

AIAFA



NEWS

Vol. 1.

MARCH—JUNE

No. 3.

ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF FINE ARTS

FEDERATION OF ART SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS & ART SCHOOLS

Patron : H. E. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI.

President : G. Venkatachalam. Vice Presidents : Sjt. Nandalal Bose, Ravishankar M. Raval, Dr. Stella Kramrisch, Karl J. Khandalawalla, Svetoslav Roerich, D. P. Roy Chowdhry.

Editorial

IN the previous issues of this bulletin, we have had occasion to comment on the increasing interest shown by the State in the regeneration of cultural activities in this country. While active assistance from a popular Government is no doubt very welcome, it is a safe rule in such complex problems on art and literature to look every gift-horse in the mouth before accepting it, for usually bureaucratic governments are insensitive to what the people really think and feel and we have to confess that our own Government does not seem to recognise those urges which are struggling for expression among the rank and file of the artists of our country. Recent trends indicate quite clearly our Government's reluctance to take into confidence artists and the active section of the public interested in art. Appointments by the Government of India of regional advisers for the compilation and purchases of works of national importance, in utter disregard of opinions represented through popular organisations in the Province and the arbitrary manner in which Government handles selection of contemporary paintings for our missions abroad are examples of Government's parochial policy in this sphere.

It is therefore with considerable apprehension and misgiving that artists view the forthcoming art conference, which is being convened by the Government. In addition to representatives of Provincial Governments, artists and critics are intended to be invited in their individual capacity; significant however is the Government's decision to omit representation to important art organisations which have done considerable spade work and which represent concentrated interest in art in our country. Artists and critics without mandate from any organisation are hardly in a position to approve or implement schemes intended to aid artists and it would seem that individual artists would get help rather than the most deserving cases, who can only come through

the recommendation of popular art organisations recognised by the artists and public. However, as the conference is already on the way we would like to put forward a few suggestions that could profitably be discussed. In order to improve the status of the artist in our Society, we would strongly urge the early inclusion of elementary art history and art appreciation in the syllabus of both primary and secondary schools, as also the establishment of art faculties in the more important universities. The schemes for the publication of works of art put forward by the Museums Association of India and other schemes for exhibitions and scholarships could also be discussed and implemented at this conference. There are numerous important points which could be dilated upon, but to summarise, we would recommend the following points for consideration. What are the possibilities of encouraging India's original artists and sculptors and absorbing them in Industry? Could the Government provide room for artists, recommended by art bodies, in Nation-building and public works? Would the conference lead to the formation of an Enquiry Committee which could recommend the establishment of proper schools of art in areas where such institutions at present do not exist? What are the possibilities of establishing a central academy of art, architecture and town-planning with studio and other technical facilities?

In conclusion we would recommend to this conference to look into the needs of artists and teachers of art and the necessity of granting them at least living wages in these difficult and trying times. No State can really be anything but mechanical and dead, which does not include within its perview a flourishing tradition of the arts; and a Society which does not provide social security to its creative artists is merely static and moribund. In some countries like France, the status of artists is higher than that of politicians. It was so in ancient India. Shall we have the courage to create a new community of spirit in which talent is recognised and honoured?

NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST

We give below a summary of the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed by the Government of India in relation to the Cultural Trust :—

Functions :—The Trust should function as an autonomous body (with a preponderant non-official element) to encourage cultural activities and should operate through the medium of appropriate Committees and Academies. Its main functions should be :—

- (a) To encourage cultural education and research with particular reference to the preservation and development of traditional Indian Culture.
- (b) To acquire for the State, sites, monuments, manuscripts, pictures or other objects of importance to Indian Culture.
- (c) To advise the Government of India and the Provincial Governments with regard to cultural matters.
- (d) To co-ordinate and assist in the development of the activities of Indian Universities in the purely cultural fields.
- (e) To co-operate with the learned societies of India, in order to encourage and expand the cultural side of the work, now performed by them.
- (f) To publish suitable popular literature on cultural matters.
- (g) To maintain close touch with all parts of India by holding periodical conferences.
- (h) To organise Archaeological and other cultural missions to foreign countries and generally develop and extend existing cultural contacts between India and other countries.

Constitution :

1. Chairman of the Inter-University Board.
2. President of the National Institute of Sciences
3. President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal
4. President of the Viswa-Bharati
5. The Head of the Jamia Millia
- 6-15. Ten members to be nominated by the Government of India including representatives of Museums, Libraries, etc. five of whom will represent the Principal Cultural elements in the Indian States.
- 16-26. Eleven members to be nominated by the 11 Provincial Governments who shall be persons eminent in the cultural life of the country.
- 27-30. One member to be nominated by the Council of State and three members by the Central Legislative Assembly.
- 31-33. Three members to be nominated by the All-India Federation of Chambers of Commerce.
34. The Director General of Archaeology in India
35. The Director of Archives.
36. The Director of Anthropological Survey of India.
- 37-47. Eleven members to represent the proposed Academies five to be elected by the Academy of Letters and three each by the Academies of Arts and Music.

The Trustees will have power to elect not more than three additional members; the total number of trustees shall not exceed 50.

The tenure of Office of the Trustees will be 5 years.

The functions of the Trust are to be performed through the Agency of the following committees :—

- (a) Finance Committee.
- (b) Committee for control and establishment of National Parks and for acquisition of important sites and national treasures.
- (c) Foreign relations Committee.
- (d) Committee for publications.
- (e) Such other sub-committees as the Trustees may consider it necessary to constitute.

Academies :—Each Academy will be administered by a small Council and a President to be elected by the Fellows whose number shall not be more than 100 in the case of the Academy of Letters and of 50 in the case of Arts and Music. The names of a maximum of 30 per cent. of the proposed number of Fellows should be mentioned as Foundation Fellows, the remainder being elected by the Foundation Fellows, as persons of suitable eminence become available. The Fellows on election will hold office for Life.

The Council of the Academy will consist of not more than 15 members including a permanent Secretary who will be an *ex-officio* member of the Council.

The initial endowment of the trust should be not less than four crores to enable the Trustees to function properly. If the Central Government contributed half of this sum, a quarter could be raised from the Provincial Governments and the balance from the Indian States.

Interim Period : An interim Standing Committee should be appointed by the Government of India immediately (a) to develop cultural contacts with other countries; (b) to co-ordinate the work of organisations already established in India for the purpose."

The forthcoming conference would afford a suitable opportunity of appointing the interim Standing Committee, pending the formation of the Art Academy, as there is considerable amount of preliminary ground which can be covered before the Trust is constituted.

STUDIES IN FINE ART AND CRAFT—GOVERNMENT'S SCHEME :

The Government of India have drawn up a syllabus for studies in Fine Art, Craft and Applied Art on an All-India basis. A network of schools and colleges will be established throughout India and students will be awarded certificates and degrees equivalent to I.A., B.A. and M.A. of Universities. The scheme has been circulated to Art Organisations and Provincial Governments. AIAFA has circulated this to its Regional Committees for canvassing the opinion of artists and critics in each province.

An ambitious aim of the scheme is to provide training facilities to sons and daughters of India's artisans—jewellers, smiths, potters, clay modellers, etc.—whose work has earned world-wide reputation excelling both in quality and form. This step will enable them to further improve their work.

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA :

Scheme for Art Publications :—The Museums Association of India has put forward a commendable scheme for making our art treasures available to the general public for cultural, educational and industrial advancement.

It is intended to publish booklets to be known as "Ancient Art Series" containing about 32 pages in two sizes $7\frac{1}{4}'' \times \frac{1}{4}''$ and $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7''$. They will be produced on high quality art paper, consisting of about eight pages of text and the rest of plates printed both in monochrome and multicolours as necessary, but according to the subjects the number of pages will be doubled.

It is estimated that the production of the booklets in size $7\frac{1}{4}'' \times 9\frac{1}{4}''$ in 32 pages will cost about Rs. 11,000 for the first lot of 5,000 copies and subsequent lots of 5,000 copies each will cost about Rs. 5,000 only, if printed at the same time without any changes.

It is evident from the estimate that the price, which may be fixed at Rs. 1-12 per copy in monochrome and Rs. 2-8 per copy for coloured and monochrome mixed, is a reasonable selling price, and it will repay its full investment, provided a lot of 15,000 copies printed at a time.

The Museums Association of India feels, however, that in order to enable the common man to derive the full benefit of the scheme, the price of the monochrome issues should be only As. 12 per copy and that of coloured and monochrome mixed Rs. 1-8 per copy.

The Government of India can help the Museums Association of India in the following concrete ways :—

- (1) By advancing to them the sum of two lakhs of rupees. This sum will be circulating *i.e.* they will publish booklets, recover the price from sales and re-invest the same in new series.
- (2) By giving a permanent grant for educational purposes as subsidy for the purpose of selling these copies at lower rates in India. (This grant may not be required after a period of five years, when permanent funds for this purpose are built up out of the sale proceeds due to large quantities printed at the same time).
- (3) By buying a definite number of copies for circulation outside India through their Embassies, etc.
- (4) By recommending the various Provinces to buy these booklets for distribution in the Public Schools, colleges, libraries, etc.

As suggested in the editorial remarks we would strongly urge the inclusion of this scheme in the agenda of the forthcoming conference, where Central Government and Provincial Government representatives will have an opportunity to confer with expert opinion through the medium of artists and critics who are also intended to be represented at the conference.

UNESCO

Resolutions of the Third Session of the General Conference of UNESCO [Reproduced from UNESCO Report (1948)] :

ARTS :

Reproductions in Visual Arts and Music :—The Director-General is instructed :

To complete the distribution of lists supplied by Member States to Unesco showing the available fine colour reproductions of works of art by their national artists.

To compile for publication and distribution in Member States with the collaboration of the International Council of Museums, lists of works illustrative of important phases and movements in the history of art, as well as lists of available fine colour reproductions of such works.

To secure the advice of experts on the preparation of portfolio of fine colour reproductions covering specific fields of art.

To distribute among Member States and specially among those who possess only a limited number of works of art, selections of fine colour reproductions.

To publish and distribute a list of documentary films on art, and suggestions for additional films.

To publish and distribute a list of institutions possessing photographic archives of works of art.

Reproduction of unique objects.

It is recommended to Member States that they compile lists of their unique works of scientific objects and of documents, and that they make as soon as possible at least four reproductions of each for deposit in centres where their preservation can be assured. To this end the Director-General shall assist Member States with advice on reproduction techniques.

Freedom of the Artist :—The Director-General is instructed :

To institute an examination with the active participation of artists throughout the world of the contributions which creative artists can make towards Unesco's purposes.

To ascertain what social, economic and political influences now interfere with the performance of the artist's function ; of the measures that have been or can be taken to remove or lessen these hindrances ; and of the means whereby the working conditions of the artist can be improved and his freedom assured.

To present to the General Conference plans to carry out the resolutions on the freedom of the artist adopted by the First Session of the General Conference and re-affirmed by the Third Session.

Unesco Awards :—The Director-General is instructed to examine the possibility of making a series of annual UNESCO awards for the best achievement during the preceding twelve months, in music, art, drama, literature, education and the humanities, to be made on the advice of recognized international authorities ; and to report to the General Conference.

Museums :—The Director-General is instructed :

To provide for the exchange of information concerning museums, their techniques, modern methods of presentation and other aspects of their work.

To stimulate and to develop a plan for exchanges of exhibitions and collections, including the international circulation of Unesco exhibitions of contemporary works of art accompanied by appropriate catalogues, such exhibitions to be prepared if possible by Member States, National Commissions and appropriate professional organisation.

To seek means to enlist the co-operation of museums in such parts of Unesco's programme as fundamental education, adult education, arts and sciences.

To report to the General Conference on the proposal for international co-operation between museums by establishing inter-governmental foundations for the exchange of professionals, students, books, works of art, collections, exhibits and other material.

Archaeological Sites and Historic Monuments :—The Director-General is instructed :

To consider during 1949 in co-operation with the Council of Museums the desirability of setting up, under Unesco's auspices, an International Committee of Experts to co-operate with the States concerned, in the preservation of monuments and sites of historical value.

Indian National Commission :—The Indian National Commission, details about which were given in our previous bulletin, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India on the 9th April. Sir. K. M. Munshi was appointed Chairman of the Cultural Sub-Commission and Mr. Anil K. Chanda, rapporteur. It was emphasised that the Commission was temporarily

constituted and that they would go into details of what other important institutions are to be included, at a later stage. The next meeting of the Commission has been scheduled to take place at the time of the artists conference.

