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NOTABLE COLLECTION OF CHINESE CURIOS

Cups Made of Rhinoceros Horn Displayed in Field Museum Described

A remarkable collection of Chicago cups carved from rhinoceros horn, and once believed capable of detecting and neutralizing poison which might be served in drinks tendered by one's enemies, is on exhibition at Field Museum of Natural History. The collection, comprising several score examples in a great variety of forms and designs, was presented to the museum by the late John J. Mitchell.

The ancient Chinese were acquainted with two species of rhinoceros, the single-horned and the double-horned, which became extinct in China in early historical times, according to Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology. Rhinoceros horns were subsequently imported in large quantities from Indo-China, Siam, Java, Sumatra, India and East Africa. The horns were used chiefly in making carved drinking cups, but also were employed in manufacturing bows, swordhilts, and inlays in girdles.

Valuable Collection

The Field Museum collection includes cups ranging from the Ming dynasty (1368-1643) to the manchu dynasty (1644-1911). The ancient belief in the value of rhinoceros horn as a protection against poison is based on the theory that the rhinoceros devoured with its food all sorts of vegetable poisons and was therefore immunized against their effects, says Dr. Laufer. The Chinese were not unique in this superstition, for, as late as 1789, in the court ceremonials of France instrument of horn were employed for testing the royal food for poison.

Rhinoceros horn is admirably adapted to artistic use. In many of the cups the shape and design of ancient bronze and jade vessels are reproduced. Others are in the shape of lotus leaves or flowers with admirable carvings in high and undercut reliefs. The collection contains excellent material for a study of Chinese decorative motifs as developed during the last five centuries. Included are also a few cups of buffalo and ox horn.

Open Lecture Course on "Modern Art" Oct. 20

The Art committee of the Fine Arts department of the Highland Park Woman's club will present a course of lectures on Modern Art at the Highland Park Woman's club beginning October 20. The following course is offered:

October 20, Modern Sculpture by Tennessee Mitchell Anderson.

October 27, Modern Painting, Dudley Crafts Watson.

November 4, Modern Etching, Ralph Fletcher Seymour.

November 11, Modern Music, Ernst Bacon.

November 18, Modern Architecture, Thomas Tallmadge.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING MAGIC CIRCLE: Cut out circle, lay on sheet of plain paper with carbon paper between, fasten to table with pin through center spot. Mark short perpendicular line on plain paper close to bottom edge of circle as starting point. Turn circle around until No. 1 is at starting point, then trace over line marked No. 1 inside the circle. Turn circle around to No. 2 at starting point line line No. 2 inside circle and so on.

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