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ART NEWS 1950

January to June

DISCOVERIES

Amman, Jordan. A group of figures or part of them, nearly life-size or smaller, have been unearthed outside the city walls at the north-end of the citadel. Some of them consist of limestone, and one of a harder stone; they are of different states of preservation and have traces of colour. One of the complete figures has an inscription so far untranslatable in its plinth. They show both Egyptian and Mesopotamian influences and are ascribed to the ninth century B. C. – A cemetery dating from about A. D. 500 has been discovered in Central Palestine. Ten stone coffins containing pottery, decorated pottery lamps and a glass statue and bracelet have been found.

Baghdad. A stone portrait statue, 50 cm high, representing a scribe and high priest of a Sumerian king, of which scholars have known for six years but which had disappeared in illicit trade, has been seized by the Iraqi Government. The work, which dates from about 2700 B. C., is said to be the finest Sumerian sculpture which has been discovered up to now.

Karachi. At Mohenjo Daro a granary has been excavated, which is the best preserved of all known buildings of the Indian Valley civilization. It was originally over 45 m long and is architecturally very notable. The excavations have been supervised by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler.

Philadelphia. Excavations directed at Nippur in Iraq by Dr. Donald E. McCown for the University of Pennsylvania Museum and the Oriental Institute of the University

of Chicago brought to light the large Temple of Enlil and made it possible to trace the history of successive structures on the site from 2200 B. C. to 600 B. C.

Taebris. A gold treasure including a pectoral showing in two tiers representations of real and fabulous creatures and of life-trees has been found near Ziwiye, south east of the Urmia lake. The objects show parallels with later Scythian art. André Godard attributes them to the civilization of the Mannaeans (Minni) of the 9th century B. C. He identifies Ziwiye with their fortress Zibie, which was occupied by Sargon II, and believes a level area about 5 km from Ziwiye to have been the site of their capital.

MUSEUMS

Basle. The Ethnographical Museum has been presented by Hans Merian with his collection of 9000 Chinese coins, covering three thousand years and the reigns of all Chinese emperors.

Berlin. The Museum für Völkerkunde at Dahlem was reopened in December 1949.

Cleveland. The Museum of Art has been given an unusual Chinese porcelaneous vase of so-called Ying-ch'ing type, T'ang Dynasty.

Hartford. The painter Henry E. Schnakenberg has presented the Wadsworth Atheneum with over a hundred objects of art, including a pair of Wei Dynasty pottery horses, a Sung polychromed pottery Head of a Maitreya, and 43 water-colour paintings by an unknown nineteenth-century artist of the Patua Caste of Bengal.

Karachi. A Pakistan National Museum is to be opened in the Frere Hall. Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler is archaeological adviser to the Pakistan Government.

London. Several years ago Sir Percival David offered his famous collection of Chinese ceramics, together with his notable library on the subject, to London University to form a centre of study of Chinese ceramics. The University has now found a commodious house in the University precincts which will provide suitable accommodation for the collection. – Soame Jenyns has been appointed deputy keeper in the Department of Oriental Antiquities at British Museum.

New York. George J. Lee, Assistant Curator of Oriental Art at the Fogg Museum, Cambridge, has been appointed curator of oriental art at the Brooklyn Museum. This museum has acquired 23 Chou and Han bronzes, bequeathed by Mrs. Otto H. Kahn.

Paris. The Grandidier collection of Chinese ceramics, which was shown at the Louvre until 1939, is now being shown to the public, together with other objects of Chinese and Japanese art, on the second floor of the Musée Guimet.

Peking. The museums have been reopened.

Philadelphia. A wood figure of Kwan-yin, tenth century, 48 cm high, has been purchased for the Diamond Jubilee Collection of the Museum of Art.

West Palm Beach. Ralph H. Norton has given to the Palm Beach Art League 34 pieces of archaic Chinese tomb jade and a Chinese scroll painting entitled "Two Ducks Swimming on a Misty Tumultuous River with Overhanging Branch" (1711). The jades as well as the painting were exhibited by C. T. Loo last winter at the Norton Gallery of Art.

EXHIBITIONS

Aix-la-Chapelle. Chinese Painting from the East Asiatic Museum, Cologne, was shown at the Suermondt-Museum.

