

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

News Bulletin and Calendar

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*"Madonna with
the Christ Child
Holding a
Pomegranate"
by a
15th Century
Florentine
Painter
Kress Collection*

Christmas, 1952

The Trustees and Staff of the Academy take this opportunity to extend to all members and friends of the museum their heartiest best wishes for a joyous Christmas season and a happy, prosperous, and peaceful New Year in 1953.

The Christmas season is a time when the mind and heart are filled with many good things: hope for the future which is the central message of the birth of Christ, gratefulness for the fellowship of man, joy in the act of giving. To Christian and non-Christian alike, it is a moving time when every promise seems closer to fulfillment and the disappointments and failures of the past tend to dissolve, at least momentarily, in the pervasive atmosphere of hope reborn.

Institutions reflect these feelings of men, and the Academy is no exception. Looking backwards over the past twelve months, we in the Academy realize that in no time in our history has this museum owed so deep a debt of gratitude to so many individuals, — for their support as members (close to 1750 at this moment), for their gifts of money in the twenty-fifth anniversary drive for funds, for their volunteer services of hundreds of hours of time spent in helping beautify the building and grounds in connection with the many activities inspired by the anniversary celebration, for their gifts of works of art which in the aggregate represent a total value incalculably beyond that received in any previous year of our existence, and for their general interest which has given so conspicuous an atmosphere of vitality to this museum and without which our activities would be meaningless.

The spirit of giving which underlies all this generosity is responsible for the high position which the Academy occupies today, both in this community and in the larger world of museums in general. Where the collections are concerned, it is an illuminating fact that of the tens of thousands of objects housed within the building, the overwhelming majority of them have been given to us. Most gifts naturally emanate from donors in the Islands, but many, — including some of the most significant, — are the gifts of individuals from faraway parts of the world including Europe, China and Japan. World economic conditions being what they are, the importance, to any museum, of the donor, and of the lender as well, cannot be overestimated.

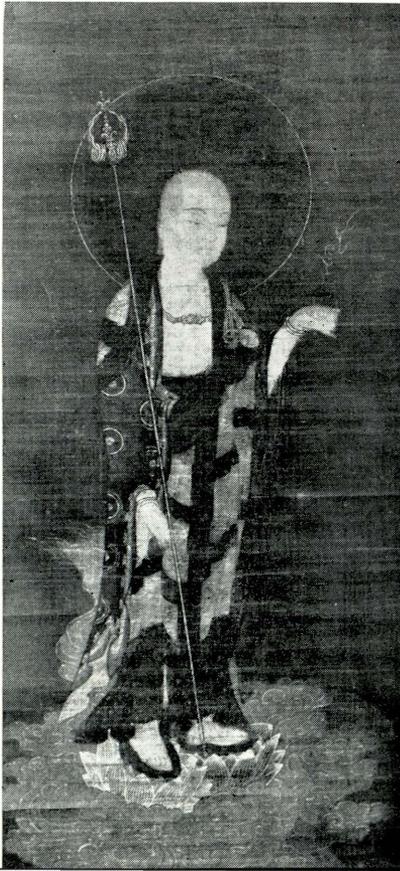


Fig. 1

The pages to follow in this issue are devoted to several hitherto unpublished gifts and loans received during 1952. The cover illustration, the *Madonna with Child Holding a Pomegranate* by an unidentified Florentine painter of the fifteenth century from the Kress Collection, will remind one of many gifts which have become more widely known. This painting was chosen for illustration here not only because it is a part of the Kress Collection which has so notably enriched the museum during 1952, but also because as a beautiful example of early Renaissance art, it was conceived in the youthful spirit so characteristic of the time and so closely associated with the concept of hope. To youth nothing is impossible. The Christmas season restores to each of us some of the essence of youthfulness. In a world in which tension and despair are the lot of millions, such works of art as this picture stand as constant reaffirmation of man's enduring capacity for hope, — and remind us that all of man's achievements have been made possible because of this capacity. So long as such works remain, it is unthinkable that man will compromise the future by succumbing to despair.

R.P.G., Jr.