Exhibition on Universal Declaration of Human Rights :—The Government of India have been invited to participate in this exhibition to be held in Paris in September, 1949, with a view to bring out the contribution of Indian philosophy and culture to the development of these ideas. AIAFA has been asked through its representative at the National Commission to assist the Ministry in collecting suitable material—mainly documents including extracts from authoritative texts supported as far as possible by models, replicas, photographs of sculptures, painting, etc. We would invite those in a position to offer suggestion in this connection to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, AIAFA for further details.

Photographic Archives of Works of Art :—In order to compile a list on a world scale of organisations and individuals possessing photographic archives, the Arts and Letters Division of UNESCO has addressed a letter to us asking for information on the subject from India. We have forwarded to them a tentative list of cultural institutions, public, private and commercial, and would request your co-operation through these columns, by sending to us further names and addresses of persons and institutions known to possess these records. This will enable us to forward a thoroughly comprehensive list from India. UNESCO will in turn send a questionnaire to each of these addresses for further information regarding location, contents and technical organisation of these archives.

Belgian Fellowship for India :—The Government of Belgium have placed at the disposal of UNESCO four fellowships for specialised study in Belgium. One of these will be available for India. The fellowship will cover a maximum period of six months study in Belgium. The monthly stipend offered amounts to 4,000 Belgian francs, i.e. approximately Rs. . . . All other expenses such as cost of transportation, etc. are to be met by the candidate independently. Applicants should be mature persons already established in their profession, with a good command of the French language. The fields of specialised study for which Belgium has outstanding facilities to offer are :

- (a) museums where studies on the problems and techniques of restoration of works of art can be made,
- (b) Fine arts where opportunity will be provided for artists to study Flemish art and for scholars interested in the history of art.

Details in this respect have been circulated to all our Regional Offices from where text of particulars required will also be available.

Exhibition of Indian Arts and Crafts Abroad :—The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to arrange a comprehensive Exhibition of Indian Arts and Crafts and other material including maps, charts and articles of general information regarding India for display in some foreign countries through the Indian Embassies abroad. It is not intended to include

in this collection rare museum pieces or heavy articles which will present practical difficulties in packing and freightage, etc. but it will be essential that all the material assembled should be of good artistic value and suitable for publicity abroad. The arrangements for this exhibition if ultimately agreed to will have to be completed by the beginning of the year 1950 after which the Exhibition will probably be in circulation in different countries for the next 8 to 12 months. It is expected that one or two experts may be able to accompany the Exhibition to see that the articles are well looked after and suitably displayed. The Provincial Governments have been requested by the Government of India to assist them in the collection of artistic material for the purpose. The Principals of Government Schools of Art and Art Societies in the Provinces are intended to assist the Provincial Governments in the collection of the materials.

BOMBAY :

Art Education in Bombay :—The Government of Bombay have constituted an Advisory Board of Art Education with Sir Cowasjee Jehangir as its chairman. The other members of the committee are : the Educational Adviser to Government, the Director of Public Instruction, the Director of Sir J. J. School of Art, the Inspector of Drawing and Craft Work, Mr. V. N. Adarkar, Mr. T. P. Akki, Mr. V. R. Amberkar, Mr. N. S. Bendre, Mr. D. W. Ditchburn, Mr. D. V. Halbhavi, Prof. W. Langhammer, Mr. R. M. Raval, Mr. S. B. Talekar and Dr. D. G. Vyas.

The functions of the Advisory Board will be to advise Government in regard to all matters pertaining to art.

Sir J. J. School of Art :—The Government of Bombay have decided to constitute an Advisory committee for the Sir J. J. School of Art, consisting of Mr. C. M. Master (Chairman) ; the Education Adviser to Government ; the Inspector of Drawing and Craftwork ; Mr. V. R. Amberkar ; Mr. N. S. Bendre and the Director of Sir J. J. School of Art (Member-Secretary).

The functions of the committee will be to advise Government on questions of policy, organisation, accommodation, equipment, the formation or reconstitution of classes, curriculum, rules of admission and any other subject connected with the School on which Government may require its opinion.

The committee will also take initiative in suggesting improvements and reforms in respect of any of these matters. The committee will not, however, deal with the questions of selection, promotion and pay of the staff.

Bombay Art Society :—The following artists had their one-man shows : Miss Yau Wan Shan, (Chinese painter) ; Lady Marie Temple, Mr. Narnarain Chaudhury from Shantiniketan, and an informal exhibition of a few paintings of Calcutta artists (Manishi Dey, Gopal Ghose, Pan Krishna Pal, including some photographs of the sculptures of Pradosh Das Gupta).

Belgian Art Exhibition :—Thanks to the untiring efforts of H. E. Prince De Ligne, the Belgian Ambassador to India, art lovers of Bombay were provided with a rare opportunity to see an interesting collection of Belgian paintings, sculpture in wood and marble, ivory carvings, four centuries of lace, tapestries, ancient coins and manuscripts, etc. displayed in the spacious halls of the

Cutch Palace. The exhibition was inaugurated by H. E. Raja Maharaj Singh, The Governor of Bombay and established a record as far as visitors to the exhibition is concerned. H. E. Prince De Ligne, and through him the Belgian Government is to be congratulated on this welcome venture which has gone a long way in promoting Indo-Belgian cultural relations. This exhibition has been described to be a prelude to the establishment of an Indo-Belgian House in Bombay. Negotiations are also going on between the respective Governments for an Indo-Belgian cultural agreement with a view to facilitate, among other things, exchange of artists and art scholars.

The Art Society of India :—One of the major art societies, which enjoys the confidence of artists in Western India, celebrated its 31st anniversary when among other things, film shows, lectures, demonstrations, dance and music recitals were held. Presiding over the main function Mr. M. C. Chagla, Chief Justice of Bombay, said that vigorous propaganda should be carried on in Bombay City to make its commercial-minded people art-conscious and also stressed the need for an art gallery.

Students Exhibition :—An exhibition entitled "Memories from Mount Abu" containing photographs, sketches and landscapes by students of the Commercial Arts Section of the Sir J. J. School of Arts was opened by Mr. V. N. Adarkar. They were done by students while on their annual study tour.

Tagore's Birthday :—The India Culture League celebrated the 88th birthday of Gurudeo Tagore on May 7th when Dr. Mulk Raj Anand was the chief guest of honour.

The Youths Art and Culture Circle arranged as usual its film shows, which were well attended.

Institute of Foreign Languages :—This institute, under the able directorship of Prof. Charles Petras, has rendered substantial service to the cause of artists. In addition to sponsoring one-man-shows and conducting art classes, the institute has now made a start with "life" classes and brought out the first issue of an interesting bulletin (I. F. L. News).

REGIONAL COMMITTEES OF AIAFA :

At the Third All-India Art Conference it was resolved to form Regional Committees in those provinces where art interests were concentrated and where there was more than one institution for art. The primary function of Regional Committees is essentially to constitute a machinery for reflecting representative art opinion of the province. The Regional Committees are not intended to engage in activities such as sponsoring exhibitions, etc. which actually fall under the scope of organisations that constitute these committees.

It is also important to emphasise that the various member organisations of AIAFA are left with complete freedom of action in their own sphere of activities and that collaboration with AIAFA does not imply anything beyond joint consultations in all-India art matters (e.g. All-India syllabus for study in art schools, co-operation with UNESCO, contemporary Indian Art Exhibitions outside India, etc., etc.)

With this background we give below some notes on progress made in this direction :—

Bombay :—The Bombay Regional Committee, which was formed sometime ago has had several meetings and

dealt with a number of problems which will be detailed in the next issue of the bulletin. On the request of the Government of Bombay a representative of the Bombay Regional Committee has been appointed on the Advisory Board of Government. The Committee acts in full co-operation with the Bombay Government, which constantly takes its advice on problems dealing with art. Apart from the representatives of art organisations, the Committee also includes the Director of Government School of Art, the Government Inspector of Drawings and Crafts and the Educational Adviser to the Government of Bombay.

West-Bengal :—*Chairman :* Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee; *Honorary Secretary :* Mr. D. P. Ghosh; Sjt. Nandalal Bose and Dr. Stella Kramrisch (*ex-officio Vice-Presidents*); Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy and Mr. Umprashad Mookerjee (Indian Society of Oriental Art); Mr. Pradosh Das Gupta (*ex-officio* Central Committee); Mr. Gopal Ghose (Calcutta Group); Mr. Shambunath Sil (Roopayani); Mr. Lalmohan Mukherji (Surovi, Kharagpur); Mr. V. S. Masoji (Shantiniketan) and Dr. Noronha, Justice A. N. Sen, Mr. O. C. Gangoly and Manishi Dey as co-opted members.

Delhi :—"At a meeting, convened by Mr. Nihar Roy Chowdhary, head of Art Section, Delhi Polytechnic, Government of India held at the Imperial Hotel on the 27th March, 1949, the Delhi Regional Committee of the Association was formed. Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, member of the Central Advisory Board, AIAFA, presided.

The following panel of names was proposed by the Convenor for the Regional Committee and unanimously accepted :—

Dr. V. S. Aggarwal	} as <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Central Committee, resident in Delhi.
Dr. P. N. Chakravarty	
Mr. P. A. Narielwala	
Mr. B. Sanyal	

Mr. Nihar Roy Chowdhary	representing Art Section, Delhi Polytechnic (Government of India).
-----------------------------	-----	--

Mr. Kanwal Krishna	} representing Delhi Silpi Chakra.
Mr. Dhanraj Bhagat	

Mr. Kalhan	} co-opted members.
Dr. K. N. Puri	
Mr. K. S. Kulkarni	
Mr. Prannath Mago	

Mr. P. A. Narielwala was elected Chairman and Dr. C. L. Fabri as Vice-Chairman, with Mr. K. S. Kulkarni and Dr. K. N. Puri as Joint Secretaries.

(Since the formation of the Regional Committee, Dr. C. L. Fabri has resigned from the Committee and Mr. Shankar Pillay has been appointed Vice-Chairman).

Art Training Centre for Delhi :—A decision to start an Art Training Centre on modern lines in Delhi to promote better understanding and appreciation of fine arts was taken by the Regional Committee of AIAFA. The centre is to cover a large range of subjects such as drawing, painting, cartooning, sculpture and applied arts. Among the leading artists who have offered their services on an honorary capacity are Mr. Shankar Pillai (cartoonist), Mr. Kanwal Krishna, Mr. K. S. Kulkarni, Mr. B. Sanyal, Mr. Prannath Mago, Mr. Dhanraj Bhagat and Mr. D. Kowshik.

Madras :—At a meeting held on the 14th May, the following panel of names were proposed and accepted unanimously, for the Regional Committee :—

Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, Minister for Finance, Government of Madras (Chairman); Sri G. Venkatachalam, *ex-officio* Central Committee; Smt. Rukmini Devi, (Hon. Patron); Mrs. Marcella Hardy, Editor *Silpi* and Dr. A. Aiyappan (Government Museum) (Jt. Hon. Secretaries); Sri S. N. Chamkur (of Chamkur Academy), Mr. K. Rajagopal (South Indian Society of Painters), Sri Varada Venkataratnam (Ram Rao Art Society), K. Madhava Menon (Sri Chitralayam) as institutional members, and Hon. Mr. Justice P. V. Rajamannar, Chief Justice of Madras, Mr. A. Janakiram, Dr. James H. Cousins, Sri Uday Shanker, P. L. N. Mistry as co-opted members.

WEST BENGAL :

Exhibition of Buddhist Art :—Sjt. D. P. Ghosh, Curator, Asutosh Museum had arranged an exhibition of Buddhist Art at the University Senate Hall in January, in connection with the exposition of relics of Sariputta and Moggalana. The public was guided around the exhibition with explanations by students of Indian History and Culture.

Fine Art Exhibitions :—The Indian Art School conducted their annual exhibition of works done by students and staff.

Mr. Indra Dugor, a disciple of Abanindranath Tagore, had an exhibition at Kumar Singh Hall, which was opened by Sjt. O. C. Gangoly.

Shantiniketan :—Sjt. Nandalal Bose opened an exhibition of arts and crafts by the first batch of trainees at Vinaya Bhavana. Handiworks from the various sections of the Institute such as artistic cardboard work, woodwork, leather-work, linocuts, clay-modelling, and many pieces of woven cloth were displayed. The celebrations concluded with a farewell party, dance and music.

