. But when you see the elaborateness and money that is in them then look at the poverty of the people who worship in them it gives you something to think about! The most interesting to us was the Masjid Juma, or Friday Mosque. This dates back before 1121. Some tile work has been added to it during the years but when it was built there was no such thing as tile and it is made entirely of mud bricks. But when you look at it you just wonder how they ever built such things back in those days. The bricks are very intricately carved and the domes are mosaic bricks. A very interesting thing about the other mosques was the light reflection in the domes moved around the dome as you move around the room.

We went to apalace that Shah Abbas used to entertain his royal guests. They are doing some restoration work on it because so many of the original paintings have been plastered over during the years.

We went into some of the shops there where they were making silver items, working on brass, painting pictures some on very small boxes, doing copper work and so many other things. Most of them have small boys, not as big as Bobby, working in them. They say the father teaches his sons his trade and they start learning early. But you should have heard your Mother bargaining in the shops. I didn't buy much mainly because of getting things back home and a lack of money was only a minor item! But we had fun bargaining for things. But I saw some things I would really love to have.