

# HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

## NEWS BULLETIN AND CALENDAR

VOLUME II

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NUMBER 4

### CHINESE TOMB FIGURE

The recent gift, from the Estate of Mrs. C. M. Cooke, Sr., of a T'ang dynasty (618-907 A.D.) iron figure of a dancing woman makes a notable addition to the Academy's collection of Chinese tomb statuettes.

Tomb figures—the glazed and painted statues of prancing horses, graceful dancers and tomb attendants—are familiar to layman and scholar alike, and need no interpretation to make their appeal. What distinguishes the present figure is the fact that it is made of cast iron, rather than clay, the customary medium for these pieces.

The history of tomb statuettes is an interesting one, though our knowledge concerning the origin of the need for grave figures is not complete. The earliest known pieces date from about the first century A.D., though the custom of burying small figures of human and animal representations of straw and clay existed prior to this date. Some regard the making of statuettes as part of a hybrid folklore, which first combined both pure Chinese and alien-barbarian beliefs, and later was influenced by Buddhism as well. The idea does not seem to have originated in the practice of burying living servants and animals in the tombs of the dead. This was a custom known to have existed in China since early times, but was not a common practice and was discouraged by Confucius, Mo Ti and others. It seems more closely associated with ancestor worship.

The popular belief in the soul's survival developed an extensive funeral ceremony in which these models—of living servants, pets, entertainers, as well as food, utensils and farm buildings—played

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### PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITIONS

The preservation of the ancient chants and hulas, some of which are now known to but a few old Hawaiians, is the source of much concern here and the program to be given at the Academy on Wednesday evening, April 3, at eight o'clock, has been planned to stimulate interest in the rich folk heritage of the Hawaiian peoples.

On April 10 and 11 an exhibition of Japanese Flower Arrangements will be shown in Gallery XXII. Fourteen masters of this ancient art will contribute to the exhibition, representing seven schools of *Ikebana: Sogetsu, Misho, Ikenobu, Ohara, Ensho, Koriyu, Baisa,*

On the evening of April 11 at eight o'clock there will be a public demonstration of the Japanese Tea Ceremony. This ceremony, commonly known as *Cha-no-yu*, is one of great simplicity and is woven around tea, flowers and paintings. Every movement and gesture is full of meaning and is simply and naturally performed. Because it is difficult for Westerners to understand these gestures, there will be an interpreter to describe the movements as they occur.

The Educational Department has planned a Craft Festival, to be held on April 17 in the Children's Court. During the day there will be demonstrations of weaving, pottery making, and wood carving. Children from the schools will be invited to visit the Academy, so that they may see the various types of work in process. An exhibition of craft work from several countries will likewise be shown at this time.

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## HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS

C. M. Cooke, Jr., *President*

Honolulu, Hawaii

C. H. Cooke, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Theodore Richards, *Vice-President*

CHINESE TOMB FIGURE

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an important part. These were placed in the tomb for the soul of the deceased, so that life in the next world would be safe and pleasant for him, and peace assured for his descendants who might otherwise be visited by his starving and unhappy soul.

During the Han dynasty the equipment was crudely simple, but by the T'ang period the ritual had become more elaborate. Records of funeral rites of the time state that the number of statuettes and their quality was established according to rank. Funeral statuettes of princes were made by a department of model-makers and were kept in special storerooms. Members of society vied with each other in the extent and quality of their funeral processions, until finally the Emperor re-proved them for such lavishness and for the street display of these articles.

While a few pieces were made to order by individual artists, pottery figures were usually made by skilled artisans or craftsmen, in mass production. However, this did not destroy their freshness and vitality.

The iron dancing lady acquired by the Academy possesses the natural freshness and vital rhythm found in the most appealing of these statuettes. The movement of the dancer is arrested, her body slightly turned at the waist. With a sideward glance and arm upraised, she seems ready to move into the dance. The simple, flowing lines of her dress follow the subtle body movement. She wears a high-waisted garment with skirt gathered in by a sash. The traditional dancer's full sleeves drop from the elbow in a wing-like pattern. It is difficult to determine from the present condition of the figure if she is wearing a small hat, or if her hair is arranged high on her head. There are two small holes, possibly for hair ornaments, on either side of the hat or coiffure.

This T'ang tomb sculpture is now on view in Gallery XVIII.

PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

An exhibition of drawings and sculpture by Isamu Noguchi, who arrives in Honolulu during April, will be hung in Gallery X from April 30 to May 12. The Academy has in its collection a fine bronze head of Martha Graham and another of a Japanese Girl by this artist.

ANNUAL REPORT

The *Annual Report* for 1939 is now ready for distribution to members of the Honolulu Art Society. Copies may be secured by inquiring at the information desk, Beretania Street entrance.