Rupa Rasika Sabha :—This Sabha has done, of late, perhaps more than any other artists' group in India towards the development and appreciation of visual arts, particularly pictorial arts. It has had a steady programme of activities since early last year on a variety of subjects, a number of them illustrated with relevant material such as lantern slides and colour reproductions. Below are some of the recent activities of the Sabha :—

Lecture on New Indian School of Painting by Mr. Chaitanya Dev Chatterjee, presided over by Mr. Ramendranath Chakravarty on 9-1-1949.

Lecture on Pre-Raphaelite Painters by Dr. S. N. Roy, presided over by Dr. K. D. Ghose on 6-2-1949.

Lecture on Shakespeare in art by Prof. Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharyya presided over by Dr. S. N. Ray on 12-3-1949.

Rupa-Yani :—Another active band of artists in Calcutta celebrated the Jayanti of Dr. Abanindranath Tagore on the 27th March 1949. On the occasion a ceremony was held at the residence of Dr. Tagore when a large number of distinguished people assembled to pay homage to the master.

An engraved address to be cast in bronze was presented on behalf of *Rupa-Yani*. Dr. Tagore in making a reply said that the source of creative art was one, the difference was only due to the difference of character of

different people. He appealed to all not to create factions in the name of art. Messages from Sjt. Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy, D. P. Roy Choudhury, L. M. Sen, Asit Haldar, and others were received. A number of distinguished artists including Sjt. Jamini Roy, Mukul Dey, Atul Bose and Sunayani Devi were present. A small exhibition of drawings, paintings, manuscripts and books by Dr. Abanindranath Tagore was also held.

BARODA :

Progressive Artists Group (Bombay :—Messrs. K. H. Ara, M. F. Hussain, S. K. Bakre, S. H. Raza, H. A. Gade, and Francis Newton had an exhibition of their paintings at the Baroda State Picture Gallery, on the invitation of Dr. H. Goetz, Curator of the Baroda State Museum. The exhibition then moved to Ahmedabad where it was held under the auspices of Bharat Kala Mandal.

An exhibition of paintings and etchings in Indian and Chinese style by Mr. Y. K. Shukla (Bombay) was held in the Baroda State Picture Gallery. Mr. Shukla, who was one of the Government scholars sent by the Government of India to China for studying latest trends in China, returned to India a few months ago.

DELHI :

Delhi Silpi Chakra :—Twenty-two well-known painters and sculptors now working in Delhi, among whom are Mr. Kanwal Krishna, Bhabesh Sanyal, Dhanraj Bhagat, K. S. Kulkarni, Prannath Mago and others, have formed a new society called "Delhi Silpi Chakra." The objects of the new body are to coordinate and consolidate the efforts of artists for the progress of art and to help in building up a virile national culture through art. The group recognises that art as an activity must not be divorced from life—that the art of a nation must express the soul of its people and ally with the forces of progress. With this end in view, the Delhi Silpi Chakra will organize exhibitions, artists fraternals, talks and discourses on problems of art and symposia and other suitable forms of activity.

All-India Fine Arts and Crafts Society Exhibitions :—Paintings by Abani Sen and Carmen D'Avino. The Society's 18th Annual show, has now been taken to Madras, and Hyderabad. The Society also intends to take it to other centres of India.

"Gandhi Mandap" Exhibition which was opened by the Prime Minister on January 31st contained about 250 paintings in oils by artists from different parts of India. Mr. Nihar Roy Chaudhary, Head of the Art Section, Delhi Polytechnic, Government of India, explained the main features of the Gandhi Mandap.

Lady Irwin College Art Circle :—An arts and crafts exhibition and competition organised by the Music and Art Circle of the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, attracted entries from most of the local colleges and schools, in oil and water colour paintings, pencil sketches, leather-work, fret-work clay models, pottery, fancy needle-work and flower decorations.

Bombay Artists' Exhibition :—The Constitution Club was the venue of an exhibition of about 125 paintings, drawings and etchings by Mr. J. D. Gondhalekar. The Exhibition was opened by the Hon'ble Mr. Gadgil and was very well attended.

Delhi Polytechnic Art Exhibition :—The Polytechnic had an exhibition in February of large number of paintings, sketches, woodcuts and models by many artists. Of special mention in the commercial art displays were the textile designs, press layouts and posters. Dr. Tarachand declaring open the exhibition expressed appreciation of the work done by the Polytechnic and commended the achievements of the institution in such a brief period.

EAST PUNJAB

The Indian Academy of Fine Arts held an exhibition of latest paintings on Kashmir by Messrs. S. G. Thakur Singh, G. S. Sohan Singh, M. K. Bola and Harbhajan Singh.

KASHMIR :

The Progressive Artists' Association was formed last September when Kashmir was going through a period of chaos. Mr. S. H. Raza the popular water-colourist of Bombay was responsible in no small way at inspiring the young artists of Kashmir to organise themselves. Mr. S. S. Chauhan, literary critic and playwright from Delhi, who also happened to be in Kashmir at the time gave the artists great support and encouragement.

Recently Mr. Percy Brown, late Principal, Government School of Art, Calcutta, opened an exhibition of paintings by its members: S. N. Butt, Trilok Kaul, Edna Bellefontaine, P. N. Kachru and Fida. The exhibition also includes some paintings by the Italian artist Carmen D'Avino, who has become a member of the Association.

Arts College for Kashmir :—It is encouraging to note that the Kashmir University intends to open an Arts College with grades classes for preliminary, inter-degree, post-graduate and research studies in fine arts.

MADRAS :

South Indian Society of Painters :—Under the auspices of this institution, an interesting exhibition of water-colour paintings, woodcuts, designs and photographs by the well-known German painter, Mr. F. H. Rauleder was held. The main features of the exhibition were the commercial designs which included cover designs for catalogues, designs for newspaper advertisements, show card design, wrapper design, book illustrations and designs for posters.

Mr. Suddhodhana's One-man-Show :—Under the joint auspices of the South Indian Society of Painters and the Government Museum, Mr. M. J. Suddhodhana had a one-man-show.

Progressive Painters' Association :—The Association organised an exhibition of members works which was opened by Hon. Mr. B. Parameswaran, Minister for Rural Development.

UNITED PROVINCES :

Lucknow :—About 300 paintings were on show at an exhibition arranged during the silver jubilee celebrations of the Lucknow University, which was opened by the Minister of Education in January.

Doon School Exhibition :—Sudhir Khastgir, Art Master and some pupils of the School held an exhibition of their paintings at the Savoy Hotel Lounge.

FOREIGN :

Indian Artists Abroad :—Mr. Hebbar and Narnarain Choudhury who have left India for a study tour are now both in London. Mr. Hebbar's one-man-show under

the auspices of the Royal India Society was opened by Mr. Charles Gerrard, ex-Director of the Sir J. J. School of Arts on the 14th June at the Imperial Institute Gallery. From the 21st June the India House had arranged a joint exhibition of Indian artists which included works of Mr. Gue, Chintaman Khar and Hebbar.

U.S.A.—General Activities of American Museums :

Extract from a report published in *Icom News* April issue published by the International Council of Museums :

"At no time has the attendance at Museums in the United States been so high. This is due in part to the unusually interesting travelling exhibitions on display in the larger museums of art, as well as the increasing excellence of installation in museums of natural history, historical museums, and those of a general character. Outstanding was probably the interest shown in the paintings from the German museums on tour through the United States.

"During 1948 the movement for an exchange of museum persons was hastened by the passage of the so-called Fulbright Act, Public Law No. 584. By this Act, certain foreign currencies and credits, acquired through the sale in foreign countries of surplus property belonging to the United States Government, may be used for salary, tuition, and travel by United States citizens who wish to study abroad, and by foreign students of those countries with which an agreement is signed, to study in the United States. The Smith-Mundt Bill, when appropriations have been made, will supplement this Act.

"Museums in the United States, as institutions of higher learning, may now qualify individually, at such times as projects involving such institutions are proposed, for aid from the Department of State under the Fulbright Act."

Contemporary Indian Paintings to be Exhibited :

Prof. Spigelberg of Stanford University has made a small collection of paintings by contemporary Indian artists during his recent visit to India. These paintings will be exhibited in the States at the Stanford University Hall and New York. It is also intended to include these paintings on a touring exhibition around the States.

Rome :—The Italian Institute for Far East arranged an exhibition of Abbay Khatau (India) at Palazzo Brancaccio and attracted the City's art colony. The President of the Institute gave an assurance that they were doing everything possible to strengthen Italo-Indian links.

PAKISTAN :

The Karachi Fine Arts Society organised in January an exhibition of reproductions of 19 American artists at the YMCA. Another interesting exhibition this Society arranged was that of the works of Nasir Shamsi at the A. B. C. Restaurant.

The first salon of photography organised by the members of the All Pakistan Photographic Society was held in early April.

Yet another show at the A. B. C. Restaurant was an exhibition of Chinese Rubbings.

Reproductions of English Masters :—Under the joint auspices of the British Council and the Karachi Fine Arts Society, an exhibition of about 50 colour prints and lithographs of both old masters and contemporary artists covering about 200 years of British art was held at the YMCA.

Portraits of Indian Leaders: The Government of India are planning to give commissions for portraits of Indian leaders in sizes of approximately 4' x 3'-3" and 2' x 1'. Artists wishing to undertake the commissions should submit photographs of previous portraits done by them to act as specimens of their work together with an estimate of the cost of the painting of such portraits. Details should be submitted to the Hon. Secretaries AIAFA, 28, Apollo Street, Bombay, as early as possible, for submission to Government.

Government Appoints Special Committee to Evaluate Old Art Collections:—A purchasing committee consisting of Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Rai Krishnadas (Bharat Kala Bhavan, Benares), Prof. Mohamed Habib (Aligarh University), Mr. V. N. Adarkar (Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay), Mr. Karl Khandalawala (Bombay), Dr. Stella Kramrisch (Calcutta University), has been set up by the Government of India it is learnt, to examine and evaluate old art collections to be acquired for the National Museum. The Director-General of Archaeology, and the Superintendent of Museums Department of Archaeology, will be *ex-officio* members of this committee.

FUTURE EXHIBITIONS:

Photographic Exhibition:—An international pictorial photographic exhibition is to be held at Ahmedabad by *Niharika* in January, 1950 with the following panel of judges:—Messrs. C. J. Shah, F.R.P.S.; D. C. Engineer, A.R.P.S., A.P.S.A.; Datta B. Khopker, A.R.P.S.; M. G. Dudhia, A.R.P.S., and Azad K. Syed. Awards are silver and bronze plaques and certificates of merit. The closing dates of submission of pictures and entry forms is 15th October, 1949.

Bombay: Exhibitions at the Bombay Art Salon:—Sjt. Jamini Roy, Mme. Moeepain (French portrait specialist), Alice Bonner from Benares, Kanwal Krishna (Kashmir landscapes), Mr. Gondalekar, Mr. Markand Bhatt, Manohar Joshi, Prof. W. Langhammer, Progressive Painters Group and Progressive Artists Association (Kashmir), Sgr. Darnen D'Avino (Italian Artist), "Design for living" by USIS, sculptures of D. B. Jog, Photographic Society of India, Ramkinkar Baij, and Jachelevici (Belgium Sculptor), the latter will be held at the exhibition rooms of I.F.L.

Poona:—An exhibition under the auspices of the Bombay Art Society will be held in Poona in August to which artists from all parts of India are invited to send exhibits. For prospectus, etc. write to the Honorary Secretary, Bombay Art Society, 6, Rampart Row, Bombay.

Madras: The South Indian Society of Painters:—An exhibition under the auspices of this Society will be held in August. Exhibits are invited from artists all over India. For prospectus and other particulars please contact the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, South Indian Society of Painters, Museum House, Pantheon Road, Madras 8.

COURSES IN WALL-PAINTINGS:

Mrs. Angela Latham, S.M.D.P.T., who conducts special courses in wall-painting at the Morley College, London, is visiting India during her vacation between August-November. She will be travelling round the country, and has expressed her willingness to give short courses in wall-painting at each of the important cities.

Mrs. Latham is keen to demonstrate a new technique in wall-painting discovered in 1937 which is particularly suited to India. It avoids discoloration, dries matt, and is also scrubbable.

The normal courses deal with the historic background and *technique* of wall-painting from Paleolithic to modern times including the frescoes of Crete, Egypt, Rome, Byzantine, India and the New World and the temporary paintings of China, Tibet, Sikkim and Britain.

