

CORONA MUNDI
INTERNATIONAL
— ART CENTER —
OF THE
ROERICH MUSEUM

Prices

EXHIBITION OF
**TIBETAN PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE
and ART OBJECTS**

Collected by the
ROERICH CENTRAL ASIAN EXPEDITION

October, 1929
310 Riverside Drive
New York City

Prices



No. 105. PARADISE OF PADMASAMBHAVA

INTRODUCTION

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BEHIND lofty mountain barriers, unsurpassed in majesty and natural beauty, lies the hidden country of Tibet, the land of snows and blizzards, the land of large town-monasteries, which created an unique culture, inspired by a fervent religious striving.

A land of vast upland pastures, and deeply cut mountain valleys, Tibet had produced two distinctive spheres of artistic expression. One is the nomad art of the numerous primitive wandering tribes of the Tibetan North, which is distinguished by decorative motives, composed of animal figures, which are used in ornamental compositions and belong to that highly conventionalized art of nomad Central Asia; the other is the sacred art of Tibet, an expression of its theocratic culture, moulded from the rich heritage of cultural achievements, inherited from China and India.

Heretofore, little has been known of the various domains of Tibetan art and artcrafts. It is only during the past fifteen years that Western eyes have suddenly perceived and understood the stirring rhythm and sublime serenity of Tibetan works of art.

We learned to appreciate the decorative possibilities of Tibetan artistic compositions and their rich and striking color schemes.

The art of this hermit country, which for centuries has been the treasure vault of Asia, has a long evolution behind it. Like everything in Tibet, it is of a highly composite nature and is inspired solely from religion. Since the date of the introduction of Buddhism into Tibet (VIIth Century A. D.) the Legend and Word of Buddha have furnished a never-failing source of themes for devout artist monks, who in the solitude of their cells, created masterpieces worthy of the great Masters of the Early Italian Renaissance.

Each gesture of Buddha's hands is fraught with meaning, and the vast treasury of Buddahist symbolism supplies them with a whole epos of material, unfolds to them a new universe, around which they weave their colorful web, illuminated by an intense religious aspiration.

The present collection of Tibetan art, which was gathered by the Roerich Expedition during its five years' stay in Tibet and Central Asia,

comprises numerous examples of Tibetan pictorial art, sculpture, and art-crafts. In view of the recent reintroduction of a policy of isolation in Tibet, making Tibet inaccessible for scientific and artistic research, this collection assumes especial significance.

From an early date, Tibet came into close contact with its southern neighbor, Nepal. The Nepalese pictorial art steadily influenced the Tibetan conception of beauty. It was through this art that the Tibetan artists acquainted themselves with the traditions of the Ajanta frescoes of India. In the XIIIth and XIVth centuries A. D. this influence of Nepalese art reached its height and even penetrated to the Imperial Court of China. Nepalese artists were highly reputed for their skill and were frequently summoned to the great lamaseries of Tibet. Some of the Tibetan bronzes can be traced back to the art schools that flourished in Magadha and Eastern Bengal during the Indian Middle Ages, preceding the Moham-medan conquest of the Xth century A. D.

Besides this Indo-Nepalese influence from the south, other influences were at work in Tibet. Tibet was always in active relation with the region of Khotan in Chinese Turkestan, and there can be no doubt that the Khotanese local artistic productions found their way into Tibet and had a distinct influence on its art. These artistic productions were of a very composite nature, still bearing traces of an Indian Past. They belong to this complex world that has been created in Central Asia through the contact of a number of nations. The types of the sixteen great arhats, of different religious protectors with their warlike following of devas and yaksas, all clad in armor, can be considered as importations from the North.

The Chinese influence becomes more prominent during the XVII-XVIIIth centuries A. D. and coincides with the spread of the political power of China in Tibet. Its strong influence is noticeable in the Eastern districts of Tibet.

