

H O N O L U L U A C A D E M Y O F A R T S



December, 1961

Dear Member:

First of all, let me take the opportunity afforded by the resumption of the News Letter to send you the best wishes of the Trustees and Staff of the Academy for a joyful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

We know that you have missed the News Letter, and we have deeply regretted the fact that it has not been possible for us to publish one for so long. This has been due to the upset condition of the museum resulting from the extensive program of construction and reconstruction through which we have gone. The News Letter will be continued from now on as formerly, and on the first of the year the Quarterly Calendar of Events will be resumed, many activities for members being in the planning stage now for 1962. The Sales Desk and Bookshop, too, will reopen at an early date.

It is quite impossible for me to tell you how grateful all of us are for your continued interest and support, in spite of the lack of communication and the cessation of activities for so long a period. It is for this reason that we are all the more gratified to be able to report that the membership enrollment has increased over last year's by more than 200, coming close to the all-time high record. Membership now stands at 1,917.

I know that you are aware that the Academy has been far from inactive since the last News Letter reached you. The reopening on June 28-29 was a brilliant occasion, with over 1,500 in attendance. More than that, it was one of the happiest moments in the Academy's history because of the eagerness with which our members and friends greeted the renewed museum and expressed their pleasure in the new facilities.

In part due to its handsome new quarters, interest in the Art School has never been greater, and at long last the Educational Department has splendid air-conditioned lecture rooms and studios which have attracted universal admiration. The changes in the lighting system in the galleries surrounding the Central Court have made it possible for us for the first time to emphasize the high quality of the works of art exhibited there, and the renovation of the Western Wing—for which we have Mr. Robert Allerton to thank—has made effective installation of the expanded collection of European and American decorative arts possible. The new second floor galleries devoted to the arts of our own time, including the work of artists of Hawaii, have been greeted by everyone as additions of the highest importance and interest.

There have been a number of changes and additions in the staff roster. Mr. William A. McGonagle arrived in mid-August to become Assistant to the Director. Program activities, including those arranged for members, and the installation of all temporary exhibitions will be his responsibility. Mr. Ralph Glenn has joined us as an Assistant to the Director for administrative affairs. Mrs. Walter L. Prock has been named Executive Secretary for the Membership.

Mr. Louis Pohl, well-known local painter, has joined the Art School faculty as instructor in drawing and painting, and Miss Pauline Brewster has been appointed to teach the class in fashion drawing. In the Education Department, Mrs. Violet Scott has become Acting Head of the Section of Creative Art for Children, taking the post vacated by Mrs. William Kenda, who is on a year's leave of absence in order to accept an appointment as State Supervisor of Art for the Department of Education of the State of Hawaii. Mrs. Vivian Landry has become Administrative Assistant in the Department. Mrs. Maisie Johnson has become secretary in the Art School.

Two important projects made possible by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation have been completed in the last year. One is the film "Hoolalea: Traditional Dances of Hawaii," which was shown not only at the Members' Annual Meeting in July but also later at the 10th Pacific Science Congress, at the annual meeting in Philadelphia of the Society for Ethnomusicology and at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Denver this month.

The other is the Cultural Survey of the Ryukyu Islands, made in cooperation with the University of the Ryukyus and Waseda University in Japan under the direction of Mr. George H. Kerr, Advisor in Far Eastern Cultural History on the Academy staff. The monumental results of the Survey fill some 26 loose-leaf volumes in the Academy Library (copies of it being on deposit in the University of the Ryukyus and Waseda) and include a most extensive file of photographs and color slides (taken by Mr. Raymond Sato, Academy staff photographer) and other objects of documentary interest, the whole comprising a most significant body of research materials for the student of Far Eastern prehistoric and historic cultural history. Wide interest has been shown in these materials by institutions in several parts of the world, including the Library of Congress, the United States National Museum and Oxford University in England. Some of the materials were shown in the important exhibition "Study Materials from the Ryukyu Islands" arranged in the Academy to coincide with the 10th Pacific Science Congress in August-September. Still another result of the Survey was the invitation on the part of the Ryukyu Government Museum at Shuri for Mr. John Mochin Gaza of the Academy staff to visit that museum and assist it in matters having to do with installation and preservation.

