

CALENDAR NEWS Honolulu Academy of Arts

MADONNA AND CHILD, ST. BARBARA AND ST. CATHERINE,
WITH KNEELING DONOR (detail)

Rhine region, Germany, ca. 1530-1550
linen and wool tapestry, h. 39", w. 69"
Robert Allerton Fund Purchase, 1976



A TAPESTRY FROM THE RHINELAND

One of the Academy's most important recent acquisitions is a late medieval church tapestry, a detail of which is illustrated on this month's cover. Woven of wool and linen, it is a devotional picture of the Madonna holding the infant Christ standing between Saints Barbara and Catherine of Alexandria. The donor of the tapestry, shown as a Benedictine nun, kneels by her coat of arms just to the left of the Madonna's feet. It is believed that this figure represents Amelie von Oberkirch, who from 1527 to 1568 was Abbess of an abbey church in the lower Rhineland which still stands in what today is the Alsace region of France.

The figures stand in a garden setting in front of a trellis entwined with flowers and on which are perched a variety of birds, providing it with a rich symbolic as well as decorative appeal. According to A. S. Cavallo, scholar and expert who is researching this and other textiles in the Academy's collection in preparation for the major exhibition of this material in fall 1977, the Academy's tapestry is a particularly fine example giving a strong sense of the weaver's presence in the areas of twisted and patted yarns showing technical struggle and solution in the execution of this sumptuous design in dominant, rich reds, blues and yellows (which remain clear and unfaded, thanks to the practice of hanging church tapestries only a few times a year).

The tapestry, which will be one of the major highlights of the future textile exhibition, is currently on view in Gallery 4 as a replacement for the Academy's *Semiramis* tapestry, recently on loan to the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, Japan in the *Exhibition of Masterpieces, East and West, from American Museum Collections*.

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW WING

In late November ground was broken and construction began on the new wing commemorating the Academy's 50th Anniversary. Constructors Hawaii Inc. was selected as contractor for the three-story structure, designed by John Hara Associates Inc. The wing will include a 290-seat lecture hall, major gallery space for the permanent collection of contemporary art and new administrative offices; remodeling of former office areas will provide additional gallery space for collections of African, pre-Columbian, Oceanic and Hawaiian traditional arts. Construction is estimated to be completed in about nine months, with an inaugural exhibition in the new wing planned for fall 1977. The generous response from corporations, foundations and individuals solicited in the initial

phases of the 50th Anniversary Building Fund campaign to raise the \$1.5 million needed to construct the facility and provide an endowment for operating expenses has been a gratifying indication of the Academy's reputation and standing in the community. As the campaign enters the crucial final stages, the Academy's all-important family of supporters — its Members — will soon receive letters asking for personal contributions toward this goal.

Other changes are also under way in and about the Academy. Galleries 18 and 19, devoted to Chinese painting, sculpture and decorative arts, are closed for renovation under a project supported by the National Endowment for the Arts to reorganize the Asian arts exhibition areas and incorporate a new gallery devoted to the arts of Korea. The Academy also has new parking facilities with the surfacing and landscaping of two lots in the 1000 blocks of Kinau and Beretania Streets; the Kinau lot is reserved for Academy staff, and the Beretania lot (mid-block, mauka side) provides parking for volunteers and museum visitors.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In anticipation of new gallery space for the traditional arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas which is included in 50th Anniversary expansion plans, the Academy continues to enlarge its holdings in these areas. Recent additions include an extremely fine *u'u* staff club from the Marquesas Islands, a Maori ceremonial canoe paddle from New Zealand, a female votive figure from the Middle Sepik area of New Guinea and a large *Porpianong* (hornbill bird) sculpture from the Senufo tribe, Ivory Coast, Africa.

SERGE LIFAR COLLECTION

From December 3 to January 2 the Academy will exhibit an important collection of ballet set and costume designs executed for Serge de Diaghilev, catalyst and creative genius of the great *Ballet Russe*. Diaghilev achieved fame for his successful blending of the talents of dancers, choreographers, artists and composers into the greatest ballet productions of the early twentieth century. On his death in 1929, Diaghilev left his collection to Serge Lifar, his last favorite male dancer, who had developed a passion for modern art through contact with artists who revolved about Diaghilev's fascinating world. The Lifar Collection was acquired in 1933 by the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, lender of this exhibition, and has been augmented by the museum's purchase of related materials in recent years.

