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ART NEWS 1952/1953

July 1952 to March 1953

MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

Cambridge, England. A Ming Dynasty Celadon dish of the fourteenth century, an unusually large example and of an exceptionally dark shade of the grey-green Celadon colour has been given to the Fitzwilliam Museum by Mr. J. E. Bullard.

Chicago. Recent acquisitions of the Art Institute include an Indian bronze statuette of a young boy standing on a double lotus, identified as Tiru Jnâna Sambandha Swâmi, a Shaiva saint (thirteenth or fourteenth century), and a Japanese print of Two Wrestlers by Katsukawa Shunshô (about 1771). – A wooden horse, probably constructed in Southern China during the early period of the Han Dynasty, discovered at Changsha, has been lent to the Institute by Mr. Steven Jungkung. The horse, 4 ft. high, is made of long sections of wood held together by finely made iron nails. The wood was covered by a pastelike substance, on which paper was stuck. A saddle and bridle were painted in black, white and red on the paper.

Cleveland. Among acquisitions made recently by the Museum of Art and published in the Museum's Bulletins of December 1952, January and March 1953 are: A Javanese high relief piece from the Prambanam Group, ninth century; two paintings of the Japanese Kamakura Period; a white-robed Kwannon from Kôzan-ji, one of a group of four paintings which are the earliest representations of Zen Buddhist subjects in monochrome style, and a portrait of the poet Taira-no-Kanemori, from the Agedatami set; finally, a Râjput Basohli miniature with a rare variation of a traditional subject, Gajahâmûrti, c. 1700 A. D.

Detroit. According to the annual report of the Founders Society of the Institute of Arts for 1952, the collections of the Oriental Galleries in the Museum have received a Chinese gilt bronze of the Ming Dynasty, representing the war god Kuan-ti (?), purchased from the Museum's exhibition, and, as gifts, sixteen Pu-tai figures in various materials, of the Late Ming and Ch'ing Dynasties; an exceptional Ming jade; a group of Ming procelains, a group of early bronzes; a bronze mirror of the T'ang Period, and three Netsuke, bone and wood, nineteenth century.

Faenza. During 1952, the Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche has received a number of gifts from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Persia and Japan.

Geneva. The collections of the Ariana Museum have been enriched by eleven pieces of Gurgan ceramics.

Glasgow. A bronze figure of a horned Hittite Deity of the end of the second millennium B. C., excavated at Ras Shamra, Syria, and an Assyrian relief fragment with the head of a bearded king, eighth century B. C., have been added to the Burrell Collection.

Hartford, Conn. The Atheneum has acquired a female head in high relief, c. 150 A. D., which was, in all probability, a part of the decorative scheme of one of the many elaborate tombs just outside Palmyra.

Kansas City. A comprehensive group of Chinese carvings in jade and hard stones of the seventeenth to the nineteenth century has been presented to the W. R. Nelson Gallery of art by Mrs. Massey Holmes. The Gallery has a distinguished collection of early jades from the tenth to the third centuries B. C. and the addition of these jades makes it possible now to show the continuation of the carver's art into the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. – In the Japanese Gallery, the sculptures, paintings and theatrical robes have been rearranged, and some objects not exhibited before have been placed on display. They include six paintings of the fourteenth century, scenes from the life of prince Shotoku Taishi; the colossal head of a Buddha in carved and gilded wood of about 1100 A. D., and a new selection of theatrical robes.

London. At the Victoria and Albert Museum the section of Far Eastern art has been rearranged and displayed in a large room of the ground floor. – The Museum has purchased, with the aid of the National Art-Collections Fund, fifteen Persian, Mesopotamian, Turkish and Egyptian vessels and dishes from the Kelekian collection; and has been presented by Colonel T. G. Gayer-Anderson and his brother, the late Major R. G. Gayer-Anderson Pacha, with some four hundred Indian paintings. A selection of them will be on view in the Indian section on the first floor until August 31. Important works have also been incorporated in the main display of Indian paintings on the ground floor. The collection includes Mughal and Rājput pictures and is widely representative of Indian art between 1650 and the end of the nineteenth century. Two sheets of sketches are of the school of Kotah, about 1800, hitherto unknown to scholars; this identification is entirely due to Colonel Gayer-Anderson.

Indian paintings bequeathed to the British Museum by the late P. C. Manuk and the late Miss G. M. Coles, together with a selection of Indian arms and armour which came to the Museum from other sources are there on view. The bulk of the painting collection are from the hill States of the Himalaya, to which the Rājput and Mogul painters went because of political and economical disturbances about 1717 and 1731. The collection of arms comprises about 150 of the finest specimens, chiefly from two nineteenth-century collections (John Henderson and Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick). – The Museum has been given a large Buddhist bronze figure, a seated Bodhisattva, 55 in. tall, probably of the late eleventh or early twelfth century A. D. It is the only specimen of its kind in any European Collection. Only one other large-scale bronze

statue of the Sung Period is known, the tenth-century Buddha, 44 ½ ft. high, at Chêng-ting-fu in Chihli province.

