



February, 1960

Dear Members:

An art museum is a glamorous place. Its galleries comprise a real treasure house of man's most cherished and best protected heritage. By its very nature it is a show-place, and the better the show the greater the opportunity for educational and cultural advancement for the public at large.

To most of our hundred thousand or so visitors each year, the Academy *appears* so prosperous because of the glittering quality of what it contains that these visitors are always amazed to learn that the Academy receives *no support whatever* in the form of public funds. This fact is even more incredible to many since 85% of American museums would not exist at all unless a substantial portion—or all—of their annual budgets came from this one source. Of so-called major American art museums, in fact, only two or three possess the means to operate effectively independent of assistance from the City, the State, or the Nation.

The Academy is one of America's major art museums. It is also the only art museum which the majority of our population can ever see. Its nearest neighbor is twenty-five hundred miles distant across an ocean. It performs an educational function which has been a model for other art museums throughout the world. It is a tourist attraction of the highest magnitude. It is known throughout the world as one of the brightest ornaments in Hawaii's crown and commands respect for this State in remote corners of the earth. The Academy is, in fact, a symbol of the cultural maturity of these Islands.

The matter of finances, however, is one of constantly pressing concern to those of us who are charged with the Academy's administration. The Academy's operating expenses—in spite of staff cutbacks to the limit of human capacity to perform—run from two to three times the cost of basic operations fifteen years ago because of the rising costs of all commodities and services over that period of time. Our income level, however, cannot rise anywhere nearly in proportion to necessary outlay, which is a situation with which every privately endowed organization is intimately familiar.

As a result, the Academy must appeal to foundations, trusts, business, industry, and individuals each year for a sum in the approximate amount of \$50,000—not to expand services, but simply to enable us to conduct a holding operation—to keep the Academy open, lighted, and clean for public use, and to provide a minimal level of opportunity for public education. Special projects are never budgeted; they are supported by special grants made by local and national foundations. The most important business of acquiring works of art is also never budgeted. Additions to the collections come to us as gifts or as the result of converting less applicable parts of the collections into funds to be reinvested in works of art.

Obviously this is a burden of major concern, and so once again, as three times in the past, the Academy is asking the public to assume a part of that burden—\$25,000 annually—in the form of financial help from the State Legislature. Past appeals have been unproductive, in spite of the urgency of the situation, and in spite of the fact that the reason for the existence of the Academy is entirely to serve the public.

Actually, the matter becomes more urgent with the passage of time. Therefore, we earnestly solicit the help of all our members in this appeal. Please write your Senators and your Representatives, or speak to them. They are busy men and they must make many decisions of crucial importance to the development of your State. They will understand that this is a matter of importance to everyone, and your help in reenforcing the Academy's appeal can be the fullest evidence of your belief in the Academy and in the importance of a healthy educational and cultural climate for the Hawaii of the future.



The New Look in the Galleries

Two major changes have taken place in the galleries within recent weeks. Gallery 15 has taken on the aspect of a Japanese Buddhist temple, thanks to the gift by Mr. Robert Allerton of one of the most important sculptures ever to have left that country—a lacquered and gilded wood figure of Dainichi Nyorai, the Universal Buddha identified in Sanskrit as Vairocana, dating from the middle of the 9th century A.D. With this new central focus, Gallery 15 provides an opportunity unparalleled in any museum outside Japan, with the possible exception of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, for the study and enjoyment of the classical manifestations of Japanese religious sculpture.

On the opposite side of the building in Gallery 5, the Robert Allerton Fund has made possible the acquisition of three exquisitely painted panels of human figures, animals, and "grotesqueries" on a gold background, and four "trophy" carvings with designs of musical instruments and trophies of the chase of unsurpassable elegance and craftsmanship. Coming to us from one of Europe's most distinguished private collections, these superb decorations provide elegant evidence of French 18th century concepts of beauty and quality at their zenith.

Travelling Masterpieces

Almost 200 examples of Hawaiian art (in its Polynesian aspects) from the Academy's collections were shown together with a like number belonging to the Bishop Museum in 5 Japanese cities during the last months of 1959 and have now returned to Honolulu. The success of this tour has been echoed by the tremendous public interest accorded the exhibition of "Masterpieces of Chinese Painting," including 7 of our finest Chinese pictures, which opened in Munich in September and has been shown since in Zurich on its way to Amsterdam.

More recently, the Academy's "Two Nudes on a Tahitian Beach" by Paul Gauguin has received wide acclaim in the Galerie Charpentier's exhibition of 100 works by the French master in Paris. The painting has been reproduced on the poster announcing the show, a copy of which may be seen in the entrance lobby. And now the Academy is preparing an exhibition of Masterpieces of Japanese Art from the collections to tour four major museums on the mainland throughout the summer and early autumn. Further details will be announced at a later date.



DIRECTOR

ROBERT P. GRIFFING, JR.

MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Spoehr Spotlights Cambodia

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Director of the Bishop Museum, will recount his experiences at world famed Angkor Wat and adjoining temple compounds in an illustrated lecture, "Cambodia—The Mystery of the Khmers" on Wednesday morning, March 23. His lecture will be preceded by coffee for members only at 10. The public is invited to attend the evening event on March 24.