Notes on Some Recent Gifts and Loans

A Japanese Painting of Jizo

The painting shown as *figure 1* represents the Japanese deity Jizo (*Ksbiti-garhba*), standing on a lotus blossom amid clouds and holding in his left hand the "magic jewel" (*mani*, a fabulous pearl, a symbol of Buddha and his doctrine), while in his right hand he carries the "alarm staff" (*Kbakkbara*) topped by six metal rings. Painted on silk in tones of faded red, rust, and brown, enriched by the application of strips of cut gold, the picture measures thirty-two

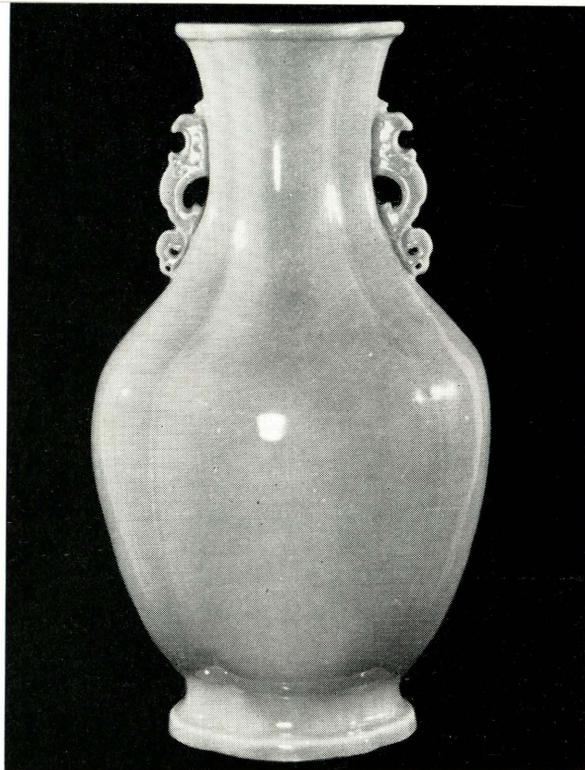


Fig. 2

inches in height and is the gift of Mr. John Gregg of Kauai.

The painting was probably made for a temple or shrine in which it hung for hundreds of years, resulting in a gradual deterioration of the surface from the effects of exposure to smoke and climatic change. Whatever brightness of color it may once have had has been mellowed by time to the extent that the picture as we see it now is only an evanescent reminder of its original state. However that may be, it remains a beautiful and reverent statement of the benign god whose appeal is so universal among Japanese Buddhists as, among other attributes, the protector of the souls of children.

In style the painting recalls something of the sophisticated delicacy of Fujiwara (894-1185) art and the contemporary art of Sung China. A certain forthright-

ness of approach, however, would tend to date it in the succeeding Kamakura period (1186-1334) at the earliest.

An 18th Century Chinese Vase

An extremely important example of Chinese ceramic art of the Ch'ing Dynasty is the noble vase shown as *figure 2*, lent for the gallery of Chinese decorative arts by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Worch of New York. A ceramic triumph of building, firing, and glazing, the vase is made of fine, vibrant porcelain covered with a flawlessly even glaze of *clair-de-lune*

In general the later eighteenth century Chinese porcelains often have about them a rigidity which gives them the look of having been mold-made or at least caliper-outlined with the resultant sacrifice of that spontaneous hand-shaped character which is one of the great glories of the work of earlier, classical periods of Chinese ceramic development. The vase under discussion, however, is so vigorous and directly creative an expression that it may be considered a climax of the Chinese porcelain-maker's



Fig. 3

color. Baluster-shaped on a high lobed foot, the swelling body narrows to a flaring neck which sustains two conventionalized dragon-form handles. Its overall height measures twenty-seven inches and a seal mark on the base dates its manufacture in the reign of the emperor Ch'ien Lung (1736-1796).

art, and is unquestionably an Imperial piece. It should also be pointed out that the glaze is extremely sensuous to the touch, with that "oily" quality so prized by the ceramic connoisseur.



Fig. 4

A Chinese Silk Tapestry

Figure 3 illustrates a section of a Chinese k'o-ssu (silk tapestry) dating from the reign of Yung Cheng (1723-1735), given by Mrs. Philip E. Spalding. The entire piece is roughly square, of the proportions of a throne cover, measuring forty and one-half inches on each side.

The obverse of the k'o-ssu has faded somewhat, but the reverse, protected by a lining, is in mint condition and indicates its original brilliance. Around the four sides runs a wide border of foliage scrolls with blossoming peonies in which are scattered bats and the "Eight Precious Symbols." The center portion, separated from the borders by a narrow undecorated space, contains five beautiful and energetically drawn phoenixes in a field of foliage scrolls and blossoms similar to those in the border. The colors used include red, green, ivory and shades of blue against a background uniformly yellow.

Additions to the Bromberger Collection

The Honorable Edgar Bromberger of New York has notably augmented the collection of Chinese ceramics which bears his name in the Academy collection by the recent gift of seventy fine examples ranging in date from the Anyang period of Shang (1300-1028 B.C.) down to early Ch'ing (18th century) of which three are illustrated herewith as figure 4.