All the lectures will be illustrated with slides or epidiascope and will be followed by a class in practical techniques for modern decorations. Some of the subjects for the classes includes:—

- (1) How to paint in *True Fresco*. Materials required. Advantages. Dangers. Italian technique.
- (2) How to undertake a commission in Wall-Painting. Cost: working from Architect's elevations; making your own elevation. Small scale model. Enlarge to cartoon. Tracing. Finishing.
- (3) How to choose your subject. The Oriental idea of wall-painting. To evoke an idea on a wall without destroying its solidity. Working with the Architect. Suitability. Tact.
- (4) Designs for canteen: (a) in School; (b) in Factory; (c) in College. Critique of designs. Choice of a competition subject.

In view of her short stay in each City, it is intended to limit the course to 3 lectures of 2 hours each. A nominal fee will be charged. Students, artists and institutions which are interested in the courses are requested to communicate immediately with the Honorary Secretary, AIAFA, 28, Apollo Street, Bombay.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

"Rupadarsini":—"It is generally assumed that our traditional art does not inspire the modern art student, and it is often unnatural, crude, and lifeless. This view is unfounded and baseless," says Mr. M. R. Achrekar, the well-known artist of Bombay, in a forward to a publication compiled by himself. The object of this book, he adds, "to present in a simple and vivid manner how the great master paintings and sculptors of the past had definite understanding of human anatomy and its movements, which they created to express their conception of form." Rekha Publications, Dadar. Price Rs. 15/-.

AIAFA Executive Committee:—*Chairman:* Dr. Moti Chandra; *Honorary Secretaries:* Mr. V. R. Amberkar, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand and Mr. K. M. Gandhi; *Honorary Treasurer:* Mr. Manu M. Thacker; *Members:* Dr. A. Aiyappan, Dr. N. P. Chakrawarty, Dr. Herman Goetz, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy, Dr. Vasudevsaran Agarwalla, Messrs. V. S. Adurkar, J. M. Ahivasi, M. R. Achrekar, N. S. Bendre, Bhabesh Sanyal, R. Chatterjee, R. Dutt, B. C. Gue. Gautham Sarabhai, Ishwar Dass, Lal Mohan Mookerjee, K. Madhava Menon, Mukandi Lal, K. K. Mukherjee, P. A. Narielwalla, V. V. Oak, J. N. Unwalla, Kanwal Krishna, V. S. Masoji, and Pradosh Das Gupta.

AIAFA Regional Offices:—**CALCUTTA:** Mr. D. P. Ghosh, Curator, Asutosh Museum, Senate Hall; **NEW DELHI:** Mr. K. S. Kulkarni, 26, Atul Grove; **AMRITSAR:** The Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Cooper Road; **PATNA:** Mr. Radha Mohan, Principal, Government School of Arts; **LUCKNOW:** The U. P. Artists Association, Hazrat Ganj; **MADRAS, 8:** Dr. A. Aiyappan, "Museum House," Pantheon Road.

AIAFA: Members of the Advisory Board:—Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Hon'ble Mr. N. Kanungo, Sir Mirza Ismail, Sjt. Ajit Ghose, Justice A. N. Sen, Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. Amarnath Jha, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Dr. Kalidas Nag, Mr. O. C. Gangoly, Sjt. Rathindranath Tagore, Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, Mr. I. S. Jehu, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Mr. N. C. Mehta and Sjt. Humayun Kabir.

5
Bhart Jyoti Sunday
Oct 10th 1948

Sunday Standard
Oct 10th 48

All-India Fine Arts Association

Governing Council Meets

The Governing Council of the All-India Association of Fine Arts met in Bombay at Greens Hotel yesterday. Mr. G. Venkatachalam, President of the Association, presided.

It was announced that Dr. Aiyappan (Madras), Messrs. Ishwar Dass and Mukandi Lal (U.P.) Mr. Saywickjee (E. Punjab), Mr. Radha Mohan (Orissa), Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy (Calcutta), Mr. K. Madhava Menon (Trivandrum), Mr. Babhesh Sanyal (Delhi) had been appointed convenors for the formation of regional committees in their respective provinces. It was decided to register the Association in Delhi.

As the preliminary work in respect of affiliation of the various art organisations in the country was now complete with minor exceptions, it was decided to go ahead with a initial programme which was to consist of issue of a regular art bulletin; travelling exhibition and scholarships.

It was decided to approach the various Provincial Governments through the respective regional committees for financial assistance in giving effect to the above programmes.

In respect of Bombay, a deputation consisting of Justice Karl Khandalawalla, P. A. Narielwalla, K. M. Gandhi, Mr. Svetoslov Roerich, Dr. Moti Chandra, Mr. G. Venkatachalam and Mr. V. R. Amberkar, was appointed to wait on the Premier in this respect.

It was further announced that out of the funds collected for the conference by the reception committee, a balance of about Rs. 9,000 has been donated to the Association by the reception committee.—A.P.I.

ALL-INDIA ASSOCIATION OF FINE ARTS

BOMBAY, Saturday.

The Governing Council of the All India Association of Fine Arts met in Bombay at Greens Hotel today. Mr. G. Venkatachalam, presided.

It was announced that Dr. Aiyappan (Madras), Messrs. Ishwar Dass and Mukandi Lal (U.P.), Mr. Saywickjee (E. Punjab), Mr. Radha Mohan (Orissa), Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy (Calcutta), Mr. K. Madhava Menon (Trivandrum), Mr. Babhesh Sanyal (Delhi) had been appointed convenors for the formation of regional committees in their respective provinces. It was decided to register the association in Delhi.

As the preliminary work in respect of affiliation of the various art organisations in the country was now complete with minor exceptions, it was decided to go ahead with an initial programme which was to consist of:—

- (1) Issue of a regular art bulletin
- (2) Travelling exhibition
- (3) Scholarships.

It was decided to approach the various provincial governments through the respective regional committees for financial assistance in giving effect to the above programmes.

In respect of Bombay, a deputation consisting of Justice Karl Khandalawalla, P. A. Narielwalla, K. M. Gandhi, Mr. Svetoslov Roerich, Dr. Moti Chandra, Mr. G. Venkatachalam and Mr. V. R. Amberkar, was appointed to wait on the Premier in this respect.

It was further announced that out of the funds collected for the conference by the Reception Committee, a balance of about Rs. 9,000 has been donated to the association by the reception committee.—A.P.I.

AIAFA



NEWS

Vol. 1

NOVEMBER 1949—JUNE 1950

No. 5 & 6

NEWS BULLETIN OF
ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF FINE ARTS

FEDERATION OF ART SOCIETIES, MUSEUMS & ART SCHOOLS IN INDIA



"GLORY OF INDIA"

A. A. Raiba.



President : Karl J. Khandalawalla.

Vice Presidents : Sjt. Nandalal Bose, D. P. Roy Chowdhry,

Dr. Stella Kramrisch, G. Venkatachalam, Svetoslav Roerich,

Ravishankar Raval.



SIR COWASJI JEHANGIR.

Jehangir Art Gallery. On the 22nd of March, the foundation stone of the Jehangir Art Gallery was laid in the compound of the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, by Shri Morarji Desai, who deputised in place of Shri B. G. Kher, the Chief Minister of Bombay. This Art Gallery has been made possible through the generous donation of Rs. 6 Lacs by Sir Cowasji Jehangir. It is expected that the construction will take more than a year and the building will be one of the finest on international standards.

EDITORIAL

The Artist and the State.

Considerable controversy has been raging, in every country, in recent years, round the problems and difficulties of the creative artist in the contemporary framework of society. In order to ascertain his status, a detailed questionnaire was sent round by UNESCO some time ago to artists of member States, and the findings discussed by a Committee of Experts belonging to different nationalities. India was represented on this Committee by Mr. K. K. Hebbar who was invited to assist in the deliberations.

The UNESCO *Courier* for April contains extracts from the replies received to this questionnaire which embody startling and agonising revelations. "The interest and concern that are lavished on art" says an informant, "are denied to the artist. I am given no encouragement either private or official. My sole inspiration is my wretchedness." The question invariably posed to artists throughout the world: "Why don't you earn your living some other way and pursue your art in your spare time, free from financial worries?" is answered thus "To the majority of artist 'a bread and butter job' is a slavery that robs them of opportunities for prolonged reflection, and careful attention to detail, required by any work of art. You cannot write a symphony in your spare time." Many an artist will find his own experience duplicated in that of Maurice Toesca who asserts: "For twenty years I have followed a profession and I realise that the exercise of another profession is the greatest obstacle to creative writing; but to give up that second profession may mean starvation for Society takes no interest in the fate of artists..... At a time when the essential values of Civilisation are being challenged as never before, the function of the artist, as its main prop and defender, has to be increasingly realised. It is interesting to read in this connection that some Municipalities in Central Europe, notably Zurich, have revived the traditions of earlier days and earmarked 28 percent of the cost of constructing new public buildings for orders for mural paintings, stained glass, mosaic, sculpture and allied achievements in the artistic field. Based on the replies received to its questionnaire UNESCO has formulated an Artists' Charter detailing ways and means for improving the material and other conditions under which artists are compelled to live and strive in the world of today.

In India, the plight of artists is considerably worse than it is in most European countries, but that they are alive to the various facets of their problems, has been sufficiently proved in recent years by the three All-India Art Conferences, representative of art organisations throughout the country, as a result of which AIAFA was brought into being to voice their collective opinions. This has followed in the wake of the realisation that their future is in their own hands, and that unless they become sufficiently vocal to attract attention nothing concrete can be achieved. In Bombay, an Art Enquiry Committee has resulted in the formation of an Art Advisory Board, representative of Provincial art interests. The repercussions of this move cannot be assessed at the moment and will be felt only after a certain number of years have elapsed.

The Central Government, however, possibly owing to its many important preoccupations, has not quite fulfilled the hopes it raised some time ago when it convened an All-India Conference of Artists. The resolutions passed at the Conference have not been implemented and serious misgivings have arisen among the artist community in consequence: an adhoc Committee was appointed at the Conference with the specific task of advising Government on the constitution of a Central Advisory body for Art. Instead of devising a Constitution for a representative Central Body of this nature, Government has nominated some individuals on the adhoc committee, with a few additional members who, have been co-opted and who, under the name of the Bharat Kala Samiti, act as the Central Advisory Board. Even though it is admitted that an officially sponsored body can, at best, achieve a long-term solution, the disappointment caused by this move has been considerable, as it has amounted to a virtual rejection of the resolution adopted at the Conference.

A concentrated drive is being launched by various institutions connected with All-India Association of Fine Arts to rouse the public consciousness to a sense of the responsibility it owes the artist, who is struggling against unusually heavy odds in these critical times. It is imperative that every creative artist-the gifted, sensitive inspired being who creates for us the loveliness we live *by* be guaranteed, at all times, sufficient to live *on*.....

THE ACTIVITIES OF AIAFA.

All India Exhibition of Indian Artists. At the time of the Cultural Conference, an art exhibition was organised by us in Bombay consisting of a number of paintings from different regions of India presenting a cross section of the works done during the last 50 years through the works of Dr. Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Asit Kumar Haldar, Jamini Roy, Bendre Chakrawarty, Chavda, Hebbar, Newton, Raza, Hussain, and a number of other young painters. Sri. O. C. Gangoly, veteran art critic presided over the art section of the conference.

UNESCO Travelling Print Exhibition.

AIAFA was charged with the exhibition of a preliminary set of 50 full size framed colour reproductions of World famous artists prepared and sent out by UNESCO to member nations. The organisation of exhibitions of these prints throughout India was a valuable experience for AIAFA, as it put to test the All India Exhibition Machinery for the first time. A catalogue was made by the Central office in addition to UNESCO's original catalogue, and exhibitions were held in various towns under joint auspices with the local institutions.

It was first inaugurated in Bombay by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan; thereafter exhibitions were held at the Bombay Art Society's Salon and Bandra Municipal Hall.

In Calcutta, it was organised under the joint auspices with Calcutta Group, whereas in Patna and Lucknow in co-operation with the Government Schools of Art, inaugurated in each case by the respective Governors of the Province. In Delhi, the exhibition was handled by the Delhi Silpi Chakra and opened by Dr. Tara Chand, Education Secretary to the Government of India. After Delhi it was shown in Amritsar and Srinagar under the joint auspices of the Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar, and Progressive Artists Association, Srinagar. The total period of stay of the exhibits in India was limited.

