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ART NEWS 1950

July to December

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. About 100 pieces of Chinese porcelain have been presented to Lehigh University by Mrs. Franklin Baker, New York. The majority of the porcelain in the collection are of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century design.

Cambridge, England. Lord Cunliffe has lent to the Fitzwilliam Museum sixteen pieces of Ming porcelain.

Chicago. The Art Institute has acquired a wood sculpture of fabulous animals, with polychrome decoration, from an excavation in Ch'angsha in Hunan Province, about third century B. C.

Cleveland. The Museum of Art has acquired a Japanese Gigaku mask, dating from the Tempyo period, A. D. 710-794, and of a rare serene type.

Dublin. A new building erected by Alfred Chester Beatty at Ballsbridge is to house his collection of Oriental manuscripts.

Durham. The University has bought the Alnwick collection of Egyptian and Mesopotamian antiquities from the Duke of Northumberland. It includes a variety of Mesopotamian and Egyptian pieces dating back to 2000 B. C. Dr. N. F. M. Macadam, Reader in Egyptology, will act as curator.

Geneva. In the Musée d'Ethnographie another room of Asiatic Art has been inaugurated.

Jerusalem. A Union of Museums in Israel has been formed by the new department of Fine Arts in the Ministry of Education, headed by the painter Moshe Mokady. The Union comprises the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, the Museum in Ein Harod, the Municipal Museum and the Haarez Museum in Tel Aviv.

Kansas City. The William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art has acquired a bull capital in bituminous limestone, dating from the 5th century B. C. and coming from the Hall of One Hundred Columns in the palace of Persepolis, also, a Chinese scroll painting, ca. 8¹/₂ m long, representing the Sixteen Lohans Crossing the Sea, dating from the tenth or eleventh century.

Paris. An Armenian Museum containing objects of worship, tapestries, goldsmiths' art, manuscripts, etc., has been opened at 15, rue Jean-Goujon.

Philadelphia. The Museum of Art has acquired a unique gold bejeweled basin from the tomb of the Ming Emperor Hsüan-tê.

Saint Louis. The City Art Museum has purchased, from Howard Hollis, former curator of Oriental Art at the Cleveland Museum, a Chinese horse in baked clay, richly polychromed, dating from the T'ang period and one of the largest and possibly the finest example of this kind in the U. S. A., and a bronze t'ao-t'ieh mask of the Shang dynasty, the largest known today.

EXHIBITIONS

Celle. The most important pieces from about 300 Chinese and Japanese paintings stored here were made accessible in an exhibition "A Thousand Years of East Asiatic Painting".

Hamburg. The Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe was showing "Oriental Carpets of Four Centuries". The exhibition, the largest to be held in Germany after 1910, contained the most important Oriental carpets in German possession since the destruction of eighteen of the most valuable pieces of the Berlin State Museums. They came from the National Museum, the Residence, the Ethnographical Museum and the Municipal Gallery in Munich, the museums in Frankfort, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Essen and Hamburg, the Bernheimer collection, Munich, and a number of private collections. A scientific catalogue contains an introduction and descriptions of the about 160 exhibits by Prof. Kurt Erdmann, based on his not yet issued books "Die Geschichte des Orientteppichs" and "Die Formenwelt des Orientteppichs".

London. The Oriental Ceramic Society had on view Ming polychrome porcelain; the Berkeley Galleries, ancient Korean paintings, ceramics and bronzes, and the China Institute, pictures by well-known contemporary Chinese painters.

Newark. The Museum was showing an exhibition, "Life and Culture in Tibet".

New York. On the occasion of the 2nd International Silk Congress, the Metropolitan Museum organized an exhibition "The World of Silk", marking the first full-scale showing of the Museum's textile collections. Over 400 examples traced the development of silk-weaving as an art from its origins in the Far East to the early twentieth century. — Another exhibition, "Sculpture in Bronze", assembled about 350 examples from ancient Sumeria to the nineteenth century.

The Scalamandré Museum had an exhibition "The Influence of the Manchu Dynasty on the Chinoiserie Textiles of Europe".

The Cooper Union Museum organized an exhibition "Leather in the Decorative Arts". The catalogue comprises 259 items, among them work of primitive peoples, the Near and the Far East. There were also on view prints and drawings illustrating this domain.

A collection of Chinese pottery and paintings, owned by Anthony Jung, formerly teacher at Hongkong, was on show at the Mary Knoll House, 12 East 39th Street. It

includes a hundred pieces of early pottery, 35 paintings, carved jade and rock crystal, and old vases from 960 to 1278.

Paris. An exhibition of Japanese eighteenth-century prints and contemporary ceramics was to be seen at Musée Cernuschi.

Vienna. The Indian Legation, in cooperation with the Oesterreichische Kunstvereinigung, organized in the Konzerthaus an exhibition of Indian Art, comprising reproductions of the Ajanta frescoes, photos of the most important architectural monuments, 35 eighteenth- and nineteenth-century miniatures, and some contemporary Indian paintings.

Zurich. Coloured woodcuts by Hiroshige were on view at Chichio Haller's.

EXCAVATIONS

Jericho. Ruins of great buildings near the modern Jericho have been identified as to be on the site of the Jericho of Herod.

Jerusalem. The remains of a church built in the fourth century have been discovered in what is now the Arab town of Jaffa, south east of Nazareth.

Nimrud, Iraq. Excavations of the site of the ancient Kalah, one of the three capitals of Assyria, carried out by Sir Henry Layard a century ago, were resumed since 1949 by M. E. L. Mallowan of London University, Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, with a large staff. Modern methods make it possible to save many relics which would have been lost formerly. A large building of administrative offices has been dug out, and about 150 clay tablets of the time of Tiglatpileser III (808-727), suitable to identify the exact dates of many finds and throwing new light on the history of Assyria, have been found. There has also been discovered ivory work of high artistical and art-historical value.

SALES

London. At Christie's, on October 12, a set of green jade figures of the Eight Immortals was bought by Moss for 220 gns. — At the same place, on December 20, a set of Ming pottery figures of the Eight Immortals was sold for 460 gns., against 240 gns. in 1924.

New York. At Parke-Bernet's, on November 21 and 22, a sale of Chinese ceramics and paintings, Japanese ivories and lacquer and Indian and Persian miniatures was held. An imperial jade vessel with dragon and other motifs went to a New York collector for \$ 2400.

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