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# ART NEWS 1949

*January to June*

## EXCAVATIONS

*Istanbul.* At the late Hittite site in East Cilicia Professors Bossert and Alkin have found a relief representing a sea-going vessel in the Egyptian style. According to Prof. Garstang, who reproduces it in the *Times* of 4th February, the find supports the suggestion that the "Danunans" came from overseas and may have been a remnant of the Danaoi. The name of the king is now read as Asituwadi, which seems to equate the Lydian Sadyattes, a king in the seventh century.

*Jerusalem.* Dr. B. Maisler of the Hebrew University has excavated the remains of the encampment of the 10th Roman Legion occupying forces after the destruction of the temple. He has also discovered the remains of a Samaritan synagogue of the fourth century A. D. containing a large mosaic pavement with a Samaritan and two Greek inscriptions, and is now excavating an Iron Age site at El Mirbeh.

*Milas, South West Asia Minor.* Professor Axel W. Persson, Uppsala, has begun to excavate the site of Labranda, hitherto neglected by archæologists because it was considered of minor importance. The so-called Temples A and B, believed to be Hellenistic or even Roman, have been revealed to date from late Classic time; they seem to have been men's club rooms and built by Pythias, the architect of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and the temple of Athena Polias at Priene. A Ionic marble temple, the remains of which have now been discovered, has much resemblance to the Priene temple. There have also been unearthed ruins of a palace dating from about 700 B. C., and fragments of sculpture. The total of forty inscriptions discovered include five from a royal correspondence and the longest in the Carian language that has been known up till now. It is to be hoped that further important material will come to light.

*Paris.* Louis Malleret lectured for the first time on diggings carried out by him in Cochin-China in 1942-45, the results of which are being shown at the Musée Guimet. In an almost uninvestigated area, about 175 km north from Cape Cambodia, remains of Oc-Eo have been found, which no doubt was a town of the kingdom of Fu-Nan often mentioned in Chinese chronicles but unknown as to its situation. About 12 000 objects have been unearthed including 1320 examples of goldsmiths' work and a great many intaglios. This civilization, at least five centuries older than that of the Khmers, has been influenced particularly by India and China but reveals also contacts with the Greek-Roman world and with the Scyths.

## MUSEUMS

*Cambridge*, England. Purchases of the Fitzwilliam Museum include a Turkish sixteenth-century glazed faience jug with elaborate English silver-gilt mounts, bearing the London hall-mark and dated 1592. Only two other examples with English marks are recorded, one in the British Museum. An extensive collection of Persian, Mughal and other Indian miniatures, with some Persian manuscripts, pieces of Chinese porcelain of the eighteenth century, and rugs have been bequeathed to the Museum through the National Art-Collections Fund from the bequest of P. C. Manuk and Miss C. M. Coles.

Among the gifts of the Centenary year is a garniture of five large K'ang-hsi porcelain vases, enamelled in *famille verte* colours, from Anthony de Rothschild.

*Chicago*. The Art Institute has purchased "Autumn in the Mountains", a hand scroll painted in ink on paper by Wên Chêng-ming (1470-1559).

The Oriental Institute of the University has acquired a collection of golden ornaments from Persia of the fifth century B. C. Together with four pages of the oldest known manuscript of *The Arabian Nights*, also recently acquired, the collection is being displayed on the occasion of the thirtieth birthday of the Institute.

*Cleveland*. Howard C. Hollis, Curator of Far and Near Eastern Art at the Museum, has resigned.

*Hartford*, Conn. The first important example of Chinese stone sculpture in the Wadsworth Atheneum is a seated marble Bodhisattva, 42 cm high, which has been excavated at Ting-hsien, Hopei Province. Around three sides of the base is an inscription listing the names of the donors and the date of the third year of the reign Wu-p'ing, 572 A. D.

The Atheneum has purchased through the H. and W. Keney fund a statuette in lacquered wood of an official of the late Chou dynasty, one of eleven examples taken from one of the Ch'ang-sha tombs.