The Lifar Collection has been called one of the most influential and inspirational bodies of practical historic materials for theatrical designers. Its importance to both the history of theater and to painting in the twentieth century cannot be overestimated, for the collection contains drawings and sketches by many of the most important School of Paris artists, including Matisse, Picasso, Leger, Rouault and Modigliani. Highlights of the collection include a group of costume studies by Leon Bakst, who was responsible for some of the most opulent ballet productions ever seen, drawings by rarely seen Russian avant-garde artists such as Nathalie Gontcharova and early works by artists who later achieved fame in the Surrealist group such as Max Ernst, Giorgio de Chirico, Jean Cocteau and Pavel Tchelitchew. In all, 129 works by 27 artists and reflecting the major developments of cubism, meta-physical realism, surrealism and abstract art will be on view. (Members' preview reception, Thursday, December 2, 8-10 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS SIGHT AND SOUND EXHIBITION

Realms of Glory, a concert of Christmas music ranging from a mass to popular carols by Na Kani Pela Choir from the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace with accompanying large rear projections of Christmas themes in works of art, will be held again this year in the Kinau Court from 7-10 p.m. on December 17 and 18 (concert begins at 8 p.m.). The court will be transformed into a candle-lit cloister with a changing procession of religious images from paintings, sculpture and stained glass illustrating the Christmas story projected on large screens. Free.

YOU CAN FIND MANY CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS AT THE ACADEMY SHOP.

Lifar Collection: Picasso sketch for setting of the ballet LE TRICORNE



RENAISSANCE ART LECTURES SERIES

On January 6, 10 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. the Academy is sponsoring a subscription series of three lectures by Italian art scholar Frederick Hartt titled *The Triumph of the High Renaissance in Rome*. Individual titles of the three lectures are: *Bramante's St. Peter's and the Tomb of Julius II*; *The Sistine Ceiling* and *Raphael in Rome*. Dr. Hartt is currently professor of art history at the University of Virginia and has taught previously at Smith College, Washington University and the University of Pennsylvania. He has published extensively on Italian Renaissance art, including his most recent book, *Michelangelo's Three Pietas*. Subscription tickets for the series are available from the Academy for \$8 (single admission will be \$3.50); send a check to Renaissance Lectures, Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu 96814. This lecture series is supported by a grant-in-aid from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in federal/state partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

CHRISTMAS AT THE ACADEMY

Christmas will be celebrated in the Academy galleries this year with one-hour tours open to all elementary grades from November 30 through December 17. Students will visit the medieval and Renaissance galleries to view paintings, sculpture and stained glass panels illustrating the Nativity theme. They will have an opportunity to see personal Christmas cards by modern artists in the Graphic Arts Gallery. A special part of the program is a puppet performance by Calvin Tamura set in a medieval atmosphere around a fireplace and among Christmas trees. For tour appointments please call Gallery Education, 538-3693, ext. 55.

SPALDING HOUSE

Utagawa Toyokuni (1769-1825) has often been criticized as the least original of all the leading ukiyo-e designers. In a special exhibition, *Toyokuni, The Great Imitator* (December 7-January 9), drawn from the James A. Michener Collection, Toyokuni's eclectic adaptation of other artists' styles will be considered. Although his talent was predominantly imitative, this master was able to emulate the finer points of any artist he chose for inspiration, often surpassing his original model.

In addition to viewing this new print exhibition, you can make an afternoon of your visit and also view the *Ancient Funerary Art* exhibition, shop for cards and gift items in the small shop, take a quiet stroll or tour through the gardens and have tea on the lanai (served only on Thursdays).



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 1976

- Through December 5 CHILDREN IN UKIYO-E, Spalding House.
- Through January 2 ARTISTS' CHRISTMAS CARDS, Graphic Arts Gallery.
- Through February 20 ANCIENT FUNERARY ART, Spalding House.
- December 3 SERGE LIFAR COLLECTION OF BALLET SETS AND COSTUME DESIGNS. Through January 2. (Members' Preview Reception, Thursday, December 2, 8-10 p.m.)
- December 7 TOYOKUNI, THE GREAT IMITATOR, Spalding House. Through January 9.
- December 8 Extension Services traveling exhibition, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN WOODCUTS AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS, Library. Through December 29.
- December 17 Garden Cafe closes after lunch for Christmas vacation, reopens January 11.
- December 17 and 18 CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT, *Realms of Glory*, 7-10 p.m., concert at 8 p.m., Kinau Court.
- December 18 Exhibition of work from young people's fall art classes, Opening Reception, 2-4 p.m. Through January 2.
- December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY, Academy and Spalding House closed.
- THE GARDEN CAFE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DEC. 18 UNTIL JAN. 11.

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

GALLERIES OPEN Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday, 2-5 p.m.
Closed Monday. **SPALDING HOUSE** Tuesday through Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m.