

# Art news 1949

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## ART NEWS 1949

*July to December*

### MUSEUMS

*Leeds.* Frank Savery has the intention to bequeath his collection of early Chinese porcelain to Temple Newsam.

*Oxford.* The Museum of Eastern Art, the first in England, has been opened as a branch of the Ashmolean Museum under the charge of Dr. William Cohn. It is housed in the Indian Institute.

*Paris.* The galleries of Asiatic art of the Musée des Arts décoratifs, on the third floor of the Pavillon Marsan, have been reopened.

At the Louvre the galleries of bronzes and antique jewelry, of Etruscan ceramics and Mahometan Oriental art have been rearranged.

*Zürich.* The people of Zürich have voted the sum needed for the rearrangement of the Wesendonk House (Villa Rietberg) as a Museum. As Baron von der Heydt, Ascona, had bequeathed his well-known collection to the city of Zürich under the condition that a suitable museum would be arranged for that purpose, his art treasures (so far available at this moment) can now be assembled there. They include Indian bronzes and stone sculpture from the 6th to the 17th century, Chinese stone sculpture from the 2nd century B. C. to the 13th century A. D., Chinese Indian ink pictures, bronze vessels and ceramics, Japanese paintings and sculpture, an important group of African sculpture, masks and tools, Mexican and Central American art, tapestries, a great many Swiss popular masks, and a number of old and modern paintings. Other gifts and bequests have been promised to the new museum.

### EXHIBITIONS

*Basle.* The Librairie du Château d'Art had on view coloured woodcuts by Hiroshige.

*Berne.* The collection of Henry S. Reitlinger, London, including European and Asiatic pottery as well as glass and metalwork and drawings and prints by old masters, was on view at the Art Museum.

*Brussels.* An exhibition of modern Indonesian arts and crafts, comprising about a hundred paintings on silk, Indian ink drawings, statuettes, arms and textiles, was held at the Musées royaux d'art et d'histoire.

*Chicago.* Frescoes from the Cave of the Thousand Buddhas at Tunhuang were shown in replica at the Art Institute. The paintings were done in water-colour by Shao Fang Sheng in 1944-45.

*Geneva.* The Musée d'Ethnographie had an exhibition "La Parure dans le monde", comprising exhibits from Oceania, Asia, Africa and America. The catalogue containing about a hundred illustrations has been drawn up by Mme M. Lobsiger-Dellenbach and has an introduction by Eugène Pittard.

*Leyden.* Modern Balinese art objects, the property of the East Indonesian Government, was shown at the Museum voor Volkenkunde.

*London.* Selected paintings by 19 contemporary Chinese artists were on show at the China Institute.

The Berkeley Galleries had an exhibition, "The Mystic Art of Tibet", which included treasures from the ancient monastery of Pal-kor Choide at Gyantse.

The Art Council was showing at its Gallery, St. James's Square, 45 Indian miniatures from the collection of the Maharaja of Bikaner, previously shown in Oxford.

*Minneapolis.* The Institute of Arts was showing Chinese Bronzes in the Pillsbury Collection.

*New York.* Paintings, sculpture, bronzes and pottery of the Shang, Chou and Han dynasties were on view at the China Institute. Mathias Komor was showing forty recent works by Foujita, comprising twenty paintings and twenty drawings.

Tonying & Co. were showing Chinese Ceramics of the 1st to the 18th century, and the Museum of Modern Art Japanese Children's Art. – At the Metropolitan Museum there was on show a collection of over one hundred photographs of medieval Hindu temple sculpture. – There was also opened an exhibition of over one hundred works of Persian art, lent from the Archæological Museum in Teheran. None of these objects have ever been shown in America, although some were seen in London in 1936. They include manuscripts and miniatures; gold and silver work (especially a goblet of the 11th century B. C., carved with figures of lions in low relief with heads in full relief); pottery (among them glazed pottery jars dating from the 9th to the 8th century B. C. and only recently excavated, the first examples from Median times to be found); and glass, recently discovered at Gurdan at the Caspian Sea. A catalogue has been prepared by Dr. Mehdi Bahrami, Director of the Museum, who has brought the treasures to New York.

A further exhibition of Persian Art was held at the Asia Institute. The exhibits came from American collections, among them the Morgan Library, the Cooper Union, the Fogg Art and the Yale University Museums, the Walters Art Gallery, the museums of Philadelphia, Boston and Worcester.

*Pasadena.* An exhibition of Islamic Art was held at the Art Institute.

*Philadelphia.* The Museum of Art was showing Ming Blue-decorated Porcelain, borrowed from public and private collections. The Bulletin of the Museum (XLIV, 223) has been issued as a catalogue, introduced by Jean Gordon Lee and reproducing

all the 153 exhibits, many of them from different angles. — An exhibition "Jade Around the World" was held at the University Museum.

*Vienna.* The Kunstgewerbemuseum had a special exhibition of Chinese tapestries and carpets from its own collection.

#### EXCAVATIONS

*Ankara.* Tahsin Ozgüç and his wife pursued their excavation at Kültepe, the proto-Hittite Kanes, and discovered about 1000 tablets covering a wide field of the business and social life of the city, also, pottery, vessels, domestic utensils, and gold ornaments. Perhaps the best find is a bull-headed rhyton used for ritual libations.

*Kabul.* A French expedition under the direction of Daniel Schlumberger has discovered at Caskhari-Bazar remains of the residence of the Ghaznevid sultans Mahmud and Mas'ud I.

#### SALES

*London.* At Christie's, on June 23, a Hereke silk carpet, 4½ by 3 m, the design copied from the "Ardabil" carpet, was bought by E. Perez for £ 780.

On July 19, at Sotheby's, a Chinese jade figure of a recumbent water buffalo fetched £ 1400.

On November 28, an album of 46 Moghul miniature portraits and court scenes, chiefly of the 17th century, from the Library of the late Sir Thomas Phillipps at Cheltenham, was bought for £ 620 on behalf of a collector.

*Lucerne.* At Fischer's, on November 10, a wooden Buddha seated, Ming, attained sfr. 2000.

#### MISCELLANEA

As it has now been revealed, Schliemann's finds, consisting of ceramics, bronze and gold objects from Troy, Tiryns, Mycenae, and the Peloponnesus, have been almost entirely lost. There remains a hope that part of them may be in Russia. The ceramics, which were at Lebus castle on the Oder, have been destroyed, except for a few pieces.

Professor Robert von Heine-Geldern, who lived in America for a number of years and has now returned to Vienna, has disclosed at the New York Congress of Americanists as well as in Vienna, the results of his investigations carried out in collaboration with Dr. F. Ekholm. He has identified strong influences of Hindu-Buddhist civilizations on Mexican and Maya art and believes there was a communication between East Asia and America from about 400 B. C. till the 12th century.

Dr. Fritz Rumpf, an authority on Japanese art and culture, has died in Berlin.

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