HONOLULU ART SOCIETY

"Streamlining the Early Island Home" will be discussed by Greta Gollmer in the final lecture in the series on "Furniture Design and Home Decoration," to be given at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 3. Following the talk a visit will be made to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Moody on the Old Pali Road. Only members of the Society are invited.

"The Downtown Office," the last exhibition in the architectural series, will be arranged by Hart Wood, who will speak on this subject at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, April 16.

Art objects, lent from private collections for the Society's annual spring exhibition, will be on view in Galleries I and XIII from April 5 to 28. The show will open on Thursday evening, April 4, with a preview and reception for members and their friends.

The concluding program in the lecture-demonstration series on "The Arts Integrated in the Dance", arranged by the Kulamanu Studio, will be presented at ten-thirty o'clock on Thursday morning, April 18. "Literature and the Dance" will be discussed briefly by Louisa Clark Williams, with specific emphasis on the

# HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS NEWS BULLETIN AND CALENDAR

historic background. Following this there will be a presentation of William Butler Yeats' play, "The Hawk's Well," under the direction of Arthur E. Wyman, Associate Professor of Dramatic Art at the University of Hawaii. Among those assisting will be Charlotte Cades, Josephine Taylor and David Campbell.

Angna Enters, famous dance-mime, who will arrive in Honolulu on April 17, has agreed to be present on this occasion and to speak on the relation of drama to the dance.

Since few people will be venturing beyond our own shores until the present world crisis is past, plans for the annual series of travel talks have been abandoned. Instead, the Art Society has arranged a series of lectures on American Museums, to be given during April and May. The subjects and speakers are listed below:

- April 18—8:00 p.m.—"Museums of the Pacific Coast," by Claudia Stearns and Marcia Marple.  
May 2—8:00 p.m.—"Museums of the Middle West," by Mrs. Norman Schenck.  
May 16—8:00 p.m.—"New England Museums," by Caroline Gleick.  
June 6—8:00 p.m.—"East Coast Museums," by Mrs. S. Harrington Littell.

New annual members of the Honolulu Art Society are:

Mrs. Edmund C. Abrams, Mrs. Leon O. Alford, Mrs. Stafford L. Austin, Mrs. C. W. Best, Mrs. J. J. Carney, Mrs. George S. Carreiro, Mrs. Northrup Haviland Castle, Dr. Louise S. Childs, Miss Olive Cunningham, Mrs. Paul Fagan, Jr., Mr. William T. Frost, Mrs. Henry L. Gibson, Mr. Charles F. Honeywell, Mrs. E. L. Kennedy, Mrs. Adelaide Kidder, Miss Sibyl Kidder, Miss Loraine Kuck, Mrs. Marcus C. Lester, Mrs. Hans L'Orange, Mrs. C. Arthur Mackintosh, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore E. Merriam, Mrs. W. F. Montgomery, Mrs. Daniel Morrison, Mrs. John Henry Newton, Mrs. A. C. Nicoll, Mr. and Mrs. Haydn H. Phillips, Mrs. Charles C. Pittam, Mrs. Louis Price, Miss H. Estelle Roe, Mrs. Carl J. Schiffers, Mr. C. L. Thomas, Mrs. Palmer Tucker, Mrs. Jo K. Warner, Miss Ann Harlow Wilkinson.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### PERMANENT COLLECTION

#### GIFTS

- Anonymous—French fan, mother of pearl sticks, inlaid with gold, early 19th century.  
Miss H. E. A. Castle—Bronze plaque, portrait in relief of Miss H. E. A. Castle.  
Estate of Mrs. C. M. Cooke, Sr.—Chinese tomb figure of a dancing woman, T'ang dynasty.

### PRINT COLLECTION

#### GIFTS

- Members of the Charles H. Atherton Estate—94 prints, in several media, by European and American artists of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.  
Dr. C. Montague Cooke, Jr.—13 prints by 20th century American artists.  
A. S. MacLeod—Lithograph: A. S. MacLeod, "Hauula Fisherman."

### LIBRARY

#### GIFTS

- Mrs. Thomas S. Abel—British Colour Council, Horticultural Colour Chart.  
Miss H. E. A. Castle—Colas: Styles de la Renaissance en France; Colum: At the Gateways of the Day; Colum: Legends of Hawaii; D'Ooge: Acropolis of Athens; Kelly: Shakespearian Costume for Stage and Screen; Mackenzie: Castles of England; Verhaegen: La dentelle Belge; Vitruvius: The Ten Books on Architecture.  
Dr. Frank L. Pleadwell—Palliser: History of Lace.  
Mrs. Alice F. Poole—Kley: Skizzenbuch II.  
Mrs. Philip E. Spalding—McClelland: Practical Book of Decorative Wall-Treatments; Menpes: Gainsborough; Worcester Art Museum: The Worcester-Philadelphia Exhibition of Flemish Painting.