Two hundred pieces of rare Chinese monochrome porcelain dating from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries have been given by Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone to the University of London and placed in the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art at Gordon Square, Bloomington.

New York. The Brooklyn Museum has been given four early Chinese objects including a rare marble sculpture of the Shang Dynasty, a Khmer sculpture of unusually early date, a Ming Dynasty landscape scroll, and an early blue and white porcelain bowl. The Collection of Chinese ceramics has also been strengthened by the important bequest of the late Augustus S. Hutchins, and various sixteenth- and seventeenth-century types are well illustrated by this material. A painting of orchids by the fourteenth-century monk Hsüeh-ch'uang has been purchased.

Providence, Rhode Island. A gallery of Oriental sculpture has been newly installed in the Museum of Art. There are a small Indian bronze Shiva Natarâja, several Chinese stone votive stelae, a Cambodian stone head, examples of Siamese and Indo-Javanese work, also a great Japanese wooden Buddha.

Saint Louis. As the first gift of the Friends of the City Art Museum, a Sumerian head of a bearded bull, cast in copper about 2800 B. C., has been acquired by the Museum. Other recent additions to the Museum's Oriental Collection include a ceramic pillow, Tz'u-chou ware, Sung Dynasty; a belt hook, bronze gilt, Han Dynasty, and a shallow bowl, porcelain, Ch'ing Dynasty, K'ang-hsi. — The Museum had on view a collection of Mediterranean and Near Eastern embroideries, dating from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, presented by Mrs. F. H. Cook of Surrey, England.

Solothurn. A collection of Chinese jade figures, offered by Dr. Reinhard Hoeppli, has been accepted by the Swiss Bundesrat and given to the Museum of this place for keeping and exhibiting.

Tel Aviv. Wilfred Israel, proprietor of the former firm of N. Israel in Berlin, who died by an air accident during the war, has bequeathed his large collection of Chinese, Tibetan and Indian works of art, especially precious Khmer objects, to a settlement in Palestine. A building has been erected there to house this collection and a wing for the library and for studies is planned.

Tokyo. A Museum of Modern Art has been opened.

Washington. The Library of Congress has been presented by Mr. Kichizaemon Sumitomo of Kyoto with eight large folio volumes containing photographic reproductions of the objects in the famous Sumitomo collection of Chinese bronzes. In ad-

dition, there is a two-volume catalogue in English, and a two-volume catalogue in Japanese.

Worcester, Mass. A South Indian bronze, dating probably from the early Chola period, eleventh or twelfth century, a Somaskanda group representing Skanda between Shiva and Pârvatî, has been added to the permanent collection of the Art Museum.

EXHIBITIONS

Baltimore. An exhibition, "4000 Years of Modern Art", organized by the Walters Art Gallery and the Baltimore Museum of Art, included Ancient and Medieval Near Eastern, especially Syrian and Persian art.

Basle. From January 10 to February 8, 1953, the Gewerbemuseum had an exhibition of ancient and modern Chinese prints from different sources. The bulk of the exhibition consisted of modern picture letter-paper from the Jan Tschichold collection and of about 80 prints and books from the J.-P. Dubosc collection. A descriptive catalogue of 120 leaves of picture letter-paper from the Tschichold collection has been issued.

Berne. The Kunsthalle was showing "Art of the Pacific" comprising examples of primitive art from Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Indonesia.

Brussels. An exhibition of old and modern Indonesian art, organized by the Indonesian Government at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, was showing over 300 objects including wooden statuettes, puppets, masks, textiles, pottery, the gate of a Balinese temple, a complete Gamelan orchestra, and works by the famous Indonesian painter, Affandi.

Chicago. A selection of woodcuts by Torii Kiyonaga (1752-1815) was on view at the Art Institute.

Darmstadt. On the occasion of the first performance of the Chinese play "The Peach Blossom Fan" an exhibition of Chinese art works lent from the East Asiatic Museum, Cologne, the Museum of Industrial Art, Frankfurt, and the collection of Prince Ludwig of Hessen, was being held at the Technische Hochschule.

Detroit. The art of the Ming era was revealed more comprehensively than it ever has been before in the U.S.A., in an exhibition of the Institute of Arts, which comprised nearly 400 objects from the major museums of America and Canada and notable private collections.

Düsseldorf. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Utamaro's birth, Hans Trojanski's Kunstkabinett was showing works by this master and some by his contemporaries.

