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Art News 1945/46

Exhibitions

Basle. The Baden collector of Japanese wood-cuts W. Boller selected for the Kunsthalle 400 pieces of his collection covering the whole development of this art and including all the celebrated masters. The exhibition was running from Febr. 16 to March 24, 1946.

Boston. The Museum of Arts arranged an exhibition "1000 Years of Landscape: East and West" from its own contents and with the aid of loans. The exhibition contained among others Chinese scroll paintings dating from the 10th century, Japanese scroll paintings and prints, Indian and Persian paintings from the 15th century.

Brunswick. An exhibition arranged at the Municipal Museum gave a survey of Chinese and Japanese art from the 7th to the 19th century.

Geneva. W. Boller, Baden, lent woodcuts by Hiroshige for an exhibition held in the Musée Rath from January 5th to February 23rd, 1946.

London. The Berkeley Gallery showed Chinese sculpture from March 20th to April 30th, 1946. — Sir William Rothenstein's collection which was exhibited at the Leicester Galleries includes a series of Indian paintings from the 17th century onwards. — The Indian Government has agreed to the proposal for an Indian art exhibition to be held at Burlington House in the autumn of next year. The Royal Academy has appointed an interim temporary committee. The exhibition will be on the scale of the Chinese art exhibition held before the war. Sculptures from about 100 A. D., paintings and textiles lent not only by India but by collectors in Britain, America and on the continent will be on view.

New York. The Far Eastern Department of the Metropolitan Museum showed, besides older property, a number of recently acquired Chinese ceremonial bronzes, among which a particular beautiful small Buddha statue from the T'ang period, formerly in the collection of the late Mrs. Christian R. Holmes.

Paris. Contemporary Chinese paintings were on view at [the Musée Cernuschi, from June to September, 1946.

Museums

Amsterdam. The Museum of Asiatic Art has been re-opened. The collections are intact and have been newly arranged.

Brussels. The Pavillon Chinois containing the Verhaeghe de Naeyer-Van Loo collection bequeathed to the Belgian State has been re-opened to the public. The collection comprises some 2000 items, chiefly Chinese ceramics, of the Ming and Ch'ing periods.

Cambridge, England. Most precious coins in perfect condition, an Indo-Greek tetradrachm of Heliokles, about 156–140 B. C., and a tetradrachm of Philoxenos, about 125 B. C., have been presented to the Fitzwilliam Museum by the Friends of the Fitzwilliam and by Dr. R. B. Whitehead respectively. A third tetradrachm, of Artemidoros, about 100 B. C., was purchased from the Coin Duplicate Fund.

Cambridge, Mass. From 1939 to 1946 the following works of Chinese art have been either bequeathed or presented to the Fogg Art Museum: 113 pieces of Ming porcelain by Samuel C. Davis; pottery, porcelain, jades and crystal by Ernest Blaney Dane and Helen Pratt Dane; white and grey jades, Ch'ien lung, by Mrs. George R. Agassiz, and 37 archaic bronzes, mostly ritual vessels, dating from the 2nd millenary B. C. to the beginning of our era (anonymously).

Cleveland. In 1944 the Museum of Art received as a bequest from Elisabeth Prentiss Severance her art-collection. It comprises among many other works of art a great number of Chinese and Korean ceramics and Japanese lacquer. In 1945 the Museum acquired a 7th century Indian statue of Cakrapurusa.

Oxford. Chinese blue and white porcelain has been bequeathed to the Ashmolean Museum.

Paris. At the Musée Guimet enriched by numerous new acquisitions and completely re-arranged the ground-floor containing the art of Indochina, of India, Java, and Tibet, has been re-opened. The art of East Asia transferred from the Louvre to the Museum and that of Central Asia will be shown later.

Sales

London. At Christie's, on Dec. 4th, 1945, £ 9,896 were paid for 92 lots of Chinese enamelled, painted and white coloured porcelain, of which sum £ 567 for a pair of egg-shell bowls from the Yung-ch'êng period (acquired by Alfred de Pinna), 525 for a group of two boys from the Ming period (Sparks), and 467 for a pair of famille verte groups of men riding Kylins from the K'ang-hsi period (Partridge). – At the auction of Chinese porcelain, decorative furniture and faience, property of E. J. Wythes, held at Christie's, on Febr. 28, 1946, a set of eight figures of the Immortals, Ming period, went for £ 273 to Alfred de Pinna. – On May 15th, the W. J. Holt collection of Chinese porcelain realized £ 23,395; a little Ming vase enamelled with flowers in green, aubergine and white, was bought by A. de Pinna for £ 609, and a set of three Ming octagonal vases fetched £ 504.

On May 10th, at Sotheby's, a carved Chinese grey-green jade figure of a water buffalo, 29 by 13 cm, formerly in the Peking Summer Palace and sent in by Reginald Nicholson, Stellenbosch, was bought by Charles Nott for the extraordinary price of £ 3,900.