### SCHOOL LENDING COLLECTION

#### GIFTS

- Mrs. Theodore A. Cooke—Japanese Doll Day lacquer toilet and tea sets; Samoan tapa and woven mat.  
Punahou School—4 watercolors: R. C. Barnfield, Hawaiian scenes; 1 oil: Furneaux, View of Hilo.  
Mrs. Philip E. Spalding—Model of Egyptian boat and mummy case.  
Mrs. Douglas Young—Doll and hand-woven coin bag from Bolivia.

#### PURCHASES

- Objects—20 Chinese shadow puppets made of donkey hide; 4 southeastern European dolls; 9 examples of contemporary weaving made by Dorothy Liebes; Bolivian spoon, hand-woven meal bag and blanket; early American bean pot, toaster, wooden bowl, pestle and mortar, stoneware crock, candlesticks.  
Pictures—64 color reproductions of 17th to 19th century paintings.

# HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS NEWS BULLETIN AND CALENDAR

## CALENDAR

April.

- 2—14—Exhibition of Hawaiian Crafts.
- 2—21—Paintings by Angna Enters.
- 2—28—Architectural Prints, Exhibition.
- 3—10:00 a.m.—“Streamlining the Early Island Homes,” talk by Greta Gollmer.\*
- 3— 8:00 p.m.—Program of Hawaiian Hulas and Chants.
- 4— 4:30 p.m.—Public Phonograph Concert. Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony. Brahms’s Variations on a Theme by Haydn.
- 4— 8:00 p.m.—Preview—Art Society Show.
- 4—28—Art Objects from Private Collections, Honolulu Art Society Exhibition.
- 4—28—“The Downtown Office,” arranged by Hart Wood.\*
- 5—10:30 a.m.—Public Tour of all Galleries.
- 5— 2:00 p.m.—Story Hour.†
- 6-27—Exhibition of Crafts — Pottery, Metal, Wood, etc.
- 9—10:30 a.m.—“What is the Matter with American Painting?” lecture by Claudia Stearns.‡
- 10—11—Japanese Flower Arrangement Exhibition.
- 11— 4:30 p.m.—Public Phonograph Concert. Rimsky-Korsakow’s Scheherazade.
- 11— 8:00 p.m.—Japanese Tea Ceremony.
- 12—10:30 a.m.—“The Chinese Collections,” public gallery talk by Marcia Marple.
- 16—10:30 a.m.—“Painting, a New Art in Hawaii,” lecture by Claudia Stearns.‡

- 16— 8:00 p.m.—“The Downtown Office,” lecture by Hart Wood.\*
  - 16—28—Scandinavian Arts and Crafts, Exhibition.
  - 17—All day—Craft Festival.
  - 18—10:30 a.m.—Lecture - demonstration on the Dance.\*
  - 18— 4:30 p.m.—Public phonograph concert. Tschaiakowsky’s Symphony No. 5 in E Minor.
  - 18— 8:00 p.m.—“Pacific Coast Museums,” lecture by Claudia Stearns and Marcia Marple.\*
  - 19—10:30 a.m.—“The Japanese Collections,” public gallery talk by Caroline Gleick.
  - 21— 4:00 p.m.—Symphony talk by Fritz Hart.
  - 21— 4:45 p.m.—Concert by Lyric Ensemble, directed by Kenneth Holt.
  - 22— 7:30 p.m.—Annual Meeting, Honolulu Artists’ Association.
  - 23—10:30 a.m.—“The Painting of Children,” lecture by Kathrine Jenks.‡
  - 25— 8:00 p.m.—Folk Festival, Swe-Nor-Den Club.
  - 26—10:30 a.m.—“The Indian and Korean Collections,” public gallery talk by Marcia Marple.
  - 30—10:30 a.m.—“Why Paul Cezanne?” lecturer to be announced.‡
  - 30 to May 12—Drawings and Sculpture by Isamu Noguchi, Exhibition.
  - 30 to May 12—Elementary School Art.
  - 30 to May 12—Exhibition of High School Prints.
  - 30 to June 2—Polynesian Arts and Crafts.
- \* Honolulu Art Society program.  
 † One of a series given each week.  
 ‡ “Modern Master” lecture series for adults. There is a small registration fee.

**HOURS OF ADMISSION**—Free at all times: Open Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays from 3 to 6 p.m. **EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**—The lending collection of objects, pictures, slides and phonograph records is available to all teachers. Schools wishing appointments for visiting the Academy or for talks by staff members may make them by calling the Educational Office. **PRINT ROOM AND REFERENCE LIBRARY**—Open during Academy hours. **THE HONOLULU ART SOCIETY**, affiliated with the Academy, has an office in the Oriental wing. Executive Secretary, Mrs. Arthur E. Restarick.

EDGAR CRAIG SCHENCK, *Director.*

MARVELL ALLISON HART, *Editor.*

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