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ART NEWS 1951

January to June

MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Amman, Jordan. A Jordan Archaeological Museum is to be opened early in 1952.

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The Museum of the Cranbrook Academy of Art has acquired, from C. T. Loo, New York, a small wooden figure of a woman, Han Dynasty, from Ch'angsha, and a number of ceramic bowls and vases from the T'ang to Ming Dynasties.

Cleveland. The Museum of Art has acquired a bronze statue of Miroku Bosatsu (Maitreya), a rare and important example of the Japanese Suiko Period (A. D. 552-646).

Faenza. The Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche has received donations from Pakistan.

Geneva. On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, the Musée d'Ethnographie has received a number of gifts, among them a Chinese painting by Chou Hao, 1549, and a Chinese ceramic representing a popular divinity, of the seventeenth century.

The Hague. The exhibition of seventy oriental carpets from German property which was held in Hamburg and part of it shown in Munich, was then to be seen at the Municipal Museum.

Hartford, Connecticut. The Atheneum has received, as a permanent loan, the collection of Japanese wood block prints owned by Mrs. Jared K. Morse. Kojiro Tomita, Curator of Asiatic Art, and his associates at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, assisted in classifying and describing the Morse collection and in the preparation of the catalogue for an exhibition of a selection, which was held here in April.

Kansas City. The W. R. Nelson Gallery of Art has acquired four South Indian bronzes, including an image of Shiva as Lord of the Dance, twelfth-fourteenth century, which was shown as the masterpiece of the month during February. The others were included in an exhibition of South Indian bronzes from the museum's collection augmented by loans by Nasli Heeramanek of New York and James D. Baldwin. There were also to be seen photographs of Medieval Indian sculpture, circulated by the American Federation of Arts. The Indian and Cambodian sculpture in the Gallery has been regrouped by countries, and the new Indian bronzes, the largest and most important group of this kind in America, are now in their permanent place.

London. Israeli Arts and Crafts were to be seen at the Ben Uri Gallery.

A catalogue of the collection of 966 pieces of Chinese ivories formed by Sir Victor Sassoon from 1915 to 1927 has been compiled by S. E. Lucas in three volumes; there have been issued 250 copies at *Country Life*, London.

New York. A selection of the Shang and Chou bronzes left by Mrs. Otto H. Kahn to the Metropolitan Museum is described in the Museum's Bulletin of December 1950.

Oxford. A cast-iron head of an unidentified demon-like figure, which might be dated in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, has been bequeathed to the new Museum of Eastern Art by W. L. Horn. Only one similar piece is known, in the collection of Baron von der Heydt, of Ascona.

Saint Louis. The City Art Museum has been given, by J. Lionberger Davis, sixteen very valuable Chinese bronzes of the Shang, Chou and Han Dynasties.

EXHIBITIONS

Celle. An exhibition, "Art of the South Seas", comprising sculpture, masks, jewelry, and utensils from the Berlin Völkerkunde-Museum, was being shown here.

Eindhoven. The Van Abbe Museum had an exhibition of Japanese Art.

Geneva. Japanese prints and paintings from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century were on show at the Galerie Motte.

Glasgow. This year's exhibition from the Burrell Collection included Chinese pottery and porcelain.

Kassel. 150 coloured woodcuts by Hokusai from a Viennese private collection, which was sheltered in Waldeck during the war, were being shown by the Art Society.

London. Chinese works of art of the T'ang Dynasty were arranged by the Department of Oriental Antiquities of the British Museum, as a Festival Exhibition. The chief feature consisted of sixty paintings collected by Sir Aurel Stein from the borders of China and Chinese Turkestan. T'ang works of other kinds included silver ware, bronze mirrors, stone heads of Buddha and pottery. There were also colotype reproductions of the early eighteenth-century wall-paintings of the Temple of Horyuji at Nara, the originals of which were destroyed in 1949. — 83 Indian paintings and drawings from the collection of the late Sir William Rothenstein, some of the seventeenth century, most of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and never before shown in an English museum, were on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum for four months.

The Berkeley Galleries were showing "Horses in Art through the Ages", and the Oriental Ceramic Society, Manchu polychrome porcelain.

Minneapolis. Chinese Gold, from the C. T. Loo Collection, and Imperial Chinese Costumes were on show at the Institute of Arts.

