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ART NEWS 1951/1952

July 1951 to June 1952

MUSEUMS

Chicago. The Art Institute has exhibited for the first time six recently acquired Chinese scroll paintings, "Emperor and Musicians", attributed to Chou Wên-chü (Sung Dynasty?); a Sung landscape by an unknown artist; "Return from Stone Lake" by Shên Chou (1427-1509); "Winter Landscape" by Hsieh Shih-Ch'ên, Ming Dynasty, about 1500; a flower scroll by Ch'ên Chia-yen (about 1625), and "One Hundred Birds" by Chang Fêng-i, dated 1626.

Cincinnati. A collection of Far Eastern Art was assembled by the Art Museum during the last years and has been installed in five galleries of the Museum. A handscroll by Ma Yüan, one of the largest Chinese paintings in the world, has been presented to the Museum by an anonymous donor.

Cleveland. The Museum of Art has acquired a bronze Kwannon of the Japanese Hakuho Period, a gilt-bronze bowl (teppatsu), and a wooden mask, both of the Fujiwara Period, c.A.D. 900 and twelfth century, respectively.

Hamburg. A collection of the rare woodcut books of the Ming and early Ch'ing periods has been acquired by the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe.

Hartford, Conn. The Wadsworth Atheneum has purchased a T'ang head of Buddha, limestone, and somewhat larger than lifesize, from the T'ien-Lung-Shan caves, Shansi Province.

Kamakura, Japan. A new museum was opened here, which, after a Renoir exhibition, exhibited Chinese black pottery of the fifth to fourth centuries B.C.

London. The British Museum has acquired a scroll dated 1755, decorated by Cheng Hsieh, and the celebrated book "The Culture of Rice and Silk", the 1696 edition, the first being illustrated by Chiao Ping-cheng, who adopted European perspective in his drawings.

New York. The Harkness collection, bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum, includes Chinese ceramics and jades. A complete list of the collection is contained in the Museum's Bulletin of October, 1951.

Philadelphia. The Museum of Art has acquired a basin and ewer of beaten gold believed to be a part of the treasure from the tomb of Ming Emperor Hsüan-Te, which was looted in 1938. They first appeared on the market in England in 1940.

Saint Gall. The Volkart Foundation, Winterthur, has presented the Ethnographical Museum with a Shiva Natarâja.

Saint Louis. Eleven examples from the ancient Chinese bronzes presented to the Museum by J. Lionberger Davis (*s. As. St.*, 3/4, 1951, p. 164) are reproduced for the first time in the Museum's Bulletin (1951, XXXVI, 4).

Springfield, Mass. The collection of early Chinese material, an anonymous loan to the Museum of Fine Arts, has been increased by a number of rare bronzes and an unusual sheet of embossed Hsin Cheng gold leaf from the Late Chou Dynasty. The bronzes are also of the Late Chou Dynasty and of the Six Dynasties of the Post-Han Period.

Washington. The Freer Gallery of Art has acquired a Chinese bronze vessel, dating from the early Chou Dynasty, which was already known to and catalogued by Chinese collectors in 1842, but it has now been proved by A. G. Wenley, Director of the Gallery, to belong to a group of vessels excavated later at Ch'ang-an. The bronze has an inscription of eight characters in archaic script and is 23 cm high, 24 cm long and 10 cm wide.

Zurich. The Rietberg Museum has been opened in the former Wesendonk Villa. The bulk of its contents is formed by works of East Asiatic art from the collection of Dr. von der Heydt, which hitherto had been lent to different European and American museums. There are also American and African objects including masks from the Heydt collection, ceramics from the J. F. H. Menten and O. Rücker-Embsen collections and other loans from different sources, as well as part of the collection of the Kunstgewerbemuseum, the Rietberg Museum being considered a branch of the latter.

EXHIBITIONS

Amsterdam. The Municipal Museum has been showing drawings by Rembrandt, Hokusai and van Gogh, lent by the Fodor Collection, Amsterdam, Teyler's Museum Haarlem, F. Tikotin, Wassenaar, and others.

Berlin. In the castle of Charlottenburg Chinese and Japanese paintings from the East Asiatic Collections of the Berlin Museums, now at Celle, were on view. The State Museums in the Eastern Sector had an exhibition of Chinese Art, old and new.

Bremen. The Kunsthalle had on view East Asiatic Art.