Geneva. The first systematic exhibition of Nepalese civilization and art ever held in European and American countries is to be seen at the Ethnographical Museum. The

collection consists of about 400 objects assembled by the director of the Museum, Madame M. Lobsiger-Dellenbach, during the Swiss Himalaya expedition.

Hamburg. The Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe was showing, from a German private collection, a number of rare small clay figures of the fifth to the third centuries B. C. as well as other early Chinese ceramics of the Shang, Chou, Han and Wei periods.

Hanover. The Kestner Society had on view over 200 Chinese and Japanese woodcuts borrowed from the Emil Preetorius collection, Munich.

Heidelberg. A selection from the Ray Winfield Smith collection of ancient glass, which was on view at the Kurpfälzische Museum, included Syrian and Islamic pieces. A catalogue of the exhibition has been issued.

Kansas City. A special exhibition of Chinese furniture and decorative arts has been arranged at the W. R. Nelson Rockhill Gallery of Arts. A large embroidery made in the first quarter of the eighteenth century and depicting a famous meeting of 41 poets in the Orchid Pavilion Garden has been lent for exhibition by Mrs. Nellie Hussey of Plattsburg, Missouri.

Lausanne. The Galerie La Vieille Fontaine had on show Chinese, Siamese and Tibetan art, especially bronzes and porcelain.

Liverpool. Tibetan art from the remainder of Sir Charles Bell's collection, supplemented by other loans, was being shown here. The centre-piece of the collection is a shrine of gilded bronze, covered with filigree and inlaid with turquoise, jade, lapis lazuli, coral, mother of pearl, ivory, and glass pastes of all colours.

London. The Berkeley Galleries had an exhibition "The Art of Gandhara", and the Oriental Ceramics Society an exhibition of Ju and Kuan wares of the Sung Dynasty, lent from private collections in England, Sweden and USA. Included were specimens of related wares, derived from Ju and Kuan, also sections of the derived Korean and Chekiang Celadon porcelain. The catalogue's introduction is by Sir Percival David. — A small exhibition of T'ang and Sung ceramics from Sir Alan Barlow's collection was organized by the Arts Council.

New York. During 1951/52 the Department of Oriental Art of the Brooklyn Museum arranged two exhibitions, "All One Sees That's Japanese", comprising prints and paintings by masters of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and "The Craftsmen of Japan", a traveling show of contemporary work in many fields.

An exhibition of 22 small but outstanding examples of T'ang art sponsored by the Chinese Art Society, was presented at the China Institute. The exhibits were selected by George Lee of the Brooklyn Museum.

Paris. Photographic documents of Buddhist art in China and Japan between the fifth and the eighth centuries (Yün-kang and Nara) were being shown at the Cernuschi

Museum. — Ancient Armenian carpets borrowed from the Louvre and the Armenian Museum were on view at the Galliéra Museum.

Washington. An official show of Indian Arts and Crafts of the last fifty years, sponsored by the Government of India and organized by the Academy of Fine Art, Calcutta, and the All-India Association of Fine Art, Bombay, was being held at the Smithsonian Institution.

An exhibition of 91 celebrated masterpieces of Japanese Painting and Sculpture sent to the USA by the Government of Japan opened at the National Gallery on January 25. The exhibits, dating from the sixth to the nineteenth centuries, came from 59 collections. The exhibition is especially rich in early Buddhist paintings as well as in gilt-bronze, wood, and lacquer sculpture. There is also a magnificent group of screens and a collection of illustrated books. From March 27 to May 10 the exhibition was to be seen at the Metropolitan Museum and will then go to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Art Institute of Chicago, and, finally, to the Seattle Museum.

York. The City Art Gallery had an Arts Council Exhibition of photographs of Indian Sculpture, and opened an exhibition, "The Arts of Japan" comprising works of art lent by the Victoria and Albert Museum, on March 21.

Zurich. At Bodmer's were on show landscapes and sculpture by Hsiung Ping-ming, who lives in Paris, and at Orell Füssli's, paintings by Tseng Yu-ho (Honolulu). — Ancient glass and Persian faience were to be seen at the Galerie für Antike Kunst (Heidi Vollmoeller).

DISCOVERIES AND EXCAVATIONS

Kansas City. Underneath a Buddhist wall-painting representing two Bodhisattvas preparing an offering of incense, and dating from approximately the twelfth century, which has been presented to the W. R. Nelson Gallery of Art by C. T. Loo, a painting of a Kuan-yin has been discovered, about two centuries earlier than the other. This picture is said to be the only example of so early a date as yet found in China proper. The two layers have been successfully separated.

London. A temporary exhibition showing a few of the smaller objects found during work in 1952 by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq at Nimrud was arranged in the British Museum. There are some particularly fine ivories with gold incrustation.