Baltimore. From January 18 to February 19 the Walters Art Gallery has on view Chinese Porcelains from its own collection and that of the Museum of Art.

Boston. Until September 17 the Museum of Fine Arts had on view Japanese Screen Paintings of the 16th Century.

Chicago. Ming Blue and White Porcelain was on view at the Art Institute.

The Hague. An exhibition "Stage and Dance in Japanese Art" held from March 17 to April 30 contained prints (among them very rare examples of actors' representations by Sharaku and Kunimasa) from the Ferdinand Lieftinck collection; also masks, marionettes, garments and musical instruments.

London. The Berkeley Galleries were showing paintings and drawings by Hoitsu (about 1800) and by other Japanese artists. — An exhibition of Indian textiles held at India House included a special display of ancient textiles lent by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

An exhibition of African and Asiatic Art showing at the Berkeley Galleries during July, August and September, contained West African carvings, objects from the South Sea Islands and Tibet, and also Ancient American art.

Contemporary Chinese coloured woodcuts from the collection of Jan Tschichold were on show at the Geffrye Museum. The exhibition was organized by the Arts Council and will be shown also in other English towns.

Los Angeles. The County Museum was holding a major exhibition "Art of Greater India". — See our *Notices*, above p. 110. *Editor.*

New York. The Riverside Museum had on view Tibetan Banner Paintings and Art Objects.

The Brooklyn Museum had an exhibition "Out of the East", assembling art of three great religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Mohammedanism, from the Museum's own collections and from other museums, comprising silver, enamel, statues, paintings, vestments, brass, pewter, miniatures, manuscripts, and rugs. — The

Museum had also an exhibition illustrative of the culture of rural Japan, comprising prints, costumes and other material.

The Public Library was showing sixty rare prints by Utamaro, many of them from the Louis V. Ledoux collection and sixty examples of Persian manuscript books acquired last summer. The purchase was made possible by a special fund left to the Library by William Augustus Spencer.

The Korean Consulate General was organizing the first exhibition of contemporary Korean paintings ever held in the U. S.

Paris. The Musée Cernuschi was showing archaic Chinese ceramics, jades and bronzes as well as bronzes of Luristan.

Rome. From April 7 to 30 the Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente was holding at its quarters (Palazzo Brancaccio) an exhibition of Chinese paintings of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties. The exhibition, one of the largest of its kind ever held in Europe since the war and the first in Italy, comprised over eighty items from the Guimet and Kansas City museums, and the private collections of J.-P. Dubosc and S. H. Minkenhof, Paris, C. T. Loo and H. C. Wang, New York, F. Vannotti, Lugano, and others. The Institute organized also an exhibition of modern Japanese painting. The exhibition included also kakemonos by Aoki Mokubei (1767-1833) and Ikeno Taiga (1723-1776) and a makemono of the Kamakura period (c. 1185-1382).

St. Paul, Minnesota. Chinese and Japanese Paintings, Sculpture and Prints from the collection of Francis Ellis were to be seen at the St. Paul Gallery.

Turin. An exhibition of old and modern Chinese art was held in the galleries of the Gazzetta del Popolo. The exhibits have been lent by the Franciscan missions, private collectors and the Museo Civico at Ivrea.

Vienna. 270 of the most important works by Hokusai from the collection of the Museum für angewandte Kunst were on view there.

West Palm Beach. The Norton Gallery of Art was displaying archaic Chinese jades, arranged by C. T. Loo, New York, and taken from his own collection and the collections of Mr. and Mrs. William L. McKim, Alfred F. Pillsbury, Mrs. Edward Sonnenschein, and Mrs. Irving Snyder. An illustrated catalogue has been published by C. T. Loo.

Zurich. As part of the June Festival, an exhibition of Great Chinese Painters of the Ming and Ch'ing Dynasties and Chinese Popular Gouaches and Prints was organized by the Swiss Society of Asiatic Studies in the Helmhaus from June 4 to July 20. - See our *Notices*, above p. 108. *Editor.*

SALES

London. At Sotheby's, on April 21, a "Famille rose" ruby-coloured ground garniture of three large vases and covers and two beakers, decorated with the meeting of the T'ang Emperor Ming-huang and the beautiful Yang Kuei-fei, Yung-cheng period, brought \$ 1450. — On June 2, a Chinese porcelain part dinner service of 207 pieces, famille rose, of the Chi'en-lung period, brought £ 1100.