French Print Exhibition. Luckily at about the same time, the French Embassy in India put at our disposal some prints of painters of the Modern Paris School also in the form of a travelling exhibition. These were sent on an itinerary to the South as follows:—

(1) Under the joint auspices with the Baroda State Museum, inaugurated by Dr. K. G. Saiddain.

(2) Joint auspices with South Indian Society of Painters Madras, inaugurated by Smt. Rukmini Devi.

(3) Shown in Hyderabad under the joint auspices with the Hyderabad Art Society.

Annual General meeting of AIAFA.

The Annual General Meeting of AIAFA was held on the 20th June 1950, when the annual report and audited statement of accounts for the year were adopted. Mr. Karl J. Khandalawala was elected President. Vice Presidents were re-elected and the following members were elected on the Executive Committee.

Chairman. Mr. V. V. Oak (Bombay Art Society)

Vice-Chairman. Dr. Mulk Raj Anand (Marg)

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. J. N. Unwalla (Photographic Society of India)

Secretaries. Delhi. Mr. P. S. Narayanan (Delhi Silpi Chakra)

Patna. Mr. Radha Mohan (School of Arts, Patna)

Lucknow. Mr. L. M. Sen (School of Arts, Lucknow)

Madras. Mr. S. N. Chamkur
(South Indian Society of Painters)

Srinagar. Mr. Trilok Kaul
(Progressive Artists Association)

Amritsar. Saywickjee (Indian Academy of Fine Arts)

Bombay. Mr. V. R. Amberkar (Art Society of India)
Mr. R. Chatterji

Mr. K. M. Gandhi (Bombay Art Society)

Hyderabad. Khwaja Muhammed Ahmed
(Hyderabad Art Society)

Members of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Herman Goetz (Baroda State Museum)

Dr. Motichandra (Prince of Wales Museum)

K. K. Hebbar Bombay

J. Barua (School of Arts Gauhati, Assam)

N. S. Bendre (Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda)

H. N. Dallas (Indian Institute of Architects)

Babesh Sanyal (Delhi Silpi Chakra)

Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy (Indian Society of Oriental Art)

N. P. Chakrawarty (Director General of Archeology)

Mr. P. A. Narielwala (Delhi)

V. S. Adurkar (Director, Sir J. J. School of Arts)

Kanwal Krishna (Delhi Silpi Chakra)

V. S. Massoji (Santiniketan)

H. A. Gade (Progressive Artists Group)

K. Madhava Menon (Travancore)

S. B. Talekar (Lalit Kala Maha Mandal, Poona)

Mr. Mukandilal (U. P.)

Dr. A. Aiyappan (Government Museum, Madras)

Naranarayan Chowdhry (Shantiniketan)

M. J. Mistry (Marg.)

Mr. B. C. Gue. (Ajmer)
Lal Mohan Mukherji. (West Bengal)
Atul Bose. (Calcutta)
Pradosh Das Gupta. (Calcutta Group)
K. K. Mukherji. (School of Arts, Jaipur)

BOMBAY ART SOCIETY

Exchange Exhibitions. The Bombay Art Society and the Progressive Artists Group (Bombay) have initiated exchange exhibitions. The Bombay Art Society's Delhi exhibition has been widely acclaimed and the Progressive Artists Group (Bombay) have certainly made themselves known to the art world of Calcutta.

Shukla's Exhibition. An exhibition of Y. K. Shukla was held under the joint auspices of AIAFA and Bombay Art Society at the request of Government of India, which has taken over some of his paintings for the National Gallery. The Ministry shared the expenses of the exhibition by paying the expenses of the illustrated catalogue.

Bendre's One-man-show. After a lapse of nearly 7 years Mr. Bendre the well-known artist of Bombay held a one-man-show of his works at the Bombay Art Society's salon, early in March. The show was remarkable for its variety of technique and media, which amply displayed his versatility.

Mr. Bendre has now been appointed Prof. of Painting at the newly founded faculty of Fine Arts at the Baroda university.

Progressive Artists Group. This group whose meetings were formerly confined to the 7 or 8 members are now inviting writers, poets, cinema artists, with a view to understand each others' problems and be able to help each other. The Group has been able to make an arrangement with the 'Chetna' Art Gallery & Book Shop, which has given them a place for permanent display of their pictures.

Talk by K. K. Hebbar. Mr. Hebbar who recently returned from a year's study tour in the various European Countries, was invited to give an account of his experiences by the Bombay Art Society in the month of May, soon after his return. Apart from the two exhibitions in London, he was invited to exhibit his paintings both in Switzerland and Paris. We are glad to announce that one of his paintings was purchased for the National Museum, Paris. While in Europe he executed murals at our embassies in Paris and Berne respectively. He also took a prominent part in the UNESCO committee of experts on the "Freedom of the Artist"

Langhammer's Paintings. A one man show of the works of Prof. Walter Langhammer was held at the Convocation Hall under the auspices of the Bombay Art Society in the second week of November, and was opened by Rani Maharaj Singh. His works were marked by many divergent tendencies and currents, the struggle to free himself from the conventions of naturalistic paintings was clearly visible. The show consisted of a number of landscapes, still-lives, portraits and compositions.

Sheila Auden in Bombay. An exhibition of paintings by Mrs. Sheila Auden, the well known Calcutta artist, was opened at the Bombay Art Society's Salon, towards the end of November by H. E. Raja Maharaj Singh. Her works have been widely known for their decorative quality and amusing expression and have been a source of enjoyment to many.

Annual Exhibition of Bombay Art Society.

The 59th Annual Exhibition of the Bombay Art Society was opened on 28th January, by Rani Maharaj Singh. This show consisted of nearly 450 exhibits which were divided into different sections. The Society's Gold Medal for the best exhibit was awarded to Mr. S. B. Palsikar.

Delhi Artist in Bombay. Mr. Har Kishan Lal of Delhi, whose paintings were greatly admired in the recent annual exhibition of the Bombay Art Society, held a one-man-show of his works at the Bombay Art Society in the month of February. This was his first show in the city consisting of altogether 28 oil paintings including a wide range of subjects. This show was enthusiastically accepted by the Progressive Artists Group who showed their appreciation by jointly purchasing one of his oils.

Flower Paintings. A charming one-man-show, solely devoted to flower paintings by Lady Temple, was opened at the Taj Mahal Hotel on the 15th March, 1950, by Rani Maharaj Singh.

Central European Paintings. In February, the Institute of Foreign Languages arranged three exhibitions devoted to Central European paintings. This collection was lent by a well known European art collector. The first exhibition consisted of approximately 70 self portraits by the artists of Central Europe, who gained recognition in the art world between the two World wars. The works of these artists were shown in the two subsequent exhibitions that followed, and a number of outstanding works were displayed along with some others which were mediocre.

DELHI

Delhi Silpi Chakra :—An exhibition of paintings and sculptures of the Delhi Silpi Chakra was opened on 12th November. Earlier this year the Group held a series of discussions, meetings etc., in celebration of its Anniversary. The Delhi Silpi Chakra gave their fullest co-operation to the Bombay Art Society during their show in Delhi. This Group like its counter part in Bombay - The Progressive Artists Group, meet regularly, to discuss problems common to artists.

Haldar's Art :—An exhibition of paintings by Mr. Asit Kumar Haldar, was opened at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society on the occasion of Mr. Haldar's 60th Birthday. While declaring the exhibition open Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid high tributes to Mr. Haldar, who had been one of the pioneers of National India Art movement in the present century.

Two Delhi Artists :—In the middle of November an exhibition of paintings and drawings by two well-known Delhi artists, Satyen Ghosal and Bishwanath Mukherji was held at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society's Hall in which about 113 pictures in various media were on view. Fifty percent of the proceeds of sales was allotted to the National Art Gallery building fund.

Ram Kumar's Works :—A one-man-show of about 70 paintings by Mr. Ram Kumar was organised in New Delhi on the 30th December, and was opened by Dr. O. Kratochvil who in his inaugural speech said that art was the expression of freedom from too much of selfishness, pride and secularism.

Service-men's Art :—Paintings and drawings by Service-men were on display at an art exhibition which was opened at the Delhi Area Headquarters on December 31st. About 120 exhibits were on display which were executed by the members of the Defence Forces. There were a number of oil and water colour paintings, mostly landscapes from Kashmir and Travancore and there were a few pastel and pencil sketches also.

Delhi Artists' Show :—An exhibition of paintings and drawings of Delhi artists was opened at the All India Fine Arts & Craft Society in the month of December. This show consisted of about 150 exhibits by 50 artists. Prominent among the exhibitors were Abani Sen, Sailoz Mukherji, B. N. Jijja, Anil Roy Chowdhry and G. K. Ratna.

Mayo College Show :—The hope that in free India more attention would be paid to the development of art which was an important aspect of Indian culture, was expressed by Rajkumri Amrit Kaur opening the exhibition of paintings by Mr. Bhabani Charan Gue, Art master of the Mayo College, Ajmer, and his students, in New Delhi on the 12th of January. There were over 100 pieces on view.

Sculpture by Sushila Yawalkar :—Mrs. Sushila Yawalkar, who has been known in Bombay as a painter recently held an exhibition of her sculptures and some paintings at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, which was opened by Sri. N. V. Gadgil. This show consisted of 20 of her sculptures along with 50 paintings.

Polytechnic Show :—An exhibition of the works by the students of Delhi Polytechnic was held at the beginning of March. This show consisted of several notable paintings, sculptures and textile designs.

All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society :—H. E. The Prime Minister of Nepal opened the 19th annual art exhibition of the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society. This show consisted of about 400 exhibits by over 200 artists belonging to different parts of India.

Gift of paintings :—His Highness The Maharaja of Udaipur presented to the National Museum with 29 paintings, which were lent by him for the Indian Art Exhibition at Burlington House, London. This set includes a number of excellent portraits of Moghul Princes and other important personalities of the Moghul Court.

AHMEDABAD

Kala Darshan :—The young artists of Ahmedabad headed by Mr. Chhaganlal Jadav, have started this organisation, which is an additional link in the scheme of exchange exhibitions within the province. It held recently an exhibition of the paintings of Mr. S. D. Chavda, which was opened by Dr. Goetz.

Progressive Artists' Association Kashmir :—Dr. H. Goetz Ph. D., inaugurated the exhibition of Paintings of the Association in Srinagar on the 18th June 1950.

PATNA

American Paintings :—The Cultural and Information Section of the American Consulate General,

held a three days American Cultural Exhibition here. The exhibition was held in collaboration with the Arts & Artists' organisation and was inaugurated on the 8th January, by Mr. M. S. Aney, the Governor of Bihar. The purpose of this exhibition was to strengthen the friendly relations between America and India through a selection of representative paintings by North American painters.

ALLAHABAD

Khastgir's Exhibition:—The Vice Chancellor of Allahabad University opened towards the end of January, an exhibition of paintings by Sudhir Khastgir of Doon School at the University Staff Club Hall. There were 70 paintings and about 80 photographs of his works mainly sculpture and line drawing.

Rajasthan Art:—A collection of Rajasthan Paintings were shown in an exhibition, in connection with the convocation week of the Allahabad University between the first and 5th of December. A large number of visitors, visited the show which was considered to be the highlight of the celebration. It consisted of more than 200 paintings representing mainly Malwa, Udaipur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Nathadwara, Bundi, Orissa, Deccan and Tanjore. This show was organised by the Indian National Theatre.

HYDERABAD

Art Gallery:—As a part of the All India Industrial and Art Exhibition, an Art Gallery was specially opened which consisted of a large number of paintings and sculpture from all over India. This show was opened by Sri Rajgopalachari, the then Governor General of India. The Society's Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. Harnam Das of Calcutta for his painting, "Two sisters," which was in black & white. The prize for the best sculpture was awarded to Mr. S. K. Bakre of Bombay for his 'Head of the Critic'.

Chinese Art:—The Archeological department of the Hyderabad Government organised an exhibition of Chinese paintings, under the direction of Prof. Chang Dai Chien of the National Central University of Nanking. Prof. Chang is a well known artist and the exhibition included reproductions of Thousand Budha Caves and Yu Link Caves, bearing a striking similarity to the Frescoes of Ajanta. This show offered an opportunity to the artists and art lovers, to make a comparative study of the two schools of art and the influence of Ajanta paintings in the art of the Far East.

