



July, 1960

*Dear Members:*

The other day a mainland friend making his annual visit to the Academy told us, "It's wonderful to see so many new things, but where are all the pictures I came back to see?"

The question was a good one. The seven Chinese paintings recently shown in Munich, the Hague and Zurich are on their way to a final exhibition in Cleveland. Eleven more—including the much-loved "Hundred Geese"—comprise the exhibition closing the *Saison de Paris* at the Musée Cernuschi entitled "Le Rouleau de Ma Fèn and Quelques Autres Peintures Chinoises du Musée d'Honolulu," which visitors to the French capital will be able to see through July 24th.

In addition a selection of 100 of our finest examples of Japanese Art will be on exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum until mid-August and at the deYoung Museum in San Francisco in September-October. And the Gauguin "Two Nudes on a Tahitian Beach," which was such a success in Paris and Munich, is now included in still another Gauguin exhibition in the Belvedere in Vienna. Always generous in the matter of loans, the Trustees have broken all records during the past 12 months by agreeing to the loan to the mainland, to Europe and to Asia of just over 500 works of art. Certainly there could be no better evidence of world-wide interest in the Academy and its collections than indicated by these loans.

*Academy To Be Closed*

Members learned of the imminent closing of the Academy at the Annual Dinner on the evening of June 15th. At that time it was pointed out that although every effort had been made to find an alternative to closing down completely during the 6 months required for major repair and reconstruction, practical considerations, including the safety of the public as well as the safety of the collections, made it necessary.

The repair and reconstruction program will affect the entrance lobby, the lobbies leading to both the Oriental and the Western Wings, and all 6 of the galleries surrounding the Central Court. Thirty-five years and several million visitors have taken their toll in terms of wear and tear; the plaster ceilings *must* be replaced, and the building in general needs a great deal of detailed attention. The most drastic aspect of the program involves the demolition of the ceilings and the substitution for them of permanent structures of steel and concrete, with adequate provision being made, at long last, both for proper lighting and for ventilation.

*The Clerestory Galleries*

The new ceilings will serve another and most welcome function; by acting as floor for the space above they will make the present attic area usable for additional exhibition galleries. It will no doubt come as a surprise, even to members, that the present attic or clerestory is so large. Once the floors have been installed, the second-story window walls on the Central Court sides will be approximately 20 feet high, and the interior bounding walls alone—not counting any lateral partitioning—will provide almost exactly 600 additional running feet of wall space.

Added to this, the light from the high windows around the Central Court is so nearly perfect for paintings, particularly of the Impressionist and later schools, that artificial light will rarely be required. Thus the new area will be one ideally suited for the display of the arts of the 19th and 20th centuries, including the arts of Hawaii, to supplement the classical manifestations of Eastern and Western art shown in the ground floor galleries. Thus a long-standing need will be fulfilled.

### *Financing*

Members will recall that the goal for the Building Fund Drive for the new Educational Wing now under construction was \$625,000. Since the amount taken in so far is about \$50,000 short of that goal, and since the number of contributors (just under 1,250) is considerably smaller than the number of members, the Drive cannot be considered as having been more than a qualified success.

Under the circumstances, it was obviously out of the question to attempt to finance the program of repair and reconstruction by any extension of the Building Fund Drive. The program itself was necessary, however, so after long and careful consideration the Trustees made use of the only practical solution available, the sale of something of value—in this case the painting "Girl With Doll" by Paul Cézanne. We have agreed with the purchaser to reveal neither his identity nor the amount paid for the picture.

### *The Academy Renewed*

Thus, sometime hopefully soon after the beginning of the new year in 1961, the Academy will re-open with all the galleries reinstalled, with a new center for the Decorative Arts and an expanded Section of Asian Art provided for, with the new wing for the Educational Department and the Art School in complete operation, with a new Administrative Center and with the Clerestory Galleries in which to demonstrate the art of our time. In a very real sense the Academy will be, if not a "new" Academy, certainly an Academy which has been revitalized or renewed. We feel certain that we can all do our jobs better as a result and that members will have even more reason for pride in their association with the museum.



ROBERT P. GRIFFING, JR.

DIRECTOR

### *The Staff*

Closing does not mean a holiday for the staff—far from it. We will, in fact, be busier than ever with the manifold problems inherent in the almost total re-organization of the entire building. Members will be interested too in other projects in which the Staff is involved: Mr. George H. Kerr, Advisor in Far Eastern Cultural History, assisted by our photographer Mr. Raymond Sato, is directing a *Cultural Survey of the Ryukyus* financed by a Rockefeller Foundation grant to the Academy in which representatives of the University of Okinawa at Naha and Waseda University in Japan will cooperate. The team expects to be in the field for 4 months. Mr. Walter Fraire has just returned from Bangkok where he supervised the packing of the exhibition "The

*Arts of Thailand,"* lent by the Royal Thai Government and private collectors for showing in the U.S. (coming here in early 1962). Mr. Francis Haar, internationally noted cinematographer, has arrived to make a *film of the classical Hawaiian hula* as performed by Iolani Luahine—another project made possible by a Rockefeller Foundation grant. The Director will be Director of the Unesco-Japanese Government sponsored *Seminar of Asian-Pacific Museums* in Tokyo throughout September. Dr. Gustav Ecke, Curator of Chinese Art, is working on his manuscript for the publication *Chinese Paintings in Hawaii*, for which a magnificent series of color and collotype reproductions is being made in Paris now. Dr. Richard Lane, *Research Fellow in Ukiyo-e*, will spend July in the Academy's section of Japanese Prints before returning to Tokyo.

## MEMBERSHIP

### *Members' Council*

At the Annual Meeting on June 15 the membership unanimously elected the following officers to govern the Members' Council for 1960-61: Chairman, Rudolph A. Peterson; vice chairmen, Richard Summers and Mrs. Harold Au; secretary, Mrs. E. C. Moore, Jr.; trustees to the Academy, J. Robert Judd, Jr. and Dr. Yukuo Uyehara.

Chairmen of the music, exhibitions, membership and social committees are appointive and will be announced later.

### *Calendar Temporarily Suspended*

The Members' Calendar which is published quarterly will be suspended during the period of reconstruction.

### *Unique Opportunity for Members*

The closing of the Academy obviously means the cessation of activities for members for the remainder of the year. Memberships, however, remain an essential source of income for us and we are constantly enlisting new members.

Because of the closing we are offering for the first time and for a limited time only a unique privilege. For \$15 *new* members may join the Academy and receive a membership for the balance of 1960 plus a copy of James A. Michener's distinguished book, "Japanese Prints from the Early Masters to the Modern" (Retail price \$15). Couples may receive two memberships and one copy of the book for only \$25. An ideal gift for weddings, anniversaries and birthdays. Please fill out the blank on the next page and mail to the membership office.



MRS. DAVID W. EYRE

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS  
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*Gift membership blank for NEW members only*

- Enclosed is my check for \$15 for one 1960 membership and a copy of "Japanese Prints" (Actual value \$25).
- Enclosed is my check for \$25 for a family membership and one copy of "Japanese Prints" (Actual value \$35).

Please mail "Japanese Prints" with special book plate inscribed with the name as printed below:

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City ..... Zone.....

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The membership card will be sent to you inserted in a handsome pocket-size note book inscribed with the Academy medallion in gold. Also included is a calendar and pen. This is a special gift from a friend of the Academy.

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