We are able to distinguish two areas or spheres of artistic activity in Tibet; the South-Western and the Eastern. The first has as its center the great monastery of Tashi-lhunpo and is tributary to the Indo-Nepalese art. The Eastern School or Kham School is undoubtedly the best artistic province of Tibet, which produces by far the best works of art, be it painting or sculpture. From Kham come the most reputed artists of Tibet. Most of the frescoes in the great lamaseries of Central Tibet are said to be the work of Kham artists, who were specially invited to execute the paintings. Great is the fame of a Kham-pa artist and many of

the artists of Central Tibet purposely call themselves Kham-pas, or pride themselves on having studied under a noted artist, taught in Kham. In the richness of details, the delicacy of design and the exquisite coloring, the Kham paintings are unsurpassed by the best examples of Central Tibetan art, for behind the art school of Kham lie centuries of artistic tradition.

One of the best artistic provinces of modern Tibet is undoubtedly the Derge district of north-eastern Tibet. Derge is considered to be the best metal-working district of Tibet, and the metal wares produced in its art work-shops are highly prized throughout Tibet and Mongolia. The present Collection has several fine examples of silver charm boxes, made by Derge artists.

The erudition and art of Derge is said to date back to the emigration of Buddhist monks under King Langdarma's persecution in the IXth century A. D. These fugitives took with them valuable traditions of ancient learning, and ancient books and images. The great Monastery of Derge is a reputed seat of lamaist learning and art, and is said to have preserved much of the old Sanskrit culture of India, and the artistic traditions of the early Buddhist epoch in Tibet. It is gratifying to know that a new movement for the preservation of the ancient literature and art objects has been inaugurated in Derge, and will probably help in preserving much of the old Tibetan culture, many of the monuments of which have been lost forever during the Sino-Tibetan wars of the past twenty years.

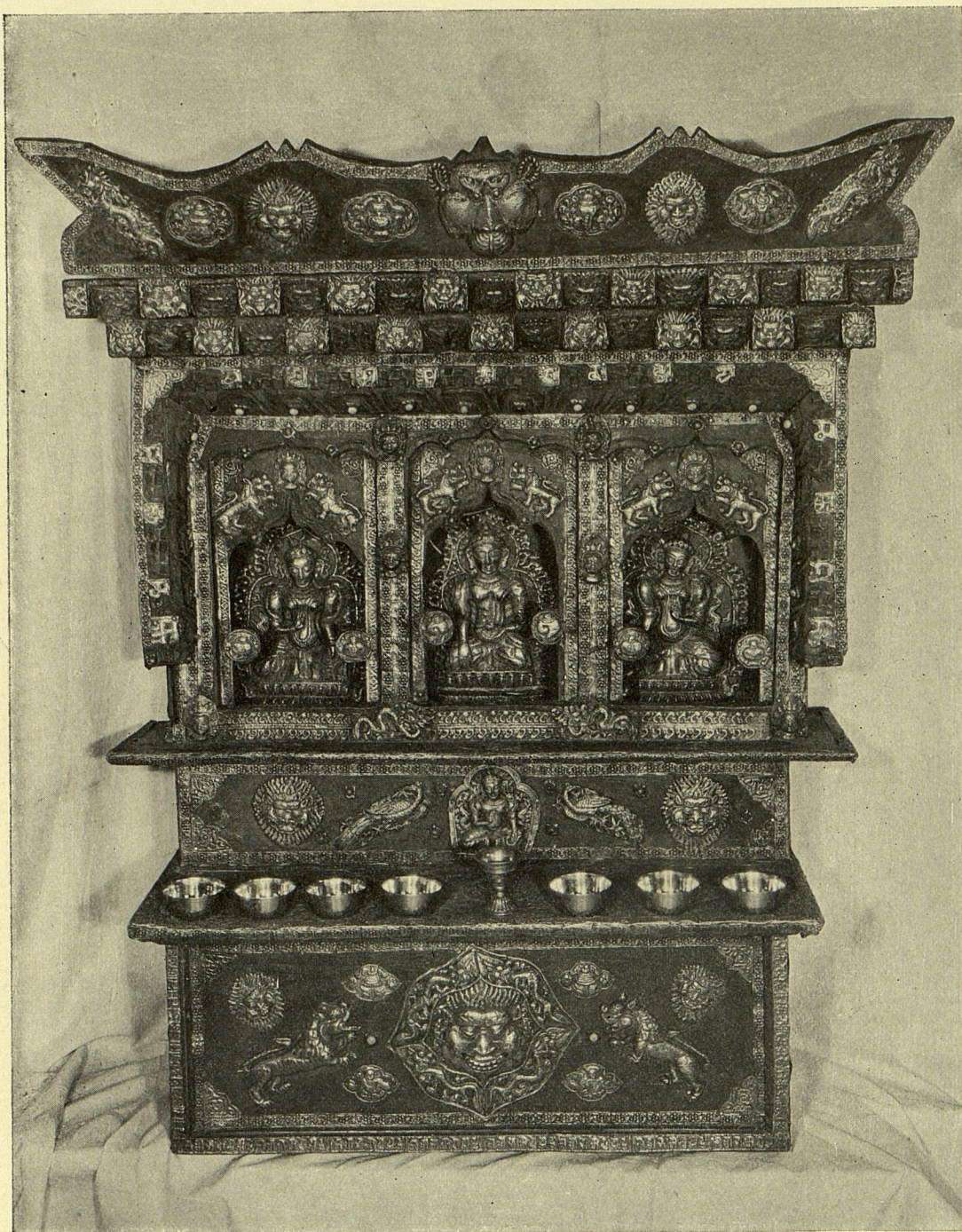
The mansions of the old landed aristocracy of Tibet and Tibetan temples are real museums of antiques. The temples are sometimes very fittingly described by the Tibetans themselves as "tsuk-lak khang" (gtshug-lag khang) or the "House of Objects produced by the Human Mind and Hands." In them we find priceless Chinese porcelain and enamels, presents of the Chinese Emperors to the ruling families of Tibet, fine images of gilded bronze and carved wood, masterpieces of Indian, Tibetan and Chinese art, beautiful examples of pictorial art of Tibet, painted banners of immense sizes.

