In 1897 Fredrik Robert Martin (1868-1933) exhibited his collection of Islamic arts and crafts at the World’s Fair that took place in Stockholm. He was during his time regarded as one of the internationally foremost experts on Islamic arts and crafts.

Between 1903-1908 he served as a diplomat at the Swedish Legation in Constantinople. In 1905 on a diplomatic mission in Konya, Martin discovered medieval carpets in the Alaeddin mosque, today regarded as important references for research about Anatolian carpets. The carpets are today on display at the Turk ve Islam Eserleri Muzesi in Istanbul. During his career he acquired hundreds of Islamic objects to private collectors and museum institutions in Sweden, where even at the Nordic Museum there are Anatolian carpets in the collection, thanks to Martin. He also wrote two books of significant importance: A History of Oriental Carpets before 1800 (London 1908) and The Miniature Painting and Painters of Persia, India and Turkey from the 8th to the 18th Century (London 1912).

Ulla-Karin Warberg, MA, is a curator at Nordiska museet, Stockholm, with folk art and interior textiles, including carpets, as specialty. Lecturer at Campus Gotland, Uppsala University and Carl Malmsten Furniture Studies, University of Linköping.