AMRITSAR

Academy of Art:—The Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar, organised a Fine Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Patiala. About 250 exhibits were received from all over India, remarkable amongst those were by Sri S. L. Haldankar, Sri Kanwal Krishna, Shrimati Devyani, S. Sobha Singh and Ghogale. An art centre of the Academy was opened there to carry on the development of Fine Art Education, and Sardar Dharam Singh Kler, Architect & Town Planner, was provisionally appointed secretary.

Exhibits are invited from all parts of India for the Annual Exhibition of the Academy, to be held in the Masonic Hall, Opp. Ritz Cinema, Simla. Schedules of the exhibits should reach the Amritsar office of the Academy of Fine Arts at Cooper Road, by the 31st August, 1950. Prospectus may also be obtained from the Amritsar office of the Academy of Fine Arts.

CALCUTTA

Ethel Shea's Works:—An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Ethel Shea was opened at the Artistry House on the 29th November. In this show the most prominent were the paintings devoted to Tibetan themes and portraits, and her exhibits showed an original manner of arrangement and enthusiasm.

Graphic Art Show:—Under the auspices of the Indian Society of Oriental Art, an exhibition of sketches, wood-cuts, wood-engraving and metal works was opened at the Chowringhee Terrace in the month of December. The works of 4 different artists were on view, viz. Binode Bihari Mukherji, Ramkinkar Baij, Gitendra Majumdar and Leela Mukherji.

Academy of Fine Arts:—The fourteenth annual all India exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts of Calcutta was opened at the Indian Museum in the month of December by H. E. Dr. Katju. Altogether about 500 exhibits were on view, including mostly paintings and a few pieces of sculpture. The Governor's Gold Medal for the best exhibit was awarded to Biren Dey for his 'Journey's end', a landscape in water colour. The prize for the best sculpture went for the 'Head of Dr. Abanindranath Tagore' by Sunil Kumar Pal. This exhibition remained open for more than a month and attracted a large number of visitors and had a total sale of about Rs. 30,000/-. With the co-

operation of the Bombay Art Society and the AIAFA, it is hoped to make the next year's exhibition of the Academy still more representative. The Academy incidentally has now put at the disposal of artists a Salon for permanent exhibitions.

Works of Purna Ghosh:—An exhibition of the works of Late Shri Purna Ghosh who died recently, was organised by "Roopayani" in the month of December in Calcutta. Mr. Ghosh was a widely known and talented artist of Bengal, who by force of circumstances had to turn into an illustrator.

Paintings by Gobardhan Ash:—An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Gobardhan Ash was organised by the Calcutta Group in the beginning of January. Mr. Ash is a new member of the Group, and his works are marked by a spirit of enterprise and breadth of vision for which his Group is well-known. Amongst the exhibits almost all were in water colour with the exception of three pencil sketches which were marked for their competency.

Folk Paintings:—An exhibition of Indian Folk Paintings popularly known as "Patras" was opened at the Senate Hall of The Calcutta University, by the Siamese Envoy Extra-ordinary in India, Mr. Luang Phinet Akson, on the 20th of January. The exhibition was organised by the Calcutta Art Society and included nearly 130 exhibits representing the folk art of Bengal, Orissa, Nepal and Tibet.

Dugar's Show:—An exhibition of paintings and sketches by Hira Chand Dugar was held at Calcutta in the month of January. Dugar is an ex-student of Santiniketan and is a skilled painter, whose works are marked by high finish and detail work.

Commercial Art Show:—The Indian Institute of Art in Industry organised an exhibition of Commercial art which was opened by the Education Minister of West Bengal on the 22nd of January. The exhibition was divided into 4 main sections—Calendars, Press and Magazine Advertisements, Posters, and Labels and Cartoons. The entry was restricted to the members of the Institute.

Landscapes by Deviyani Krishna:—An exhibition of the works of Mrs. Deviyani Krishna was opened on the 3rd March under the auspices of the Delhi Silpi Chakra at the Artistry House by H. E. The Governor of W. Bengal. The painter who is the wife of the well-known artist Kanwal Krishna, is an accom-

plished landscape painter in water colour and she executed a large number of sketches from various parts of India.

Four-days Show:—A four-day art exhibition was arranged in the Havell Hall of Kalabhavan to show the works of Binode Bihari Mukherji, till lately teacher in the Kalabhavan, and at present curator of the Nepal Museum. The exhibits included pencil, pen and ink sketches, as well as paintings of Nepalese life. The exhibits were highly appreciated and revealed a style which the artist appears to have developed recently.

Along with the works of Binode Bihari Mukherji, were exhibited some specimens of wood-carvings, wood-engravings and metal casting by Riten Majumdar, who recently visited Nepal.

MADRAS

Progressive Painters' Association:—Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, declared open the 6th Annual exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture of the Progressive Painters' Association, Madras, at the Government School of Arts & Crafts on the 26th September. This show consisted of nearly 400 paintings and a few pieces of sculpture and handicrafts together with a Child art Section. While declaring open the exhibition, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer observed that Indian paintings should recapture the symbolised suggestion and inspirational nature of the old art of India, assimilating the technical craft and mastery over colour, pigment and form, which the West had brought into vague, forgetting that the essential spirit of the East and West in the matter of painting was different.

Art Gallery in Congress Exhibition:—The need for a permanent art gallery in the Presidency of Madras was stressed by Mr. K. Kamraj Nadar, while opening the art gallery in the Congress Exhibition on the 17th December. The collection in this show included works of artists from all over India and consisted of works in water colour, oils, pastel, black and white, as well as some pieces of sculpture. There were two other important section devoted to commercial art and children's works.

BANGALORE

Mr. Ananda Samarakone from Ceylon exhibited some of his recent paintings in the month of February at Bangalore. Mr. Samarakone who was a stu-

dent of Mr. Nandalal Bose, paints in wash technique. It is reported that "He combines the sensitivity and grace of the ancient Indian masters with the realistic trends of today". His pictures are mainly devoted to Buddhist subjects.

LUCKNOW

Sathi's Paintings :—An exhibition of paintings, water colours and drawings by R. C. Sathi, a young artist of Lucknow, was opened by Mr. Sampurnanand, Education Minister, in the first week of November, 1949, at Lucknow. While declaring the exhibition open, Mr. Sampurnanand observed that apart from pleasing the eye, true art also elevated the moral virtues of the people.

The exhibits on display covered a wide range of subjects consisting of paintings in oils, water colour, tempera, pen and ink drawings. This show was held under the auspices of the U. P. Artists Association.

OOTACAMUND

An exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculptures by Mr. Sushil Kumar Mukherji of Bengal was opened at the Indian Union Club by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, when he observed that Indian art was essentially symbolic and what mattered to the Indians was the ideal behind the paintings.

Paintings by Nagar :—A one-man show of the works of Madanlal Nagar was opened at the Lucknow University Union Hall, in the last week of February. He exhibited altogether 158 paintings which were executed during the last few years. These paintings showed the artist in his formative stages. The exhibits were appreciated for their bold realism and brilliant colours.

U. P. Artists' Association :—At the annual general meeting of the U. P. Artists' Association, which was held recently, the following office bearers were elected:—

President	Mr. M. L. SEN,
Vice-President	Mr. SRI RAM VASH,
Secretary	Mrs. SANWAL,
Jt. Secy.	Mr. R. C. SATHI,
Treasurer	Mr. SANWAL,
Secy. for	
Publications	Mr. B. SEN.

The association held under its auspices the following exhibitions during the last one year.

1. Annual Art Exhibition.
2. One-man show of Mr. R. C. Sathi. (Mussoorie)
3. One-man show of Mr. R. C. Sathi (Lucknow)
4. With the Co-operation of the Nava Sanskrit Sangh, an exhibition of painting and sculpture. (Lucknow)
5. An exhibition of sculpture and drawing by Miss. Ruschi. (Lucknow)

The Art and Architecture of Bikaner State by Dr. Herman Goetz.

This monograph presents the first outline of Rajput art and civilization set against their historical background. The publication has been made for the Government of Bikaner under the auspices of the Royal India & Pakistan Society (Faber & Faber, 24, Russel Sq. London W. C. I.) Available in India with M/s. Taraporewalla's Hornby Road, Bombay.

FOREIGN

Angela Trindade in U. S. An exhibition of painting by Angela Trindade, (Bombay) was held at the Washington Art Club, in the month of December. Miss Trindade exhibited a wide variety of works including water colours and oils mostly devoted to Christian subjects. She now proposes to hold her exhibition at Philadelphia.

Sathawalekar in E. Africa. Mr. Mahadev Sathawalekar a well-known Bombay Artist had a series of one-man-shows in Tanganika, Kampala, Nairobi and Mombasa. This was the first time that an Indian Artist exhibited his paintings in these parts, where there are hardly any artists, and exhibitions of paintings are restricted to shows held by visiting foreigners. Mr. Sathawalekar who has now returned to India informs us that a great deal of interest was evinced in his works. Several thousands of people flocked to the exhibitions; the entire proceeds accruing from the collection from entrance were donated by the Artist to a fund for a Gandhi Hall to serve as an extension of the new museum building in Nairobi.

Souza's Painting in London. An exhibition of the works of Francis Newton Souza, one of the foremost members of the Progressive Artists Group of Bombay, was held in London towards the end of February. Souza's works have created considerable interest in London and it is expected that an exhibition of his paintings will be organised in one of the important art galleries of London in the near future.

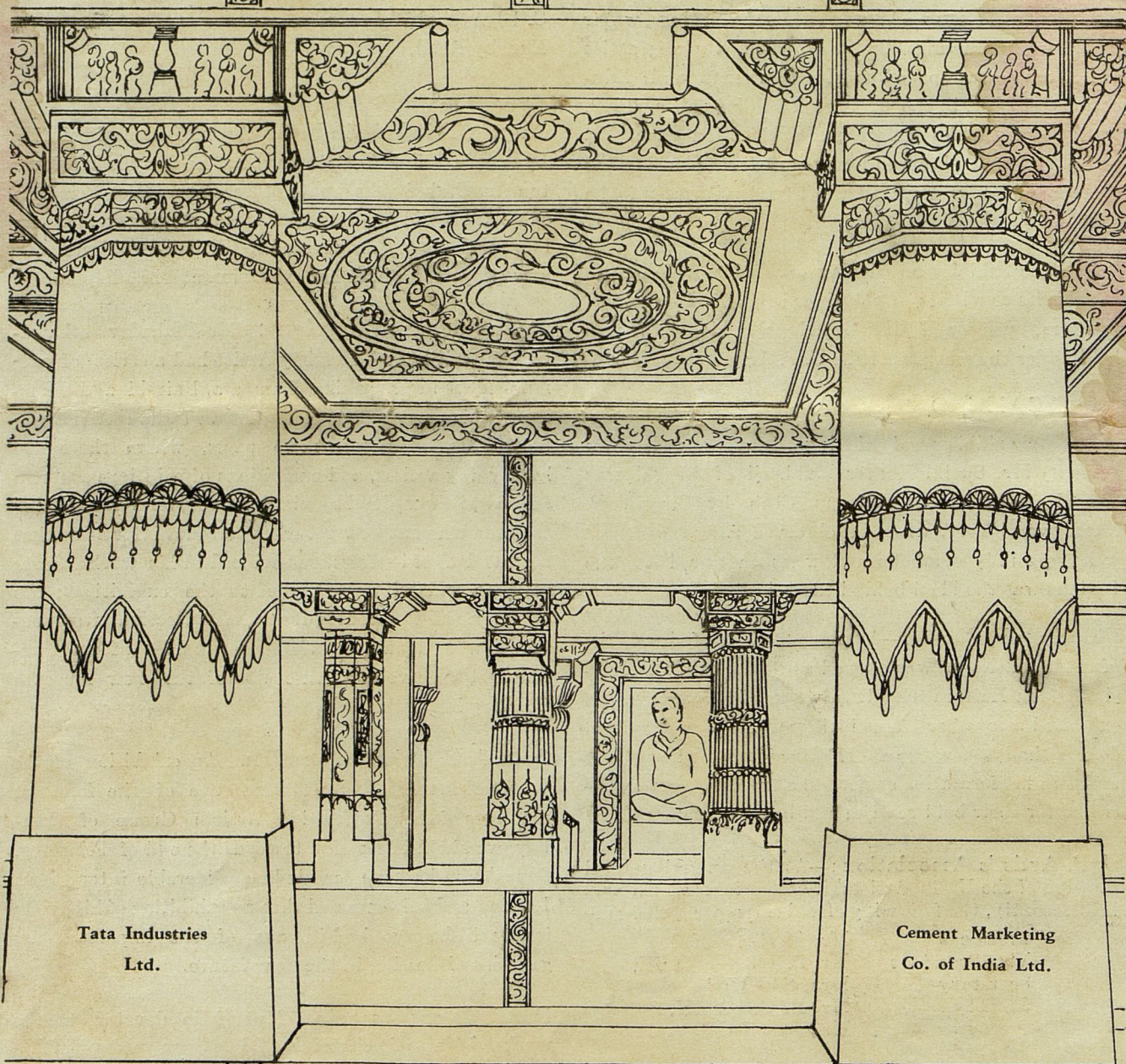
Portfolio of Massacio. A portfolio devoted to the works of Massacio containing 28 colour plates of his frescoes in the Brancaccio Chapel have been published in collaboration with UNESCO by Amilcare Pazzi of Milan. Designed essentially for educational authorities, Museums, Art Galleries and Libraries, this Association has agreed to the request of the Government of India for acting as intermediary by publicising the portfolio and collecting orders. The Cost of the portfolio is \$ 10.25 (less 40%). UNESCO will not handle orders through booksellers or private individuals directly.