*Kansas City*. In the Nelson Gallery some forty new acquisitions have been exhibited for the first time. They include: the only known life-sized portrait head of Hammurabi; two scroll paintings, one by Ch'ang Yen-fu, 1343, and the other attributed to Hsia Ch'ang (middle of the fifteenth century); an Indian second-century capital of red sandstone, two early Khmer sculptures, and a basrelief of the twelfth century from Ankor Vat.

*London*. Herbert Colman has bequeathed to the Victoria and Albert Museum Hittite, Egyptian and Greek objects of art. The gem of the small but valuable collection is a Chinese bust showing Greek influence. There exists no catalogue nor record of provenance of the pieces.

*Newark.* The important Tibetan collection of the Museum has been catalogued by Eleanor Olson, and objects from its collection are now on view.

*New York.* The Collections of Near and Far Eastern Art have been reopened at the Metropolitan Museum. The earlier Collection has been enriched by new acquisitions, which include jades of the Bishop Collection, Chinese paintings from the A.W. Bahr collection, Japanese paintings from the Howard Mansfield collection, Rakka ware from the Havemeyer collection, important finds from the Museum's excavations at Nishapur, etc.

*Vienna.* The Museum für angewandte Kunst has been reopened. Among its collections the Oriental carpets, the Chinese ceramic and porcelain, and the library with a large selection of Japanese woodcuts amongst its many precious objects have been rearranged.

#### EXHIBITIONS

*Amsterdam.* The 100th anniversary of Hokusai's death will be commemorated by an exhibition of his paintings, drawings and woodcuts, organized by the Association for Japanese Graphic and Art Objects at Leyden in the Municipal Museum from July 1st to August 15th. The Leyden Ethnographical Museum and the Brussels Musée du Cinquantenaire have lent many pieces, and a great many private collectors have contributed.

*Brussels.* The Musées royaux d'art et d'histoire are preparing an exhibition of Chinese painting including works from the A. Stoclet collection.

*Cambridge, England.* Special exhibitions of the Fitzwilliam Museum include Japanese prints from the collection which the Museum has recently been endeavouring to build up.

*Cambridge, Mass.* The Fogg Museum of Art had a show of Court, Village and Nomad Rugs from Turkey, Persia and Central Asia, running until April 24th.

*Chicago.* A large exhibition of Indonesian Art was on view at the Art Institute from February 16th to March 31st.

The Art Institute was showing Japanese paintings from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century and prints by Katsukawa Shunsho, and Chinese ceremonial bronzes, loaned by Avery Brundage.

On the occasion of the centenary of the death of Hokusai the Art Institute had a special exhibition of his prints.

*Glasgow.* The summer exhibition of works from the Burrell Collection being held in the McLellan Gallery includes recent acquisitions, among them pieces of Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman art, Chinese pottery and porcelain, Chinese jades and bronzes, Persian pottery and Isnik (Rhodian) wares.

*The Hague.* A Hiroshige exhibition running at the Municipal Museum until May 22nd comprised about 150 items. The Ethnographical Museum in Leyden and The Hague collectors contributed.

*Hamburg.* The Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe had a Hokusai Memorial Exhibition.

*London.* The Oriental Ceramic Society had on view Wares of the T'ang Dynasty.

Works by Hokusai were on view at the British Museum on the occasion of the centenary of the artist's death.

On the occasion of the Eckstein bequest of Persian miniatures and manuscripts, the British Museum has a special exhibition of Persian Art showing the historical development mainly of miniature, drawings and pottery. Among the Eckstein pieces are two very valuable illustrations to the *Shanama* of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and a pair of lacquer book-covers of about 1540, decorated with pictures of a feast and hunting scenes, formerly in the Düsseldorf Museum. The pottery includes some ninth-century pieces acquired from the bequest of the late Oscar Raphael.