After a brief spell of modernizing efforts, Tibet has again dropped the curtain of isolation and the dust of centuries still veils the hidden treasurers of art.

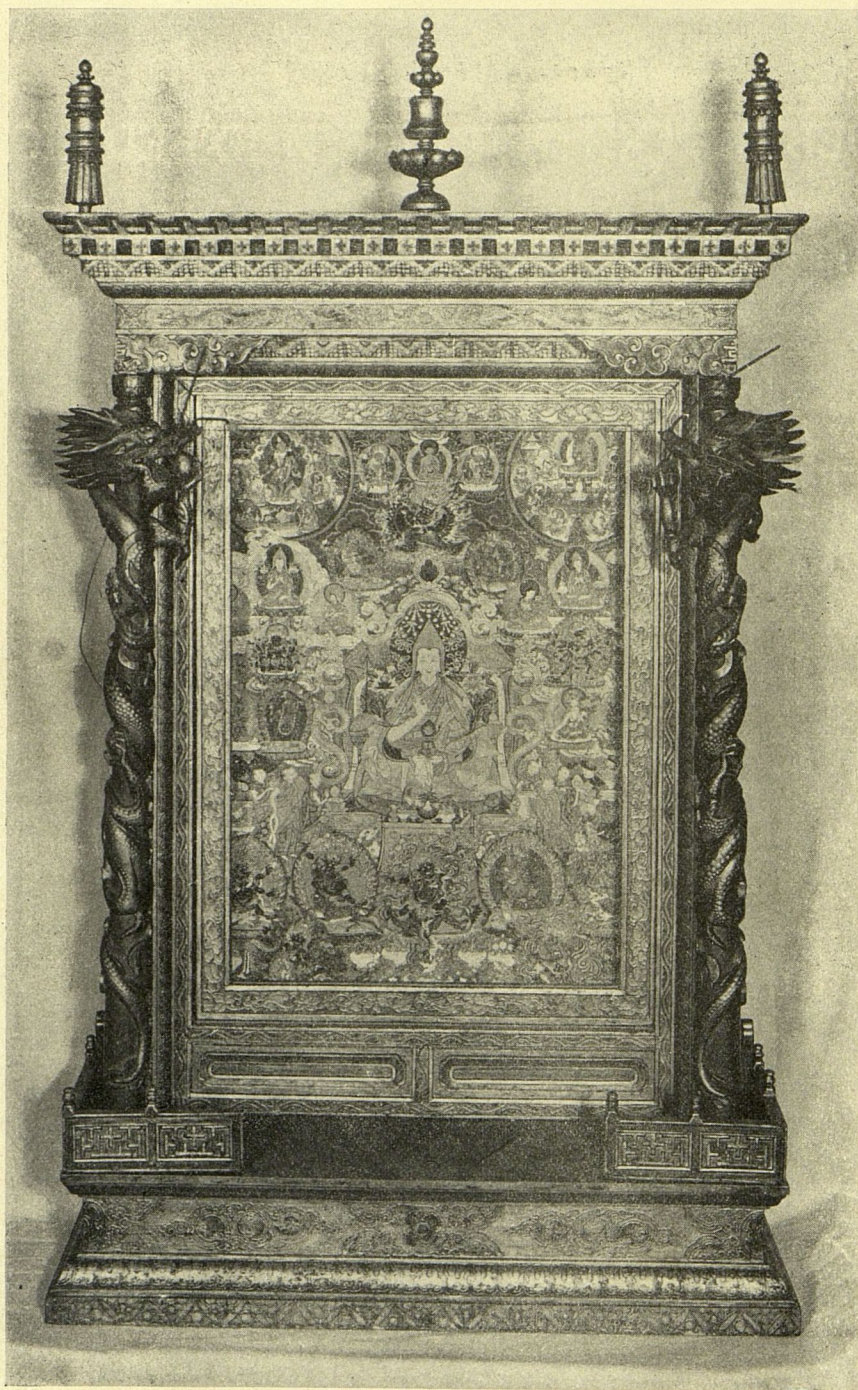
GEORGE N. ROERICH



NO. 11. THE BIRTH OF BUDDHA. NEPALESE BRONZE.



No. 51. ALTAR, SIKHIM.



NO. 53. TIBETAN ALTAR WITH AN IMAGE OF THE THIRD TASHI-LAMA.

Mr James Gortchik
720 West End - N.Y.

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CATALOGUE

I. Bronze Images.

- 1 Eleven-headed Bodhisattva Avalokiteṣvara (Thugs-rje chen-po bcu-gcig shal) with eight attending Bodhisattvas. Bronze. Shigatse. Central Tibet. ~~50~~ **600**
- 2 Čakyaṃuni, the Buddha. The right hand making the sign of attestation (bhumisparṇa-mudra.) Bronze. Shigatse. Central Tibet. ~~100~~ **100** *Tibetan lib* **25. small one**
- 3 Čakyaṃuni, the Buddha, represented in meditative posture, the right hand making the sign of attestation. Shigatse. Central Tibet. ~~100~~ **100 sold** **20**
- 4 Two painted clay images of Vaiṣṇava (Kuvera). Central Tibet. **15 each**
- 5 Bodhisattva Mañjuṣrī. Bronze. Central Tibet. ~~40~~ **Sold**
- 6 Bodhisattva Avalokiteṣvara. Brass. Nepal. **40 sold?**
- 7 Tara. Brass. Nepal. **10**
- 8 Bodhisattva Avalokiteṣvara. Brass. Nepal. **40**
- 9 Painted clay image of Rigs-Idan rgyal-po, King of Shambhala. Dong-kar Monastery. Central Tibet.
- 10 Dhyani-Buddha Amitayus. Bronze. Central Tibet. **10**
- 11 Birth of Buddha. The queen Mayādevi giving birth to Prince Siddhartha under a tree in the Lumbini Park. Bronze inlaid with semi-precious stones. Nepalese work. **750**
- 12a Twenty-six clay votive images. Nag-chu. Central Tibet. **15**
- 12b Painted clay image of Avalokiteṣvara. Shekar dzong. Tibet. **15**