Sepulchre Bros.
(India) Ltd.

Bombay Stationery
Mart.

Red Eagle Printers.

Allied Photographics
Ltd.



Tata Industries
Ltd.

Cement Marketing
Co. of India Ltd.

New Book Co. Ltd.

Eves' Weekly.

J. Walter Thompson
(East) Ltd.

Chemould Ltd.

Pillars of Support to art in India

AIATA News

ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF FINE ARTS



"DRUMMERS" is one of sixteen reproductions contained in a volume on Hebbbar, published by Nalanda. Hebbbar, one of the better known contemporary painters, was trained at the Sir J.J. School of Art under the direction of Charles Gerrard. He has developed a distinct style of his own having outgrown the formative phase, when artists are content to copy either the Western or the traditional Indian style of painting.

The book is well brought out with illustrations, eleven of which are coloured reproductions presented in simple good taste under an equally simple yet very striking cover. The printing, lay-out and colour blocks are all in keeping with the standard of the rest of the volume which can compare favourably with the best of its kind in Europe.

Price Rs. 25.

Editorial

THERE is to-day all over India a growing awareness of our great cultural Heritage and its deep significance. The advent of freedom has brought us many new and serious responsibilities. The chief amongst them is the need to guard what is imperishable and good in the racial experience of the peoples inhabiting this vast subcontinent; in other words to preserve the great traditional culture of India and to draw inspiration and strength from it to mould the future. It is our conviction that little is achieved by merely gloating over the glories of the past or in speaking rapturously of the great monuments of old, (Ajanta, Ellora, Mahabalipuram or Taj) and of the exhibits scattered in our Museums. These, it would be well to remember, were the products of a way of life, to which, alas, most of us are foreigners today. What we are most concerned with, is, whether the new era that has dawned in the wake of freedom, will liberate those forces that would correct the false sense of values prevailing and create a way of life that would help the nation to rise to heights of new cultural achievements. The freedom that is won will attain fulfilments in the measure in which it promotes this objective.

It is in this context, that we view and welcome the announcement of our Government in regard to the formation of a Cultural Trust for the nation. We congratulate the Government on their wise and timely step and prayerfully hope that it would serve the ends in view.

To the credit of art lovers and artists, it should be said that they have been keenly alive to their responsibilities. With commendable forethought, timely initiative and remarkable unanimity, they have by the formation of the All India Association of Fine Arts provided a common forum, to register the common will and collective leadership. The creation of this body was, no easy task. A great deal of time, labour and more than that, the ardent devotion of innumerable art lovers and artists from all over India have gone into the making of it. It has taken shape after much mature deliberation at three All India Art Conferences. Within the short time it has been in existence, it has proved a dynamic body and has drawn to itself the loyalty and affection of its numerous constituents. It is the natural right and function of such a body, not only to devise proper measures but also to advise and direct in all matters pertaining to art. No better machinery than that of the All India Association of Fine Arts exists to co-operate with the Trust and to lead Governmental initiative into fruitful channels. We, therefore, look forward with great hope to the closest co-operation with the Trust.

This *Art Bulletin* makes its appearance in deference to the wishes expressed by delegates at the last Conference and is one more tangible symbol of the expanding activities of the Central Body. It is designed to present the activities of artists and art societies, to bring them into closer touch with each other and to help to co-ordinate their activities. We have pleasure in mailing you this first issue and in doing so we seek your assistance and co-operation to take the trouble of forwarding brief notes in connection with the activities of Art Organisations in different parts of the country with particular reference to Exhibitions. Such contributions and constructive suggestions from our readers will be most welcome.

NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST

On the 4th August, 1948, there was an A. P. I. message from Delhi, announcing the proposed establishment of an Indian Cultural Trust for the development of Literature and Fine Arts. It was to be endowed by Government and was to operate through the medium of three academies of Art, Music, Drama and Dance and Letters. This announcement also stated that financial provisions for the Trust had been made in the current year's budget and that among other things a scheme to raise the aesthetic background of the people of India prepared by Mr. Borda Ukil had been approved by the Government of India.

As we had enquiries and protests from a number of our members requesting us to make a representation to the Government of India against acceptance of such a scheme for countrywide art education put forward by one individual without consulting representative art opinion, the Association wrote to the Government of India to ascertain first whether the news contained in the announcement was authentic.

We have now had a reply from the Government of India and would take the opportunity to clarify that no financial provisions have been made in the current year's budget yet as stated in the communique and that Government have not accepted the scheme of Mr. Ukil which has only been circulated tentatively to the Provinces for opinion. As such, in view of a personal discussion the Office bearers have had with the authorities and the Government of India, we do not see the necessity of making any further representation.

We hope to give further details in respect of the plans for the Trust which are under consideration of the Government of India, in our next issue. We, learn however, that the National Commission will be set up very shortly consisting of representatives from the field of Science, Education, Arts, etc.

ART NEWS

DELHI :

Indian Art Exhibition:—The exhibits from the Indian Art Exhibition held in Burlington House, London, last year will be displayed at Government House, Delhi, sometime in November. As artists in various parts of the country will not have the opportunity of seeing the exhibition, AIAFA has suggested to the Education Department of G. O. I. that a film of the exhibits should be made, which, coupled with a film of the activities of the Third All India Art Conference, would constitute an interesting documentary picture of art activities in this country. AIAFA has also suggested the bringing out of a fully illustrated catalogue, which would form a permanent record of the Exhibition.

Brahamagiri Excavations—On 25th August, Dr. N. P. Chakrawarty, Director-General of Archaeology in India, declared open an exhibition of material, excavated from mines at Brahamagiri, Mysore. The Exhibition was arranged at the Delhi University. A lantern lecture given by Mr. B. B. Lal illustrating the excavations proved very interesting.

All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society—The All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society of Delhi has arranged a series of exhibitions as usual, the most recent being :

- (1) Photographs of Kashmir by Madanjeet opened by Sheikh Mohamed Abdulla.
- (2) Paintings of Mr. Boorsingh of Rajputana opened by Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.
- (3) Kashmir Water-colours of Raza opened by Mr. R. V. Leyden. Raza a student of the well-known Austrian artist, Prof. Langhammer is very popular among Bombay's art lovers.
- (4) Silkscreen prints of Modern American Artists opened by Mr. Donovan.
- (5) One man show of S. G. Thakar Singh, President of the Academy of Fine Arts (Amritsar).

The Society is also making arrangements for the Exhibition of Indian Paintings at the Columbia University, U.S.A.

Poster Competition:—Mr. Barada Ukil, Mr. Anil Roy Chowdhry and Mr. Bihari Lall of Delhi have been appointed judges for selecting three posters by Indian artists from all over India for submission to the

U. N. Poster of Year competition. Details in this connection are available from Visual Information Officer, U. N. Information Centre, Theatre Communications Building, Queensway, New Delhi.

Artist's Gift to the Nation:—Mr. Sailoz Mukherjee of Delhi, has presented thirty of his best paintings as a gift to the Nation. These will be distributed among embassies, schools and other institutions. A few of the paintings will be hung in the library of the Central Agricultural Research Institute.

Paintings for Embassies:—Twenty paintings have been purchased by the Government of India from the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society to decorate the Indian Embassies abroad. The selection was made by Dr. Mookerjee, Industries Minister and Mr. Barada Ukil, while Pandit Nehru made the final choice.

Art Gallery for Delhi:—The Government of India have approved of a scheme for the establishment of a Modern Art Gallery submitted by the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society. The Gallery will contain selected paintings and sculptures depicting the culture and civilisation of India through the centuries. A special section of it will house the works of European artists in India.



Sir Usha Nath Sen, President of The All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi, at Exhibition of the Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Amritsar, held at Simla along with S. G. Thakur Singh, President; B. Saywickjee, Secretary; S. C. Paul, Art Executive, Govt. of India and other Artists.

EAST PUNJAB :

At the opening of the 16th Exhibition of the Indian Academy of Fine Arts at Simla, Mr. Saywickjee, the Secretary, however emphasised the importance of a Central Body like the All India Association of Fine Arts, to which Government could look for guidance and inspiration in the direction of art education in

this country. At this function H. E. Sir Chandulal Trivedi, Governor of East Punjab pointed out the necessity of establishing an Art School and Museum in Punjab, to replace the ones of which they had been deprived as a result of the partition of the Punjab. He said that it was the Government's objective to restore them in due course. East Punjab being a poor Province, could ill afford to overlap or waste resources and he therefore advised the Academy to co-ordinate their plan of work with the Centre.

LUCKNOW :

Mr. L. M. Sen, Principal of the Government Arts and Crafts College, Lucknow, inaugurated a Centre to act as a market for artistic creations and a training ground for youth in photography, journalism, broadcasting, modern music and fine arts. The Centre which has been started on 30th August will be run on the lines of the American Art Guild.

MADRAS :

The first monthly Art Exhibition of the South Indian Society, of Painters was held at the Government Museum. Dr. Aiyappan, Honorary Secretary of the Society welcomed a large gathering on behalf of Mr. K. Chandramouli, Minister for Local Administration, who was unable to attend. The artists who participated in this Exhibition included Biswa Mohan Sen, C. Ramaswamy, P. R. Sarma, Aziz Azami, N. Annamalai, A. G. Sunderamurthi, V. B. Rajagopal, Alzies, C. M. Soundararajan, S. Natarajan, Kirol Sinha, Sahdevan and Devi Prasad Narayan Rao. The exhibitions of the last mentioned artist (Bust of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi) from the collection of Dr. C. Satyanarayana, attracted considerable attention.

BANGALORE :

The International Exhibition of Pictorial Photography, sponsored by the Mysore Photographic Society, is the first of its kind to be held in South India. Sir Samuel Ranganathan, declaring open the Exhibition, congratulated the organisers for the high standard of the Exhibition, which was mainly responsible for getting entries from foreign countries.

TRIVANDRUM :

In their administration report of 1947, the Shri Chitralayam Picture Gallery have announced the addition of the following paintings to their fine collection :—

A Veiled Lady: by Manishi Dey; The Nagarani: by S. N. Chamkur; Bodhisattvini: A Japanese Kakemono; Mother and Child: by Somabandhu (Ceylon); Bust of Lord Siva: by Manishi Dey.

CALCUTTA :

In response to an appeal made by Lady Ranu Mookerjee, the President of the Academy of Fine Arts, together with Dr. Stella Kramrisch, Mr. O. C. Gangoly, Dr. Kalidas Nag, Mr. Umaprosad Mukherji, Dr. Niharranjan Roy, Mr. Deviprasad Ghose and Mr. Amal Home, a very successful exhibition was held to raise funds for financing medical treatment to a young and talented artist, Subrata Bose, who had been seriously ill for quite a time. This unique function was presided over by his Excellency Dr. Katju, Governor of Bengal. While in Bombay, en route to England, Lady Mookerjee mentioned that every picture in the exhibition was sold and that the artist was well on the road to recovery.

Lady Mookerjee expressed the hope that artists from all over the country would send in their exhibits for the annual exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts to be held at Calcutta in December.