Brussels. An exhibition, "Utamaro and his Time", was held in the Palais des Beaux-Arts.

Cambridge, Mass. The Fogg Art Museum was showing Chinese Bird and Flower Paintings from the Sung to the Ch'ing Periods. There were a number of master-

pieces lent from leading Oriental Collections in the USA, among them works by the Emperor Hui-Tsung and Ch'ien Hsüan.

Chicago. 35 prints in colour and black-and-white, never before shown in the USA, were on view in the Oriental galleries of the Art Institute. They were lent by twenty contemporary artists in Japan and the American collector, Oliver Statler. – The Institute was showing Contemporary Folk Art of Japan and woodcuts by Koryusai (about 1766–1788), selected from the Clarence Buckingham collection, and had on view paintings by nineteenth-century Chinese artists from the Florence Ayscough and Harley Farnsworth MacNair Collection, and winter landscape prints by Japanese artists of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Columbus, Ohio. An exhibition, “Arts of Old Persia”, was being held here.

Faenza. The Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche was showing Chinese ceramics of the Chou, Shang and Han Periods and Sung and Ch'ing porcelains from the collection at the Menotti Villa, Bologna.

Kansas City. As the masterpieces of July and September, 1951, the W.R. Nelson Gallery of Art was showing an archaic Chinese bronze vessel of the type “tsun” and decorated with t'ao-t'ieh, and a hand-scroll by Ting Yün-p'eng representing five different forms of Kuan-yin.

London. An exhibition of Persian miniature paintings from 1300 to 1900, lent by the King and the universities of Oxford, Edinburgh, Cambridge and St. Andrews, and by other collections, including several never before publicly shown, was to be seen at the Victoria and Albert Museum for some months.

Eighteenth-century Japanese theatrical woodcuts were chronologically displayed at the Prints and Drawings Gallery of the British Museum, which was showing, in April 1952, as the third in its series of period exhibitions of Chinese Art, Chinese paintings, woodcuts and ceramics of the Ch'ing or Manchu dynasties. The exhibition comprised in two parts work of the court artists and of the scholar artists.

A loan exhibition of Early Chinese Bronzes was being held by the Oriental Ceramic Society, in November 1951, and, in May 1952, an exhibition of Sung Dynasty wares, especially Chün and Brown Honan Glazes. Several pieces were lent by the King of Sweden. A few examples of the T'ang Dynasty were included for comparison.

Los Angeles. The County Museum had an exhibition of Chinese ceramics, comprising a total of 381 items and probably the largest and most important exhibition of its type ever shown in the USA. It illustrated the complete development of Chinese ceramics from the prehistoric period to the end of Ch'ien-lung. Lenders included virtually every important private collector and dealer of Chinese ceramics and many museums in the USA. Of particular significance was the loan of 15 of the greatest

Chinese ceramics from Japanese museums and collections, which never before had left Japan nor ever had been exhibited together in Japan. An illustrated catalogue, in which about 350 pieces are reproduced, is sold out.

Minneapolis. The Institute of Arts had on view Buddhist Sculpture: Khmer and Siamese.

New York. The Brooklyn Museum was showing Japanese "foreign" prints of 1855-1880, and the Carlebach Gallery, Siamese Sculpture from the ninth to the fifteenth century. - An exhibition of lacquer, arranged at the Cooper Union Museum, included a number of pieces from China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Persia.

Paris. The Musée Cernuschi had on view archaic Chinese bronzes and Tibetan painting.

Rome. The Galleria dell'Obelisco was showing together works by Utamaro and Modigliani.

San Francisco. An exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Painting, held at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, included eighteen woodcuts and fifty paintings.

Washington. Indonesian art had its first officially sponsored showing in the USA at the Arts Club. The exhibition, which included 25 paintings, wooden figures by Indonesian sculptors, batik and ikat fabrics, wajang puppets, and stylized dance masks carved in wood, was then touring other USA cities.

EXCAVATIONS

Amasia, Turkey. A prehistoric treasure has been discovered nearby, consisting of two gold vessels significant of the metal civilization of Anatolia in the second half of the third millenium B.C., eighteen lumps of silver, and eight bronze axes of four types, one of them especially important.

Chester, Pennsylvania. Dr. James B. Pritchard, who is associated with the American School of Oriental Research, has excavated, a few miles from the city of Amman, the largest ancient palace yet uncovered in Palestine. It may possibly be that of King Herod the Great.