The pieces illustrated are all Ming Dynasty examples of the blue and white family of porcelain and represent, from left to right, a brush-rest molded in the form of a five-peaked mountain with Persian inscriptions and having a six-character mark of the Cheng Te period (1506-1521) on the base (length, 8-1/16 inches); a figure of the Taoist divinity Cheng Wu shown seated and attended by two smaller figures between whom may be found the symbolic turtle and snake (unmarked but probably dating from the reign of Wan Li (1573-1620;

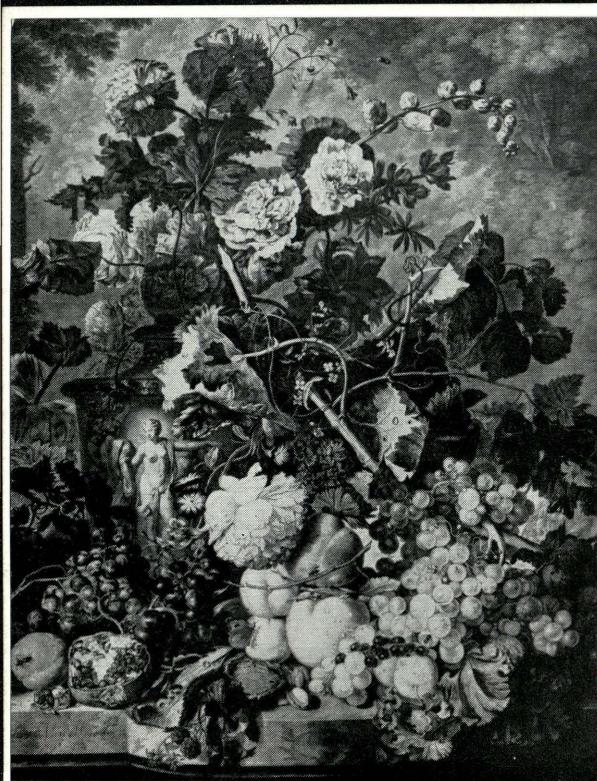


Fig. 5

height 10 inches); and a Wan Li period brush-rest (marked on the base) in the form of three mountain peaks molded by three five-clawed dragons (length 7 inches). The Cheng Te brush-rest was included in the exhibition of *Ming Blue and White* at the Philadelphia Museum in 1949 and together with its Wan Li companion formed a part of the comprehensive exhibition of *Chinese Ceramics* at the Los Angeles Museum during March and April, 1952.

Judge Bromberger's great gift and his continuing loans give the collection of Chinese ceramics in Honolulu a comprehensiveness achieved by few collections in the United States.

Famous Still-Life Engravings

Finally, a pair of famous mezzotints, executed by Richard Earlom (1743-1822) after early eighteenth century

paintings by the celebrated Dutch painter of still-life, Jan Van Huysum, has been added to the print collection as a gift of Mr. Robert Allerton, vice-president of the Academy.

Earlom, though not one of the best known of the great classical group of eighteenth century English mezzotinters, was a master of technique and the two *Flower and Fruit Pieces* after Van Huysum (one of which is illustrated as figure 5) are extremely fine examples of the type of print which has established his widest reputation.

Membership Activities

Decorations for Christmas

Two popular programs for members will precede the holidays. The first, on December 3 at 10:30 a.m. will be a lecture-demonstration by Mrs. Caroline E. Peterson on "Christmas Decorations for the Home."

These arrangements will be on view that same evening in the educational court from 8:00 until 9:00 o'clock. Mrs. Peterson will be present to answer questions.

Christmas Tables

Festive table settings for the Christmas breakfast, dinner or informal buffet supper, planned by Grossman-Moody, Limited, with floral decorations by Mrs. Peterson will be shown Wednesday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. and again from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Both morning activities are for members only but guests may be invited to the evening exhibitions. Please use the Kinau Street entrance. Membership cards must be presented.

Tea for New Members

The second fall tea, for members who have joined during November, will be held on Thursday, December 4.

Guests are asked to assemble at 4:00 p.m. in the Beretania Street lobby where

they will be met by the director, Robert P. Griffing, Jr., who will conduct them on a tour of museum departments. Tea will later be served in the Spanish Court.

Children's Christmas Party

The always enjoyable Christmas Party given annually for children of Academy members is announced for Friday, December 19 at 2:30 p.m. A Christmas program will be presented, following which refreshments will be served.

Special invitations will shortly be sent to children in the 5 to 12 year old group.

Gift Memberships

A thoughtful Christmas present—one which will be remembered and enjoyed throughout the year—is a membership in the Academy. As you know, such a gift will enable the recipient to attend the numerous special morning and evening lectures, teas and preview-receptions, and to receive the monthly *News Bulletin* which contains the latest announcements about acquisitions and forthcoming programs.

Arrangements for gift memberships may be made at the Membership Office, telephone 6-4481. Please, however, send in requests prior to 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 19.