DR. ABANINDRANATH TAGORE *An Etching By N. S. Bendre*

Dr. Abanindranath Tagore was felicitated on the occasion of his 76th Birthday at a function arranged by the Calcutta Art Society under the presidentship of His Excellency Dr. K. N. Katju, Governor of West Bengal. The following telegram was sent by AIAFA—“EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SENDS ITS BEST WISHES AND PRAYS YOU BE SPARED MANY MORE YEARS TO FOSTER THE CAUSE OF INDIAN ART.”—AIAFA

BOMBAY :

Bombay Art Society :—Monsieur Hubert de Limerai, Consul for France in Bombay, opened an Exhibition of reproductions of modern French painters. Other Exhibitions held under the auspices of the Society were :—Photographs of Mahatma Gandhi's

13

Trip to Bihar taken by Mr. Mehta opened by Mr. S. K. Patil, President, B.P.C.C. (in collaboration with Youths Art Culture League).

Water Colours by Miss Gregson opened by Mr. W. W. Russel.

One of the most original and interesting Exhibitions was that of Indian Toys arranged with the assistance of Mrs. Schwartz and Mr. Narnarayan Choudhry opened by Mr. Chinmulgund.

F.S.U. Art Group :—Mr. Newton's Exhibition of Paintings sponsored jointly by the F.S.U. Art Group and Progressive Artists Group was held at Matunga.

Chetana :—Exhibition of old Indian Textiles—opened by Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. Some of the Sarees, Moghal Brocades and Kashmir Shawls were pieces one rarely sees these days outside of museums.

Photographic Society of India :—H. E. Rani Maharaj Singh inaugurated the 7th Annual Exhibition of this society at the B.E.S.T. Conference Room on 13th September. The Special feature of this year's Exhibition was the projection of monochrome and coloured slides.

Miscellaneous :—Among other activities was a meeting held under the joint auspices of the Art Societies in Bombay where members of the Art Education Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay headed by Mrs. Hansa Mehta explained the salient points of their report. The immediate necessity of a Directorate of Art with an advisory board was stressed as it was felt this would be the first step towards the implementation of other details covered in the report.

The Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society arranged a select exhibition of some books on Art, Architecture and costly editions of classics in Society's Room on 23rd, 24th and 25th of September.

Students Exhibition :—With a view to obtain constructive criticism and guide students, Mr. Francis Newton, Honorary Secretary of the Progressive Artists' Group arranged a display of the works of the Students of the J. J. School of Art at the Bombay Art Society's Salon. Mr. Chatterji, Prof. W. Langhammer, Messrs. Dilip Kothari, R. V. Leyden and E. Schlesinger gave their opinions on the exhibits. Mr. Mehta spoke on behalf of the artists.

Art Gallery for Bombay :—Plans for the establishment of the Art Gallery in Bombay, towards which Sir Cowasji Jehangir has donated Rs. 4,00,000, have been finalised and the site in the Museum grounds has been decided upon. Further implementation of the project, now awaits Sir Cowasji's return from Europe.

BOMBAY REGIONAL COMMITTEE :

The first meeting of the Bombay Regional Committee was held on 25th September at the Bombay Art Salon. Dr. K. G. Saiyidain, Educational Adviser, Government of Bombay, Prof. Langhammer, Dr. D. G. Vyas, Mr. N. M. Kelkar, Mr. K. K. Hebbar, Mr. Pansare, Mr. R. Chatterjee, and Mr. Badigar were co-opted in their individual capacity.

POONA :

His Excellency Sir Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay accompanied by Her Excellency, paid a visit to Mahatma Gandhi Chitra Pradarshan organised by the Lalitakala Maha Mandal of Poona. The President of the Mandal, in his address, stressed the necessity of propagation of Fine Arts as a National Cause, explaining at length the various activities of the Mandal and the extensive national work which the Mandal aspires to do. He further expressed the importance of recognising public opinion on the matter of the Cultural Trust, so that full representation in organising the scheme may be adopted by a representative body.

BIHAR :

A picture Gallery has been organised in the Patna Museum where paintings by old masters and contemporary artists are exhibited.

Patna School : To give effect to the proposed scheme for a full-fledged Government School of Art in Patna, the Government of India has granted a sum of Rs. 1,70,000 for the construction of a special building for the school in addition to the recurring annual grant of Rs. 17,000 by the Provincial Government for the upkeep of the school. We congratulate the Hon'ble Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, the Finance Minister and Acharya Badri Nath Verma, the Education Minister of the Government of Bihar, who are taking active interest in this project in their respective capacities as President and Vice-President of the School.

NAGPUR :

The Nagpur School of Art Society have sponsored an Exhibition of S. H. Raza's Water-colours from Kashmir.

GENERAL :

Artists' Materials: In pursuance to a resolution passed at the Third Art Conference, AIAFA had taken up the matter regarding inadequate supply of artists' materials in this country, with the Government of India. We are informed by the Government that they have now issued licenses more liberally to established dealers in this line for the current period. The matter however is being followed up in order to obtain a larger supply of materials for artists.

WASHINGTON :

A six-day festival of Fine Arts was held at Harvard University where paintings of three Indian Artists were on view. At this function Mrs. Rajen Nehru, wife of the Indian Charge D'Affairs in Washington delivered a concise and well conceived lecture tracing the 5,000 years of the history of Indian Art and Civilisation.

KARACHI :

The first exhibition of Karachi Fine Arts Society was inaugurated by the Governor of Sind at Y.W.C.A. on the 10th of September. This is the first exhibition of paintings of any consequence, held in Pakistan. Four pictures of Jamini Roy and two water-colours of Abdur Rehman Chughtai have been lent to this Exhibition.

INDIAN PAINTER ACCLAIMED IN CHINA :

The recent one man Exhibition of Mr. Y. B. Shukla (of the Bombay School of Art and Indian Government Scholar at the National Institute of Fine Arts, Peking), sponsored by the Sino-Indian Cultural Society of Nanking augurs well for Sino-Indian relations. At the preview of the Exhibition, Sardar K. M. Panikkar, the Indian Ambassador, was at home to a distinguished gathering of diplomats, high Chinese Government Officials, French, Italian and Burmese Ambassadors, Education Minister and Foreign Minister of China, artists and art critics. Mr. Shukla's scrolls done in Chinese style with Chinese brush and ink were highly commended.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES :

According to the decisions of the Third Art Conference, the work of the Association was to be carried out through the medium of the Regional Committees, to be established in various provinces in this country.

So far the following have been appointed convenors for convening the meetings of the Regional Committees in their respective Provinces :

Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy (Calcutta)
Mr. Bhabesh Sanyal (Delhi)
Mr. Madhava Menon (Travancore)
Dr. Aiyappan (Madras)
Mr. Mukherjee (Jaipur)
Mr. Ishwar Dass and Mr. Mukundi Lal (U.P.)
Mr. Radha Mohan (Bihar)

Mr. Saywickjee (N. W. Indian Region—consisting of East Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Patiala, Phulkian State Union and Jammu and Kashmir States.

Museums, Art Schools (Government and Private) and Art Societies who are not yet members of AIAFA are requested to get in touch with the convenors in their respective provinces listed above for further information and membership forms.

ROERICH PACT :

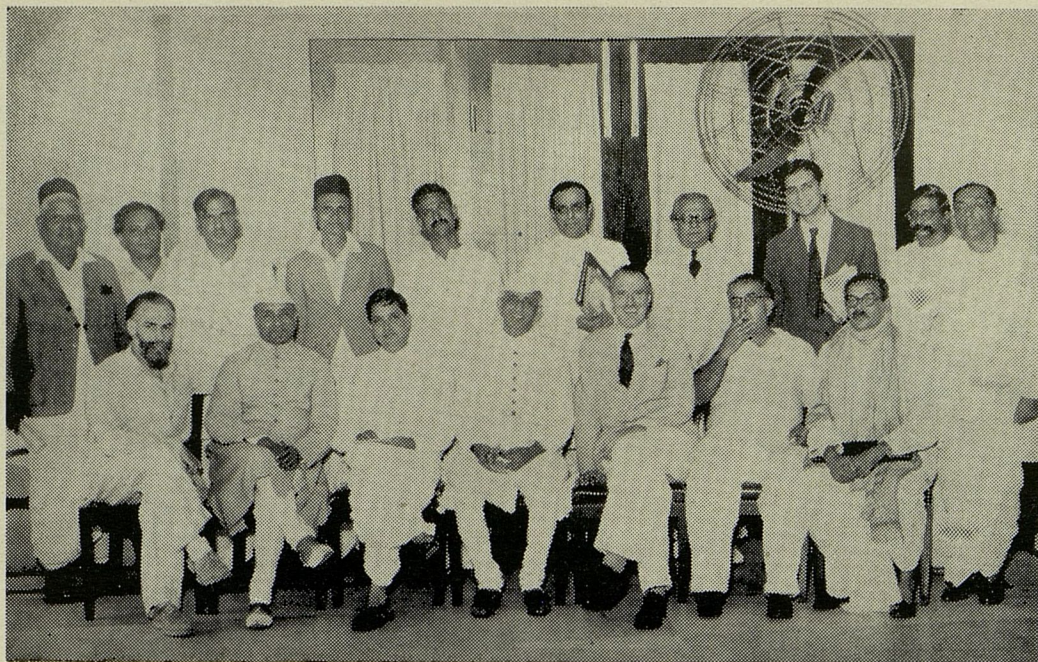
One of the Resolutions passed at the Art Conference held in Bombay in June, recommended the ratification of the Roerich Pact by the Government of India. It is encouraging to see that the Government has since signified its approval to this International Pact through which monuments, cultural treasures as well as educational and scientific institutions are rendered inviolable during times of war and civil strife. We hope that the Prime Minister will support this move in the course of his proposed address at the UNO Session.

AIAFA ENTERTAINS NEWSPAPER EDITORS :

On the 26th July, 1948, AIAFA entertained the members of the Standing Committee of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference when the following were present :—

Mr. Devdas Gandhi, Mr. Amritlal Seth, Mr. K. Srinivasan, Mr. Sahni, Mr. S. A. Brelvi, Mr. I. S. Jehu, Mr. B. Sen Gupta, Mr. S. C. Muzumdar and Mr. H. Joshi.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, Mr. Venkatachalam thanked them for their kind response, and outlined briefly the policy and programme of this Association and pleaded with them to take a little more interest in matters pertaining to Art and



Newspaper Editors from all over India were entertained.

Artists. He emphasised " With the big schemes our National Government has for promoting art and culture in the country, a vital role remains to be played by the Press by propagating effectively our news in order to rouse the general public interest in this direction." He announced amidst applause that H. E. Sri C. Rajagopalachari had kindly consented to be the Patron while H. E. Smti. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Sir Akbar Hydari and Right Hon'ble Mr. M. R. Jayakar had agreed to be Vice-Patrons of the Association.

Mr. Devdas Gandhi replying on behalf of the Editors assured AIAFA of their co-operation. Mr. Sahni and Mr. Svetoslav Roerich contributed valuable suggestions during the discussion about the present day art. Dr. D. G. Vyas thanked the editors for their presence at the occasion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Future Exhibitions :

BOMBAY.

Diamond Jubilee Exhibition of the Bombay Art Society 10th to 24th December, 1948. Last day for receiving pictures : 18th and 19th November.

Art Society of India : Annual Exhibition : February, at the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Hall, Bombay.

Academy of Art (Calcutta) : Annual Exhibition : December.

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Governing Council of the All India Association of Fine Arts was held at Green's Hotel, Bombay, when the progress made by the Association was outlined. We give below a short summary of the proceedings.

As the work in respect of affiliation was now complete, the major art organisations having already become members of the Association, it was decided to lay down an initial programme and approach the Provincial Governments for financial aid in giving effect to it. A donation of Rs. 9,000/- to the Association by the Reception Committee of the Third All India Art Conference was also announced. A sub-committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for a Travelling Exhibition and Scholarships before approaching the Provincial Governments. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that though the Office of the Association may move from place to place as the Governing Body decide from time to time, the Registered Office of the Association should be in Delhi. The meeting was well attended, over 30 members of the Governing Council being present.

We shall be pleased to make announcements regarding Exhibition through our columns, provided full details are sent to us well in advance. We shall also undertake the distribution of the prospectus among our members.



“NATIR PUJA”

By

SHREE NANDLAL BOSE

Courtesy :

Jayant Dani

(This Bulletin is for Private Circulation only.)

Published by the Authority of AIAFA, 28, Apollo Street, Bombay and
 Edited by K. M. Gandhi, Hon. Gen. Secretary. Printed at Thacker's Press, Bombay.