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ART NEWS 1948

July to December

DISCOVERIES

Cairo. A miniature of Syro-Mesopotamian style showing the prophet Mohammed in a theological discussion with the Christian Bishop of Yemen has been discovered in the National Library. The work dates from 614 of the Hejira, over a century earlier than the first known representations of the Prophet, made under Persian influence.

Kaisarie, Turkey. The Ankara archaeologist Tahsim Çezgüç and his wife have excavated four successive building levels at the site of the proto-Hittite city of Kanesh and an Assyrian trading and industrial station (Karum). Graves containing numerous antiquities, especially pottery vessels of elegant shapes and exquisite workmanship, have been laid bare, and 1200 inscribed tablets unearthed. The Karum seems to have flourished from about 1900 B. C. for several centuries. The finds are very important for the knowledge of a still obscure period of Hittite history.

New Delhi. During a six months stay in Tibet Giuseppe Tucci discovered tombs of kings belonging to the seventh and eighth centuries A.D. as well as interesting Sanskrit manuscripts and Tibetan books.

MUSEUMS

Baltimore. The Walters Art Gallery announces the opening of the permanently installed Mesopotamian Collection.

Berlin. The Museum für Völkerkunde threatens to collapse and is to be vacated. The contents will be sheltered in the store of the Museum, as no other suitable building exists.

Beverly Hills, Calif. Kenneth Ross, Director of the Modern Institute of Art, who has resigned, has been followed by Dr. Karl With, hitherto head of the art department of Hamilton College, Clinton, and formerly director of the Museum of Arts and Crafts at Cologne.

Cleveland. 166 examples of Chinese and Japanese art bequeathed to the Museum by Cornelia B. Warner range from bronze sculpture and porcelains to jade curios and netsuke.

London. Dr. Sidney Smith, Keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum, has retired on account of ill-health. His successor is C. J. Gadd, hitherto deputy Keeper in the Department.

New York. The School for Asiatic Studies at the Asia Institute has been presented by the Shah of Iran with the sum of \$ 20 000; by the heirs of Dastur Pavry with an early Iranian library; and by Hugh W. Long with important examples of T'ang and Sung art.

EXHIBITIONS

Basle. East Asiatic Painting from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, mostly belonging to the Tikotin collection, The Hague, and Indian miniatures were shown at the Art Museum in October and November.

Claremont, Calif. The Pomona College organized an exhibition of ancient Chinese paintings running until December 18th. The exhibits date from the 10th to the 18th century and include works borrowed from Chinese collectors for their first American exhibition. Among them is the Tribute-Bearing Mission scroll, painted by Ch'iu Ying in 1492. Formerly in the collection of the Emperor Ch'ien-lung, it is now owned by the Ting Family.

Kansas City. The W. R. Nelson Gallery of Art has arranged a special exhibition of Chinese pictures, including recent acquisitions, such as «Buddhist Temple in the Mountains» of the Northern Sung Dynasty, a small scroll of the «Five Dragons», attributed to Ch'en Jung, and a scroll of Bamboo painted in ink by Li K'an about 1306-1307.

A collection of Central Asian and Chinese wall-paintings, lent by C. T. Loo, was on view at the Gallery during November. It is the most comprehensive collection of Chinese Buddhist frescoes ever shown in America. The first group consists of small and damaged but very precious fragments from the ruins of a monastery at Kizil, dating from about 600 A.D., and comes from the Le Coq collection. The second group in the exhibition comprised larger frescoes of Chinese origin from various localities and ranging in time from about the 11th to the 16th century, works of high artistical quality.

London. Monochrome porcelain of the Ming and Manchu Dynasties were exhibited by the Oriental Ceramic Society, and Japanese Prints by the Arts Council.

Contemporary Turkish Painting was shown by the Arts Council at Turkish People's House.

Nanking. The Museum, which has not yet been finished, showed during a week some art-treasures from the Peking Imperial Collections, chiefly paintings and bronzes.

Reproductions made of some frescoes of Tun-huang were also exhibited here.

New York. The Morgan Library was illustrating the use of cylinder seals of stone and crystal in ancient Mesopotamia by enlarged photographs of their impressions.

Forty K'ang-hsi vases and statuettes, including rare examples, were lent from a private collection for exhibition at the China House.

The most comprehensive collection of Indonesian art ever shown in the U.S., owned by the Royal Indian Institute in Amsterdam, was sent for exhibition at the Asia Institute in November and December. It will then go to the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, the Art Institute, Chicago, and the Museum of Art, Baltimore.

Paris. The exhibition «Iran» in the Musée Cernuschi contained works of very different periods of Iranian art, particularly works discovered during the last ten years and lent by the Museum of Teheran.

An exhibition «Visages de l'Inde médiévale» containing large photos made by Raymond Burnier in Middle Indian temples was held in the Librairie Berès.

Zürich. Until January 30th, the Kunstgewerbe-Museum showed several groups of Oriental Art: a large selection of Chinese tomb ceramic and bronzes from the collection of J. F. H. Menten; Asiatic sculpture from the collections of E. von der Heydt, Ascona, R. Eisenhofer (Khmer), and U Chun San, Bangkok; old Oriental carpets from the collections of Prince zu Schwarzenberg, Vienna, Chr. Grand, Alexandria, E. von der Heydt, and Meyer-Müller & Co., Zürich; finally, from Swiss private possession, examples of old Oriental and classical lapidary art, from Mesopotamian cylinder seals of the 3rd century B. C. to cameos and gems of the time of the Roman Emperors.

CONGRESSES

Paris. The 21st Congress of Orientalists was celebrated at the National Archives by an exhibition, which illustrated the relations between France and China during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Vienna. The 8th International Congress of Byzantinists is to be held under the title «Byzantium and the Occident» in 1950.

SALES

London. At Sotheby's, on November 12th, a dark green baluster vase, carved in low relief with flowering plants, of the Ch'ien-lung period, brought £ 520.

On December 9th, the Eckstein jades realized £ 20131, more than the double of the original outlay. The most valuable items, a dark-green Ch'ien-lung brush-pot with carvings of the Seven Worthies of the Bamboo Grove (Chu-lin ch'i hsien); a grey-green jade figure of a water-buffalo (£ 560 eleven years ago); a spinach-green incense burner; a dark-green vase, and an emerald-green bowl, were bought by Spink for £ 3400, 3000, 1150, 1050, 1000 respectively.

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