Oriental Flower Arrangements

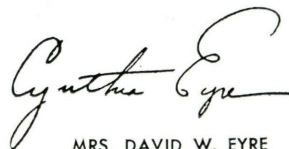
The third in a series of classes on the art of flower arrangement will illustrate basic principles of Oriental design on Wednesday, March 9, with Mrs. W. W. Goodale Moir presiding. The final demonstration in April will be given by Caroline Peterson, who will specialize on the uses of native Hawaiian material. Tickets are on sale at the information desk.

Symphony in Silk Nets \$1000

The Hui Manaolana has presented the Building Fund of the Academy with \$1000, proceeds from their gala fashion show of Japanese silks. The Academy sends warmest aloha to Mrs. Howard Honda, Mrs. Shigeru Ohye, Mrs. Jack K. Wakayama, Mrs. Edward N. Yamasaki, Mrs. James J. Inouye, Mrs. Edward T. Ishii, Miss Fumiko Kuramoto, Mrs. Richard Miyamoto, Miss Edith Tokimasa, Mrs. Takeo Kishida, and Mrs. Fred S. Kagihara.

That Time of Year Again

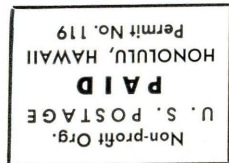
A new billing system based on IBM processing went into effect this month. Please let us know if there are any corrections or changes of address on your annual dues notice.



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MRS. DAVID W. EYRE

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS
900 SOUTH BERETANIA ST., HONOLULU 14, HAWAII



Letter News

Welcome to New Members

Mrs. Granville D. Abbott, III, Mr. Kenneth Akiyama, Mr. Takashi Anbe, Mrs. Richard E. Ando, Mrs. Leo F. Andre, Mrs. Allen W. Anderson, Mrs. Page R. Anderson, Mrs. Theodore Andersson, Mrs. Mitsuo Aoki, Dr. Philip S. Arthur, Dr. Ezra R. Austin, Dr. Mario P. Bautista, Mrs. Evans F. Bell, Mrs. Thomas S. Bennett, Mrs. Joseph Bevilacqua, Mrs. Frank E. Bodine, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowman, Mrs. Henry W. Buscher, Mrs. Milton D. Beamer, Jr., Mrs. Jack L. Becker, Mrs. Lawrence M. Bott, Mrs. Jerome V. Brugger, Mrs. Kenneth R. Chamberlain, Mrs. Kayo R. Chung, Mrs. William C. H. Chung, Mrs. Robert Clancy, Mrs. James Crase, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crum, Mrs. Paul R. Cassidy, Mrs. Robert E. Chandler, Mrs. George Chaplin, Mr. William C. H. Chung, Dr. Frances Cottingham, Mrs. Henry E. Damon, Miss Jane B. Davidson, Mr. Thomas J. Davies, Mr. Karl A. de Flon, Mrs. Hugh R. Duffield, Mrs. Vincent S. Durfee, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Damon, Jr., Mrs. Gordon H. Damon, Miss Katharine F. Evans, Col. and Mrs. Robert F. Evans, Mrs. Dean A. Eyre, Jr., Mrs. Joseph Flores, Mrs. William G. Foster, Mrs. Gerard S. Fowler, Mrs. Helen Frasier, Mrs. David E. Foster, Mrs. Patrick F. Garvey, Miss A. Janet Gault, Mrs. Rinna Natalia Greason, Mr. Thomas P. Goodbody, Mrs. John T. Goss, Mr. Ivars Gutmanis, Mrs. Henry Harper, Mrs. Harry M. Hale, Mrs. Ralph M. Heinicke, Dr. George W. Henry, Mr. Milton Holst, Mrs. Ralph C. Honda, Mr. Norman S. Halsey, III, Mr. Harry M. Hikita, Mrs. William M. Johnson, Sr., Mrs. Livingston Jenks, Jr., Mrs. Charles C. Keeney, Mr. Earl Y. Kimura, Mrs. Garfield King, Miss Sheila King, Mr. Setsuya Kotani, Mr. Robert K. Kono, Mr. Jack W. Lowe, Mr. William J. Lederer, Mr. and Mrs. James W. McClendon, Mrs. Robert McCorriston, Jr., Mrs. Frank E. McKenzie, Mrs. George W. McLaughlin, Mrs. Philip P. Maxwell, Jr., Mrs. Jean M. Mielzinger, Mrs. George W. Murphy, Mrs. William W. McCarthy, Mrs. John F. Nash, Mrs. Charles E. Nelson, Mr. Hajime Okuda, Mrs. Malcolm R. Peters, Mrs. Gordon L. Pattison, Mrs. William W. Peterson, Mrs. Arthur B. Reinwald, Mrs. John Preston Russell, Mrs. Phillip Schneeberger, Mrs. Henry L. Schultz, Mrs. J. Floyd Scott, Mr. Harry Shupak, Mrs. Edwin Sorenson, Mrs. Ross Sutherland, Mrs. Aimee T. Spurlack, Mrs. Warren Stone, Mrs. Rose C. Sayers, Mr. G. Donald Sherman, Mr. William L. Stroup, Mr. John S. Takehara, Mr. James Takamiya, Mr. Joseph M. Tepper, Mr. Benjamin F. Tompkins, Mrs. Stuart W. Tompkins, Mrs. Robert H. Trumbull, Mr. Samuel Tupaz, Mr. Cornelis W. Van Dyck, Mrs. Ralph A. Villiers, Mrs. Urban E. Wild, Mrs. Ronald F. Wilson, Mr. Harold Y. T. Wong, Miss Marjorie M. Young, Mr. Jack K. Yuen.