II. Charm Boxes (ga-u).

- 13 Silver charm box with a bronze image of the Dhyani-Buddha Amitayus inside. Derge, N. E. Tibet. **60** *Tib. lib*
- 14 Silver charm box. Derge, N. E. Tibet. (Loaned by Mrs. Horch).
- 15 Brass charm box. Central Tibet. **30**
- 16 Brass charm box. Central Tibet. **10**
- 17 Silver charm box, inlaid with turquoise. Central Tibet. **35** *Tib. lib*

III. Tibetan Coffers.

- 18 Brass inlaid with coral and turquoise. Sikkim. ~~100~~ **not sold** *not here*
- 19 Brass inlaid with turquoise and coral. Central Tibet. **35** **not sold** *J.E.*



NO. 22. TIBETAN TEA-POT AND CUP. DERGE, N. E. TIBET.

IV. Tibetan Tea Pots.

- 20 Brass pot with votive inscription. Central Tibet. 40 *downstairs*
 21 Brass teapot with hammered design. Derge, N. E. Tibet. 50 "
 22 Teapot with tea-cup. Derge, N. E. Tibet. 100 *1 tea cup 25.*
 23 Tea jug. Central Tibet. 15
 24 Brass teapot with hammered design. Central Tibet. 25
~~25, 26, 27~~ Tea jugs (brass with silver ornaments). Lhasa. ~~250~~ *310*

V. Ceremonial Objects.

- 28 Lama water bottle. Brass bottle with red truk cover. Central Tibet. 10
 29 Two hand drums (damaru). Central Tibet. 35
 30 Set of Holy-water vases (bum-pa). Central Tibet. 200 *not* *not here*
 31 Holy-water vase. Central Tibet. 5500 *not*
 32 Libation jug with chalice. Central Tibet. 25 *down*
 33 Pair of cymbals. Central Tibet. 30
 34 Conch-shell trumpet (dung). Central Tibet. 10
 35 Pair of copper flageolets with silver ornaments. Central Tibet. 100 *pair*
 36 Pair of large trumpets (dung-chen). Central Tibet. 350
~~37~~ Magical daggers (phur-bu). Central Tibet. ~~10~~ *500*
 38a Pair of bells. Central Tibet. 16
 38b Bell and dorje. 50
 39 Astrological tablets. 10.
 40 Ru-rgyan, apron used in Tantric ceremonies and made of human bones. 175

VI. Lama Hats.

- 40, 41, 42 Travelling hats for abbots and reincarnated lamas (thang-shva). Central Tibet. 50-30-30
 43 The Yellow hat of the Yellow sect (dge-lugs pa). *messy*
 44 Karma-pa lama hat (skar-ma za-shva). Central Tibet. *messy*
 45 Travelling hat for a rtse-drung or clerical official (rta-shva). *may*

VII. Lama Masks, Used in Religious Dances.

- 46, 47, 48, 49 Masks. Central Tibet. 50 *each*
 50 Hat for the Black Hat dance (shva-nag). Sikkim. 50

VIII. Altars.

- 51 Wooden altar with brass ornaments. Sikkim. 1000.
 52 Wooden altar with brass ornaments. Sikkim. 1000.
 53 Altar. (mchod-bçams) with a painted image of dPal-ldan Ye-ces, the 3rd Tashi Lama (1740-1780), Gilded wood. Shigatse. Central Tibet. 1000.
 54 Carved back of a lama throne. Shigatse. Central Tibet. 200