*New York.* Chinese paintings of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties were on show at Wildenstein's for the benefit of the Asia Institute. The basis of the exhibition were works from the Jean-Pierre Dubosc collection; others came from the museums in Cambridge, Detroit, Boston and Kansas City and from the collection of Franco Vannotti, Lugano.

C. T. Loo showed sixteen examples of Chinese frescoes of Northern Sung (960 to 1127 A. D.), coming from a ruined temple on the Honan-Shansi border and brought to Paris about 25 years ago.

*Paris.* The Musée Cernuschi had on view archaic Chinese bronzes from its own collection as well as several items of private possession, the greater part of them never before publicly shown. — An exhibition of Costumes of the East and Far East at the Musée Galléra opened on April 2nd.

*Rouen.* The Musée des Beaux-Arts was showing Chinese painting, old and contemporary.

*St. Gall.* The Ethnographical Museum had on view "Chinese Arts and Crafts" from the E. Tobler collection.

*Worms.* Chinese Ming art from private ownership, including a four-folded screen with carved scenes from the life of the Imperial family, and a silk tapestry showing the figures of 24 generals, furniture, paintings on silk and paper, carvings, and clothes, were shown at Josef Koch's.

#### SALES

*Bonn.* A copy of the Ardabil, the large Persian carpet in the Victoria and Albert Museum, was sold for 15,000 DM at an auction held at Küppers on May 17th and 18th.

*London.* At Sotheby's, on February 7th, five Persian manuscripts and 61 miniatures from the Eckstein collection fetched £ 6287. The large sixteenth-century manuscript of Firdousi's *Shahnama* with 31 miniatures of the Riza Abbasi school went to Garabed for £ 1050, and the seventeenth-century Georgian manuscript of Shota Rustaveli's *The Man in the Panther's Skin* with 21 illustrations in the Persian style to Oppenheim for £ 850. Professor Bodkin, Birmingham, gave £ 340 for a small portrait of a Persian dervish by Riza Abbasi.

On April 8th, at the sale of the collection of Herbert Ingram, a dark green jade brush pot, Ch'ien-lung, attained £ 580, and a dark green jade group of two sacred monkeys, seventeenth or eigtheenth century, £ 420.

At Christie's, on May 5th, a pair of K'ang-hsi famille verte plates from the Duke of Gloucester's surplus porcelain and furniture went to Spink for 280 gns.

On May 11th, three jade bowls, Ch'ien-lung, were bought by Nott for 890 gns. *New York.* At Kende's, on April 1st, the H. J. Timperley collection of Chinese and Japanese art, including roll paintings from the Ming Dynasty to late Ch'ing and Tao-kuang, weaves, embroideries, costumes and books on China, Japan and the Far East, was sold by auction.

At the sale of Joseph Brummer's art collection, an early Persian bronze head, 15 cm high, was bought by H. Kevorkian, New York, for \$ 6400, a statuette of an antelope, also of bronze and of the same period, by the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, for \$ 4000, and a Persian silver dish for \$ 4700.

*Paris.* A South Indian bronze of Shiva Natarâja, Dravidian art, fourteenth to fifteenth century, 95 cm high, realized ffr. 450,000.

#### MISCELLANEA

*Göttingen.* Alfred Maria Schneider, Professor of Byzantine and Early Christian Archaeology at the University, has received a call to the University of Istanbul.

*Hamburg.* Professor Ernst Boerschmann, an expert on Chinese architecture and culture, aged 76, died on April 30th.

*Paris.* As has been communicated in the Paris Chinese newspaper, the National Government of China has evacuated 8500 precious paintings, books and other works of art to the U.S.A. There are rumours that an exhibition of these art treasures is to be organized in Washington.

The Académie des Beaux-Arts has elected a correspondent member Gustav Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, who is an archæologist and a connoisseur of Chinese art.

Extracts from *Pallas, International Art and Archæology News Bulletin*, Geneva.