Moscow. An exhibition of Old and Modern Chinese Art, organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Chinese Popular Republic, was to be seen in sixteen rooms of the Tretjakov Gallery. Among over 1000 exhibits were objects of bronze and jade, ceramics, drawings, woodcuts, embroideries, tapestries, paintings, sculpture, etc.

New York. Mathias Komor was showing a collection of nearly a hundred pieces of "Imperial Porcelain of the Ming Dynasty" (almost all made at Ching-te-chen), assembled in China over a period of twenty years. They are described in an illustrated catalogue.

Paris. The Studio of Delacroix was reopened with an exhibition "Delacroix and the Orientalism of his Epoch", which included works by Baron Gros, Girodet, Fromentin, Géricault, Decamps, Chassériau, Dehodencq, and others, lent by the Louvre and some collectors, as well as faïences, carpets and arms. The catalogue has been written by Mlle R. Bacou.

Some reproductions of Japanese Yamatoe picture rolls in original size (8-12 m long), which were given to René Grousset in Japan in 1949, were being exhibited at the Musée Cernuschi.

Vienna. The Völkerkunde-Museum had an exhibition of Chinese Art from its origin to the present, organized with the aid of private collectors, and an exhibition of Indian Art of 2000 years, including paintings, embroideries, textiles, brass work, ceramics, ornaments, musical instruments, arms and many other objects. — The Museum für angewandte Kunst had an exhibition of Indo-Persian book illustrations of the sixteenth century, the epoch of Emperor Akbar the Great.

EXCAVATIONS

Bethlehem. Pottery from the first Jewish Kingdom to the Herodian epoch has been discovered in an ancient rock-hewn cistern in the north-eastern corner of the Church of the Nativity. According to the excavators, who belong to the Department of Antiquities of the Jordanian Government, the cistern corresponds far more to the "David's Well", mentioned in the Old Testament, than the cistern in Western Bethlehem, which is usually claimed to be the historic well.

Jerusalem. The Franciscan archaeologist Father Saller has uncovered, in the vicinity of the traditional tomb of Lazarus, at Bethany, the ruins of three churches, two of them superimposed on the third. The earliest is a three-aisled structure with rich geometrical mosaics, dating from the time of Constantine in the fourth century; the

second is a Byzantine church of the sixth century, and the third a Romanesque church dating from the period of the third Crusade, 1189–1193.

Karachi. Remains of a town of the eighth century A. D. have been laid bare 56 km from Karachi. They are thought to be Daibul, the hitherto unlocated city which overlooked the spot where Muhammed Bin Quazim, the first conqueror of Sind, landed and the earliest settlement in Sind. Among the finds are two tiny copper coins bearing Arab legends in Kufic characters.

Nablus, Palestine. The excavations at Tell el Fahra, begun by Father Roland Du Vaux in 1946, have been continued and have confirmed the thesis that the site is that of Thirza, ancient capital of the Israelite kingdom.

SALES

Cologne. On April 18, Lempertz sold by auction the collection of Graf Arnim-Muskau, containing pottery of the Han, T'ang and Sung periods, and Ming and Ch'ing porcelain. On April 25, a Sung bowl realized 4100 DM.

London. At Christie's, on March 15, a Chinese famille rose dinner service of 167 pieces fetched 750 gns. – At Sotheby's, on April 3, £ 440 was given for a green jade brush pot of the Ch'ien-lung period, while a jade double-handed circular incense burner and cover of the same reign fetched £ 420.

Paris. At a sale of Far Eastern Art, on March 13, two white porcelain statuettes of the Ch'ien-lung period fetched fr. 250 000. – On May 25, at the sale of the Ed. Larcade collection, three pairs of Chinese porcelain birds of the eighteenth century were sold for fr. 3 050 000, 1 500 000, and 900 000 respectively; an eighteenth-century Chinese screen in Coromandel lacquer, 2,80 m high, fetched fr. 1 000 000. – On June 1, at the Galerie Charpentier, a collection of Chinese porcelain of the K'ang-hsi, Yung-chêng and Ch'ien-lung epochs was auctioned, among them a set of five Yung-chêng pieces for fr. 900 000, and a set of five Ch'ien-lung pieces for fr. 660 000.

OBITUARY

On January 30, in New York, the art dealer Dikran G. Kelekian, an authority on Near Eastern art, aged 83.

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