New York. The Gilbert Fuller collection of Japanese prints, of which many pieces were exhibited at the Musée des Arts décoratifs in Paris between 1909 and 1914, was auctioned at the Parke-Bernet Galleries on Nov. 20th, 1945. "The Barred Window" by Kiyonaga rose to \$3,000, paid by a private collector; pieces by Harunobu, Utamaro, a. o. moved between 1,000 and 1,400.

Paris. The auction of the art-collection of Madame Dubernet-Douine carried out by Bellier and Ader at the Galerie Charpentier on April 11th and 12th, 1946, realized a total of Fr. 66,340,000. The Chinese ceramic was also paid very high, two birds enamelled coral red, 32 cm high, and two peacocks, enamelled pink, both Ch'ien-lung, with 1 million each pair, two porcelain vases, famille verte, K'ang-hsi, with Fr. 780,000.

Obituary

On Dec. 4th, at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks., the author Arthur Morrison, a connoisseur and collector of Oriental art and of English painting, whose collection of Chinese and Japanese pictures was acquired by the British Museum in 1913; on Jan. 3rd, 1946, Rudolf Staedelin, Ebenrain Castle near Sissach, owner of one of the most important art-collections in Switzerland, especially of 19th century French art and Eastern Asiatica, aged 65; on Febr. 4th, at Cobham, Kent, the architect Sir Herbert Baker, aged 83, who collaborated with the late Sir Edwin Lutyens in India, creating the new Imperial capital of New Delhi; at Hanson, Mass., the indologist Lucian Scherman, formerly director of the Ethnological Museum, Munich, aged 81.

Miscellanea

Chengtu, Prov. Szechwan. As is now revealed, the tomb of the Emperor Wang Ch'ien (d. 918 A. D.) was discovered in 1942. The largest of the three tomb chambers contained a platform elaborately decorated with dancers and musicians, lotus leaves, flowers and dragons, bearing traces of bright colours, the decorated coffin and figures of warriors, another chamber the stone figure of the emperor, about 1 m high. The remains of a lacquer box containing a large jade seal and other objects, a jade tablet recording the eulogy and the honorific name of the emperor, his carved jade belt and a few silver vessels have also been found. The tomb was robbed probably soon after the emperor's death and the greater part of the treasures were stolen; the corpse has disappeared. Part of the contents remaining were destroyed by falling mud and plaster. Notwithstanding the importance of the discovery can hardly be overestimated. It is the first Imperial tomb of its kind scientifically excavated; the sculptures belong to the best ever found in Szechwan and are the only important secular; the tomb itself is one of the finest examples of T'ang architecture. The material is being examined by the Szechwan Provincial Museum and the Society for Research in Chinese Architecture.

New York. A new Chinese Gallery, which is primarily devoted to early Asiatic art, but will also show contemporary painting, has been opened at 38 East 57. — Louis V. Ledoux is drawing up catalogues of his collection of Japanese prints; they are published by E. Weyhe, New York. The volume devoted to the Primitives has been followed by that concerning Harunobu and Shunshô. Three other volumes are in preparation.

Taxila, North West India. Coins and jewels from about the 3rd century B.C. have been unearthed here. They resemble those found at the same place in 1924.

Extracts from *The New Pallas, Art and Archaeology News Bulletin*, Geneva.

Veranstaltungen der S.G.F.O.K.
vom Oktober 1945 bis September 1946

Manifestations de la S.S.A.E.O.
d'octobre 1945 à septembre 1946

Basel

7. Febr. 1946 **Vortrag „La peinture chinoise contemporaine“** von Dr. Chou Ling, Paris (mit Lichtbildern, veranstaltet in Verbindung mit dem Verein der Freunde des Kunstmuseums).

27. Febr. 1946 **Vortrag „Indische Mystik“** von Prof. Dr. H. von Glasenapp, ehem. Königsberg (veranstaltet vom Literarischen Zirkel „Quodlibet“).

Bern*

18. Okt. 1945 **Vortrag „Ein chinesischer Sozialreformer des 4. Jahrhunderts v. Chr.: Mo Ti“** von Prof. A. Attenhofer, Chur.

4. Febr. 1946 **Vortrag „Les caractères de l'art chinois“** von Dr. Chou Ling, Paris (mit Lichtbildern, veranstaltet in Verbindung mit der Bernischen Kunstgesellschaft).

25. Febr. 1946 **Vortrag „Indien und das Abendland“** von Prof. Dr. H. von Glasenapp, ehem. Königsberg.

23. Juni 1946 **Besichtigung der Sammlung Dr. K. Schmidt, Solothurn.**

25. Juni 1946 **Vortrag „Die Entzifferung chinesischer Ornamente der Frühzeit“** von Prof. Dr. A. Salmony, New York (mit Lichtbildern).

*) *Berichtigung:* der in den *Mitteilungen der S.G.F.O.K.* VII, S. 73, aufgeführte Vortrag „Die Kunst Chinas“ von Baron Ed. v. d. Heydt hat in Bern nicht 1944, sondern am 24. Juni 1943 stattgefunden