

May, 1958

Dear Member:

On April 7 the Academy celebrated its 30th birthday. It was fitting for staff, trustees and friends to pause and consider our progress over the last three decades, and project our plans for the future.

Long Thoughts at Thirty. Mr. Robert P. Griffing, Jr., director of the Academy, in thoughtful mood, was asked by this reporter: "What is the stature of our Academy in the museum world today?"

"During the past 30 years the museum has become a major educational center and a research and exhibiting organization of world-wide renown especially in the field of Oriental art. Our collections, too, have grown significantly to the point where the Academy is one of a handful of great concentrations of Asian art in the Western world, with many important landmarks in European and American art as well."

"Has this growth in scope and stature brought any growing pains?"

"The growth of the Academy as a collection and as an active organization is gratifying in many ways, but it has resulted in an acute need for more space in which to exhibit works of art, to educate both young and adult audiences, and to present the living arts of music, dance and the film, and to house the professional staff required to operate such a major organization."

"Which departments have the most pressing needs?"

"The most immediate and urgent need is for expanded space for educational activities. Working in close cooperation with the Department of Public Instruction, the University of Hawaii, and the private schools of the Territory, our Educational Department plays host to 40,000 students each year, and there is no doubt that this number would increase significantly, and we could serve them more effectively, if more space and staff were available.

"Plans are now on the drawing board for an educational wing, on the mauka-ewa corner of the Academy property, and it is expected that the building will cost approximately \$500,000. As plans for this addition develop, the future extension of the building in a Waikiki direction along the Kinau Street side of the property is also being kept in mind. This addition would include an auditorium, additional gallery space, storage, administrative and research areas."

"Are we spearheading any original ideas in museum thinking?"

"Yes," Mr. Griffing continued, "the Academy and the Bishop Museum are exploring avenues of future cooperation in the study of the entire Pacific-Far East area and the educational application of that study. Such a joint effort would be unique in the history of museums. It could, we believe, contribute greatly to a deeper understanding of the significance of the Pacific-Orient as an area that is of pressing importance to the history that mankind is writing today.

"In connection with these plans and projects, the Academy has retained the George A. Brakeley Company, members of the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel. This firm will survey the cultural fund-raising potential of this community. The survey is not a direct appeal for funds, but from it should come an analysis of the Academy's importance to the community that will serve as a guide for our thinking and planning. More than 50 persons will be interviewed by Brakeley representatives and the Academy is deeply indebted to these friends for their kokua. The survey will be conducted under the general supervision of Mr. Brakeley, assisted by Mr. Kenneth Setterdahl, Mr. Fred Hubbart and Mr. Earl Winderman."

Spring Fancy. Teams of top decorators, designers and architects have been working for weeks on elaborate blueprints for the May 24 "Primavera Ball," the second benefit for the Academy's Educational programs. Many believe that plans to transform the courts and galleries into a series of beautiful gardens are the most excitingly original in Honolulu history. Artists have submitted sketches for an assigned gallery, each fresh in concept but all dedicated to the celebration of the gayest season. Mrs. Frank W. Broadbent (Tel. 67-887) needs volunteers as assistant table decorators, and trained hands for the delicate care of thousands of flowers that will arrive May 23 from the outer islands. Does your

mock orange hedge need trimming? Curb those clippers and let the Academy use the greens on which to tie hundreds of exquisite, iridescent butterflies now in the making. Call the special ball number, 501-609, for tickets and information. The galleries will be closed from May 19 to May 26 to facilitate Primavera Ball arrangements. The library, offices and Art School will remain open and any meetings noted on the Calendar will take place as scheduled.

Add These Special Events to Your Calendar. Mr. Hisashi Ohta, a noted contemporary Japanese painter and collector, will talk at the Academy on Thursday, May 1, at 8 p.m. on the subject, "Collecting Ceramics from the Point of View of a Kamakura Artist." Mr. Ohta will show color slides of his important collection. Examples of the Academy's collections will also be on view. The talk will be repeated in Japanese on Thursday, May 15, at 8 p.m.

Gardens of Japan. On Wednesday, June 11, at 8 p.m. Mr. Takuma Tano, professor of landscape architecture at Tokyo Agricultural College and a Cornell graduate, will give an illustrated lecture on "Gardens of Japan." He is author of a definitive work of that title. The Garden Club of Honolulu is sponsoring the lecture, the first in an American series.

Student Tour of Japan. The Japan Society of New York is organizing a guided student tour of Japan, leaving New York on July 20 and disbanding in Tokyo around August 20. Under expert guidance, the tour will be an excellent introduction to Japan. All travel will be by air. Interested students may join the tour in Honolulu. Estimated cost of the trip from New York and return is \$1,450 with a reduction to those joining here. Inquiries should be addressed to the Japan Society, Inc., 18 East 50th Street, New York 22, New York.

Register for Summer School Now. A number of interesting classes for both children and adults will be offered at the Academy this summer in a six-weeks program starting June 16 through July 25. Three teachers are coming from the mainland to complete an excellent staff. Application blanks are available at the Front Desk or the Educational Office.

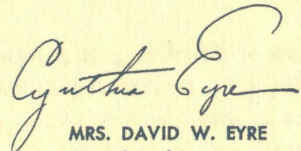
Welcome to New Members

EDUCATIONAL: Dr. Merle Ansberry, Miss Diane W. Heasley, Mrs. Maurice Hewitt, Mr. Carlton Kop.

ANNUAL: Mr. Igor A. Allan, Mrs. Igor A. Allan, Mrs. Harold F. Bradford, Mrs. Earl J. Cobb, Miss Adele R. Davis, Miss Mary Franklin Graham, Mrs. Reinhart Lawrence Hugelen, Mrs. Frederick M. K. Lam, Jr., Mr. James Miyake, Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, Mrs. G. Donald Sherman, Mrs. Louise I. Wiese, Miss Florence Wong.

CONTRIBUTING: Mrs. Clifford Kimball.

Sincerely yours,



MRS. DAVID W. EYRE
Membership Secretary

News Letter

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