Members Who Have Joined From Oct. 18 to Nov. 7

ANNUAL — Mrs. Frank M. Adamson, Mrs. Clinton R. Ashford, Mrs. George Woodson Ashford, Mrs. Carl J. Beck, Miss Elna G. Bernson, Mrs. Hon Gipp Chang, Mrs. Dora Choy, Mrs. Chester Lee Clement, Mrs. Edward L. Clissold, Miss Alberta Corkery, Mrs. Alexander L. Faye, Mr. Richard R. Ferguson, Mr. LaRue W. Gilliland, Mrs. Lionel T. Gorelangton, Mr. George F. Gorham, Mrs. John L. Greenwell, Mrs. Owen O. Hubbell, Mrs. William W. L. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Leffingswell, Mr. and Mrs. O. Max Lehmann, Miss Frances Elizabeth Midkiff, Mrs. Warren P. Mowatt, Mrs.

John L. Nelson, Mrs. William C. Peterson, Mrs. Dwight W. Porter, Mrs. Evans Scroggie, Mrs. Spencer W. Tinker, Mrs. Thurston Twigg-Smith.

ANNUAL RENEWALS — Miss Constance E. Hartt, Mrs. Arthur R. Keller, Miss Mary L. Noonan, Mr. Paul Robert Weissich.

EDUCATIONAL — Miss Frances W. Binkley, Mrs. Eleanor B. Colvin, Mrs. Stewart E. Fern, Mrs. Rose Fontaine, Mrs. Donald W. Giffin, Mrs. Kam Hu Lau, Mrs. Leonard L. Meek, Miss Margaret Owen, Mrs. Andrew M. Richmond, The Reverend Evans Scroggie, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Smith, Mrs. Edwin L. Young.

EDUCATIONAL RENEWALS — Mrs. Ernest F. O. Pung.

Lending Collection Catalogue

An illustrated catalogue of the Lending Collection has been published and may be purchased for one dollar per copy in the Educational Department. Books, slides, framed and mounted pictures and objects of all kinds which are available for loan to schools are listed according to period and country. Joseph Feher designed the end covers and general layout. The catalogue should be most useful to teachers who use this Academy service.

Christmas Cards, Calendars

Christmas cards may be purchased (two for twenty-five cents, including envelopes) at the Academy's Beretania Street information desk. These are photographs of works of art in the Academy, including several paintings of the "Madonna and Child" from the Kress Collection.

There are still available a limited number of calendars for 1953 (\$1.25 each) featuring "Famous Paintings in America." Among the fifty-four paintings reproduced are two from the Academy's collection — "Le Grande Mechnique" by Giorgio de Chirico, and "La Longue Pluie" by Yves Tanguy.

December and January Activities

DECEMBER

Public Programs:

21—4:00 p.m.—Christmas concert by Glee-men of Honolulu.

For Members Only:

3—10:30 a.m.—“Christmas Decorations for the Home,” lecture-demonstration by Mrs. Caroline E. Peterson.

3—8:00 p.m.—Exhibition of decorations in educational court. For members and guests. Kinau Street entrance.

4—4:00 p.m.—Tea for new members.

10—10:30 a.m. — “Christmas Tables,” planned by Grossman-Moody, Ltd., with Flower Arrangements by Mrs. Caroline E. Peterson.

10—8:00 p.m.—Exhibition of Christmas Tables in educational court. For members and guests. Kinau Street entrance.

19—2:30 p.m.—Christmas Party for Children of Members.

JANUARY

Public Programs:

22—8:00 p.m.—“Prints by Goya,” lecture by Jean Charlot.

25—4:00 p.m.—Recital by Jan Eaton Burress, soprano.

December and January Exhibitions

To Jan. 4—Christmas Exhibitions.

To Jan. 4—Prints of the Madonna and Child.

Dec. 11 to Jan. 4—Recent Unexhibited Gifts to the Academy.

Dec. 11 to Jan. 4—A Masterpiece of Renaissance Sculpture: Desiderio's “Portrait of a Youth,” shown in a Renaissance setting.

Jan. 6 to Feb. 1—Prints by Goya.

Jan. 8 to Feb. 1—Japanese Folk Art.

HOURS OF ADMISSION—Free at all times: *Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m.* EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT—*The lending collection of objects, framed color reproductions and slides, is available to all teachers. Schools wishing appointments for visiting the Academy for talks by staff members may make them by calling the Educational Office.* PRINT ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY—*Open during Academy hours. Mrs. Arthur E. Restarick, MEMBERSHIP Secretary, has her office in the building.* R. P. GRIFFING, JR., *Director* J. FEHER, *Designer* MARVELL A. HART, *Editor*

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

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