Chicago. Archaeologists from the universities of Chicago and Pennsylvania have found at Nippur, about 100 miles south of Baghdad, two Sumerian temples, one of Inanna, the goddess of love and war, and the other is one of the greatest known temples of the early dynasty period, perhaps a temple complex for the gods under the supreme god, Enlil. Three statues have been discovered, dating from about 2300 B. C., and over 200 tablets, which are expected to throw new light on Sumerian religion and literature.

Jericho. The British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem, has resumed their excavations at Jericho and has found no traces of walls belonging to the Late Bronze Age, the period within which the attack by Joshua must fall, but, beneath the earliest Bronze Age city wall, a massive stone wall of the pre-pottery Neolithic stage, believed to be the oldest stone wall hitherto known. The early inhabitants of Jericho had evolved an elaborate architecture. Finely worked flints, some small stone bowls, etc., have also been found.

Paris. During his seventh expedition, André Parrot discovered at Mari, Syria, an archaic ziggurat, dating from the beginning of the third millenium, and in a good state of preservation. Sculpture, mosaics of nacre shells and a big ritual jug bearing a lion relief have also been unearthed.

Tel Aviv. Big fortifications of the period of the Hyksos, as well as utensils of that time and that of the conquest of Palestine by the Israelites, have been unearthed by Professor Sukenik at Napoleon Hill.

SALES

London. At Sotheby's, on October 16, 1951, £ 500 was given for a pair of seated figures of Buddha, each 12 1/2 in. high, in translucent jade with emerald marking, and £ 380 for a Chinese porcelain dinner service of 94 parts (Ch'ien-lung), decorated in *famille rose* enamels and underglaze blue. At the same place, on November 20, a ruby-back egg-shell deep plate of the Yung-chêng period, enamelled in *famille rose* colours, brought £ 280, and a K'ang-hsi biscuit figure of an archer went to Partridge for £ 340.

At Christie's, on November 29, 1951, a late Ch'ien-lung porcelain dinner service of about 275 pieces was sold for 1400 gns., and another dinner service of the same period of 238 pieces, for 1200 gns.

On April 29, 1952, at Sotheby's, part of a Chinese *famille rose* porcelain dinner service went to Vandekar for £ 460, and on May 16, a Ming green jade figure of a water buffalo in recumbent attitude, to Frank Partridge for £ 1350.

New York. At Kende's, on February 16, 1952, twelve Chinese scroll paintings on silk, from a set of 36 brought from the Emperor Ch'ien-lung's summer palace at Jehol, representing the great Feast Offering Ceremony, by Ting Nan-yü, were auctioned. They were the property of a New York private collector.

Paris. Among the Chinese art objects of Baronne S., sold by auction at the Galerie Charpentier on June 26 and 27, 1951, the jades and polychrome porcelains brought high prices: two jade ibises, 60 cm high, fr. 2 600 000; the jade statuette of a seated Kuan-yin, 55 cm high, fr. 1 920 000; two porcelain ducks, eighteenth cen-

ture, fr. 1 300 000, and two porcelain stilts of the same epoch, fr. 1 200 000. The unique collection of eighteen Chinese statuettes in rose coral was sold as a whole and brought fr. 18 200 000.

The most important sale of its kind since the Homberg sale in 1934, was that of jades and bronzes from the Marquis de Ganay collection, held at the Hôtel Drouot on May 7, 1952. 72 lots realized over 14 million fr. The top price was fr. 3 800 000 for two pieces from a chariot-harness, bronze inlaid with gold and silver, Han Period. A small statuette in gilt bronze, beginning of the Han Period, representing a recumbent buffalo, and a pair of corner-supports of a table, bronze and inlaid with gold and silver, same period, were purchased on behalf of the Musée Guimet for fr. 2 050 000 and fr. 1 150 000, respectively. The Bibliothèque Nationale gave fr. 250 000 for a series of engravings representing the buildings in European style in the Imperial Palace, which came from another source.

OBITUARY

On November 3, 1951, in Pittsburgh, Rev. Dr. James Kelso, biblical archaeologist, aged 78; on December 9, 1951, in Geneva, Alfred Baur, founder of a collection of Japanese and Chinese art, which is to be made accessible to the public in a new museum, aged 86; at Neuchâtel, Professor Sven Larsen, an authority on Byzantine and Turkish civilization and art, aged 72.

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