The Academy's growing involvement with museums and other educational institutions on the international scene has resulted in many reasons for gratification but also carries with it heavy responsibilities. I would like to record here our profound debt of gratitude both to the heavy foundations and to the local foundations and trusts whose generosity has made it possible for the Academy to assume and discharge these new responsibilities at the same time as we continue to do our utmost to serve the best interests of the people of Hawaii.

ROBERT P. GRIFFING, JR.
Director

ACTIVITIES AT THE ACADEMY

In planning activities, The Honolulu Academy of Arts gives emphasis to the needs and interests of the community as well as to a greater understanding of the museum collections and special exhibitions.

A series of related events including the exhibition "Study Materials from the Ryukyus," the seminar on "Trade Porcelain and Stoneware in Southeast Asia" and a reception, held during the 10th Pacific Science Congress in August-September, illustrates Academy activities in conjunction with a significant occasion in Honolulu community life.

Other recent cooperative activities at the Academy during the fall of 1961 were the "Fifth Annual Exhibition of Advertising Art and Design" presented by the Artists and Art Directors Club of Hawaii; the "Annual Orchid Show" of the Honolulu Orchid Society, Inc.; the "7th Art Teaching Conference" sponsored by the Academy and the Department of Education of the State of Hawaii; and the lecture by Alfred Frankenstein, art and music critic for the San Francisco Chronicle, on "Painted Churches of Hawaii," offered by the Academy in cooperation with the American Studies Department, University of Hawaii. The lecture celebrated the recent publication of Mr. Frankenstein's book on Hawaiiana and the sweep of Christian folk art in the Pacific titled "Angels Over the Altar," with an introduction by Mr. Griffing.

During the exhibition "Art Treasures Excavated in Qataban and Oman (South Arabia)," Dr. Wendell Phillips, president-explorer of the American Foundation for the Study of Man, through whose cooperation the exhibition was held here, presented, on two occasions, the full length color film and lecture "Qataban and Sheba: An Exploration of the Ancient Biblical Spice Routes of Arabia."

The feature exhibition during November, which dealt with artists of our own time, was the "Artists of Hawaii and Honolulu Printmakers Exhibition." For the first time this annual exhibition was shown in the new gallery on the second floor of the Academy especially designed to show the works of artists of the state. The combined show, consisting of 76 works by 53 artists, was selected by two juries—one for painting and sculpture and another for prints and drawings. James W. Foster, Jr., Director, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California, served on both juries; he was joined by Kenneth Kingrey, professor, art department, University of Hawaii, and the undersigned, in selecting the paintings and sculpture. Juliette May Fraser, President, Honolulu Printmakers, and Prithwish Neogy, associate professor, art department, University of Hawaii, completed the printmakers' jury. Cash awards were given by the Academy and the Watumull Foundation purchase awards were again given through the generosity and interest of Mrs. G. J. Watumull. In addition to the Academy showing the exhibition will be seen in three other places in the state. The entire show will be on view at Hickam during Air Force Art Week and at the Maui Fairground art building. Prints and drawings will be shown at the Kauai Museum.

The concert series has been resumed, with programs planned for Sunday afternoons on the average of once a month. One special 18th century concert in the Italian gallery is scheduled for a Thursday evening in April.

Through the years the Academy has cooperated with other museums in the United States and abroad in arranging major loan exhibitions such as "Treasures from Japan" and "Masterpieces of Korean Art." On February 1, 1962 another great exhibition "Arts of Thailand" will be shown here. This major exhibit includes over 300 national treasures of Thailand traveling abroad for the first time in history. The objects gathered from Thailand's Royal Collections, the National Museum in Bangkok, ancient Buddhist monasteries and famed private Thai collections span 1400 years of the history of this colorful kingdom.

A special lecture series concerned with the "Arts of Thailand" is planned for January. The specific lectures and related activities are listed in the first 1962 Quarterly Calendar of Events which members will receive within a few days.

WILLIAM A. MCGONAGLE
Assistant to the Director

News Letter

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