New Delhi. Excavations carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at Hastinâpur (22 mls. N.E. of Meerut) and Kausâmbî (c. 40 mls. W. of Allahabad) have contributed to fill up the gap of our knowledge of Indian history reaching from the third and second millenniums to the fourth or third century B. C. Four main periods with different types of houses and pottery have been identified.

Paris. On a promontory of the Hindu Kûsh, named Surkh-Kotal, in the ancient Bactria, Daniel Schlumberger has excavated the remains of a destroyed town with a temple and an Acropolis. As elements of Persian as well as of Grecian civilization have been identified, the discovery seems to be of great importance for the history of Hellenism in Asia.

Philadelphia. Excavations carried out at Yassi hoyûk, the ancient Gordion, capital of the Phrygians, about 60 mls. S.W. of Ankara, by the University of Pennsylvania Museum's expedition, show that the place was occupied permanently since the third millennium.

Sarawak. A large depot of Chinese ceramics of the T'ang and Sung Dynasties, has been discovered in the neighbourhood. It seems that Sarawak was an important emporium of South East Asia in the Middle Ages.

Teheran. The French Archaeological Mission has undertaken the exploration of Choga-Zambil, S.E. of Susa. The town was built by the Elamite king Untash-Gal in the middle of the thirteenth century B. C. A Ziggurat has been laid bare and the remains of several temples as well as sculpture and inscriptions have been found. – Near the Lake of Urmia a British expedition has discovered sculpture of animals dating from about 1000 B. C. Unknown characters have also been found.

Tel Aviv. At Beth-yerat (Sea of Tiberias) fifteen historical layers have been identified reaching from the fourth millennium B. C. up to the Persian epoch. The remains of two town-walls have been excavated, one in clay brick of about 2900 to 2600, the other of stone of about 2100–1900. There have been found paved roads, remains of towers, tombs of the Stone Age, and arms of the sixth to the fourth centuries B. C. – Professor Nelson Glück is to elaborate a ten year plan for excavations in Israel.

SALES

Hamburg. On June 27, 1952, at Dr. Ernst Hauswedell's, some collections of East Asiatic art, mostly formed in the Far East, were sold by auction. Among the bronzes, four sacrificial vessels of the Chou period fetched DM 3000, 2500, 2300 and 2300 resp., a flat basin of the early Chou period, DM 2100, and a vessel of the Shang-Yin time (chih) DM 1550. A carriage in gilt bronze of the fourth or fifth century A. D. went for DM 1400, a Bodhisattva of the T'ang period for DM 1150. A gilded wood sculpture of an Amida, sixteenth or seventeenth century, was sold for DM 1500, and a painting signed Shên Chou and dated 1489, for a similar sum. Among the lacquers, the Inro attributed by J. Kurth to the young Utamaro himself, fetched but DM 300. The catalogue was drawn up by Peter Wilhelm Meister, keeper at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg.

London. At Sotheby's, on July 18, 1952, a Ming jade figure of a water buffalo went to Messrs. Moss for £ 800. On February 17, a series of seven Yung-chêng ruby-back egg-shell porcelain plates, formerly in the R. Hearst collection, brought £ 847 in five separate lots. On March 3, a collection of Chinese monochrome porcelain belonging to Mr. E. G. Kostolany, was sold for £ 7658 in total. The top price was £ 180 for a pair of eighteenth-century egg-shell vases. – On March 24, Ming porcelain from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Clark was auctioned. A vine jar and cover painted in "five colour" enamels and dark underglaze blue, Chia-ching period, fetched £ 1900, a large pear-shaped bottle, Wan-li period, £ 1400; a hexagonal jar with baluster body, Lung-ch'ing period, £ 620; and a five-lobed bowl, painted in underglaze blue and "five colour" enamels, Wan-li period, £ 610. Other pieces went for £ 570, 540 and 520, respectively.

New York. At Kende's, on November 1, 1952, Chinese dynastic bronzes were sold by auction; on December 6, Chinese jade and other semi-precious mineral carvings, Chinese and Japanese ivory carvings, Chinese and Japanese ceramics, bronze and wood sculptures, metal ware, and other miscellaneous art from China and Japan. – On January 10, 1953, Japanese ivory and wood netsuke and other miscellaneous Oriental art were sold.

Paris. At the Hôtel Drouot, on December 4, 1952, archaic Chinese objects from the collections of J. M. M. and General Bagulesco, including vessels of the Yin Dynasty, were auctioned. The top price was fr. 560 000. – On December 17, a statue of Vishnu, Khmer, 87 cm high, eleventh century, attained fr. 1 510 000. The Musée Guimet had the right of preemption.

PERSONALIA

Oxford. Robert Charles Zaehner, University Lecturer in Persian, has been elected to succeed Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishna, the Vice-President of India, as Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics. – The University has conferred the honorary degree of D. Litt. on C. J. Gadd, Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in the British Museum.

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