New York. At Parke-Bernet's, on January 3, a Chinese three-piece porcelain vase garniture of the K'ang-hsi period, from the collection of Fritz Kreisler, brought \$ 1200. Komor bought a pottery bowl of the Sung Dynasty for \$ 500. — On January 4, a pair of richly carved jade vases were purchased by S. H. Hoo for \$ 1100. A three-piece porcelain vase garniture of the K'ang-hsi period went to Ralph M. Chait for \$ 750.

OBITUARY

On January 12, at St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Calvin Wells McEwen, archaeologist, aged 43, who led expeditions to the Near East for the Oriental Institute, Chicago; on March 2, in Washington, Dr. Helen B. Chapin, a well-known expert on Far Eastern art and iconography, aged 55; on March 25, at Cawnpore, near Lucknow, India, the sculptor Molly Rüetschi, Zürich.

MISCELLANEA

Dr. Gustav Ecke, for many years Art Editor of "Monumenta Serica" at Peking, and since 1949 Curator of Chinese Art in the Honolulu Academy of Art, has received a call as professor of Oriental Arts in the University of Hawaii.

Professor Robert von Heine-Geldern has been appointed professor extraordinary of Asian prehistory, art history and ethnology at Vienna University.

On July 2, 1950, the famous Kinkaku (Golden Pavilion) of the temple Rokuonji in the NW part of Kyôto was destroyed by a fire which, it seems, was laid by an insane temple novice. The three-storeyed pavilion, erected in 1394 as a retreat from political life by the third Ashikaga Shôgun, Yoshimitsu, and surrounded by a beautiful garden with a large pond, was one of the most important and impressive monuments of Ashikaga residential architecture. It was a wooden structure, the uppermost story of which was a single small room gilt all over (hence the name Golden Pavilion); the elegantly curved shingle roof was crowned by a bronze phoenix. The villa, which had been converted into a Buddhist temple after Yoshimitsu's death, contained a number of important art treasures, especially statues attributed to Unkei and other great masters, and some of its rich decoration had been preserved to this day. Nothing, however, seems to have survived the recent disaster. D. S.

A State Department of Archaeology is to be established in Pakistan.

Handbooks and textbooks dealing with the history and archaeology of Pakistan are in preparation, among them an illustrated handbook of archaeology entitled "Five Thousand Years of Pakistan" to be published by the Royal India and Pakistan Society.

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

VERANSTALTUNGEN

der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Asienkunde vom August 1949 bis Juli 1950

MANIFESTATIONS

de la Société Suisse d'Études Asiatiques, d'août 1949 à juillet 1950

ASCONA

28. August 1949. *Konzert* altchinesischer Kammermusik (P'i-p'a, Langflöte, zweisaitige Geige) von WANG EN-SHAO, Shanghai (mit einführenden Erläuterungen von Pd. Dr. E. H. VON TSCHARNER, veranstaltet in Verbindung mit dem Circolo di Cultura, Ascona).

12. September 1949. *Vortrag* «Indische Volkstänze und Volkslieder» von Prof. Dr. A. A. BAKE, London (mit Film und Musik).

22. September 1949. *Vortrag* «Vom Geheimnis ostasiatischer Kunst – Die ostasiatische Kunst gemessen an der abendländischen» von Prof. Dr. EMIL PRETORIUS, München (mit Lichtbildern).

28. Februar bis 24. April 1950. *Vortragsreihe* «Paradies und Sündenfall» von Dr. GERBRAND DEKKER, Ascona.

11. März. 1950 *Vortrag* «Ikebana – Die Kunst des japanischen Blumenstellens» von Dr. A. WIHR, Stuttgart (mit Lichtbildern und Vorführungen).

BASEL

15. März 1950. *Vortrag* «Ikebana – Die Kunst des japanischen Blumenstellens» von Dr. A. WIHR, Stuttgart (mit Lichtbildern und Vorführungen, veranstaltet in Verbindung mit der Basler Gartenbau-Gesellschaft).

12. Juni 1950. *Vortrag* «Zur Technik der chinesischen Landschaftsmalerei» von Dr. FRITZ VAN BRIESEN, München (mit Lichtbildern, veranstaltet in Verbindung mit dem Basler Kunstverein).