IX. Tibetan Painted Banners (Thang-kas).

- 55 Buddha and the sixteen great arhats. Central Tibetan School. 500
- 56 Buddha and his two great disciples. Kham School. 250
- 57 Sixteen arhats. Kham School. 200
- 58 Arhats. Kham School. 200
- 59 Arhats. Kham School. 200
- 60 Arhats. Kham School. 175
- 61 Buddha and other sixteen great arhats. Central Tibetan School. 250
- 62 Çakyamuni Buddha. Central Tibetan School.
- 63 Çakyamuni Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 50
- 64 Çakyamuni Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 50
- 65 Çakyamuni Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 100
- 66 Healing Buddha. Central Tibetan School.
- ✓ 67 Paradise of the Healing Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 400
- 68 Healing Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 2000
- 69 Paradise of the Healing Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 60
- 70 Healing Buddha. Central Tibetan School. 75
- 71 Paradise of Amitabha. Central Tibetan School. 175
- 72 Paradise of Amitabha. Central Tibetan School. 200
- 73a Amitabha. Central Tibetan School. 100
- 73b Amitabha. Central Tibetan School. 200
- ✓ 74 Yamantaka. Central Tibetan School. 250
- 75a Samvara. Central Tibetan School. 300
- 75b Samvara. Central Tibetan School. 150
- 76 gtsug-tor bar-ba. Central Tibetan School. 100
- 77 gtsug-tor bar-ba. Central Tibetan School.
- 78 mGon-po phyag-drug. Central Tibetan School. 350
- 79 Yamantaka. Central Tibetan School. 100
- 80a Vajrakila. Central Tibetan School. 300
- 80b Vajrakila. Kham School. 200
- 81 Vajrapani. Central Tibetan School. 60
- 82 Hayagriva. Central Tibetan School. 50
- 83 Maitreya. Central Tibetan School.
- 84 Maitreya. Central Tibetan School. 100 — 843 — 100
- 85 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 100
- 86 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 200
- 87 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 250
- 88 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 175
- 89 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 350
- 90 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 125
- 91 Avalokiteçvara. Central Tibetan School. 450

IX. Tibetan Painted Banners (Thang-kas). — Continued

- 92 Amoghapaṇa-Lokeṣvara. 300
 93 The Green Tara. Central Tibetan School. 200
 94 The Green Tara. Central Tibetan School. 175
 95 The White Tara. Central Tibetan School. 100
 96 The White Tara. Central Tibetan School.
 97 The White Tara. Central Tibetan School. 150
 98 Mandala of Samantabhadra. Central Tibetan School. 200
 99 Ushnisha-Sitāpatra. Central Tibetan School. 550
 100a Na-ro mkha-spyod-ma. Central Tibetan School. 250
 100b Na-ro mkha-spyod-ma. Central Tibetan School.
 ✓ 101 Rigs ldan rgyal-po, King of Shambhala. Central Tibetan School.
 102 King of Shambhala.
 103a Manjuṣri. Central Tibetan School. 250
 103b Manjuṣri. Central Tibetan School. 60
 104 Padmasambhava. Central Tibetan School. 350
 105 The Paradise of Padmasambhava. Central Tibetan School. 500
 106 The Paradise of Padmasambhava. Central Tibetan School. 250
 107 The Miracle of Padmasambhava. Central Tibetan School. 100
 108 Padmasambhava (embroidered). Central Tibetan School. 30
 109 Tsong-Kha-pa (1357-1419). Central Tibetan School.
 110 Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School. 60
 111 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 112 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 113 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 114 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 115 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 116 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School.
 117 Life of Tsong-Kha-pa. Central Tibetan School. } 100
 ✓ 118 Brom-ston (XI th Century art.)
 119 rGyal-dbang bLo-bzang skal-bzang rgya-mtsho, the VII-th Dalai Lama (as- 300
 cended the throne in 1719).
 120 Lama 'Dul-'dzin rdo-rje seng-ge.
 121 Life of the third Tashi-Lama (1740-1780). 80
 122 Lama Dul-dzin Grags-pa rgyal-mtshan. 200
 123 Lama (bSod-nam phyogs-glang). 125
 124 Ascetic Shavari. 60
 125 Ascetic Javaripa. 60
 126 Ascetic Kukuripa. 60
 127 Mandala. "Protector of the four quarters of the world". 50
 128 Bön-po. 250
 129 Bön-po. 250

Lock 35

X. Miscellaneous Objects.

- 130 Lama water flask. 10
 - 131 Binding boards used to cover books. 15
 - 132 Tibetan carved wood tea table. 75
 - 1 Painted Tibetan tea table. 80
 - 2 Brass Tea Table, used by the present Dalai Lama during his stay at Darjeeling, in 1911. Loaned by Mr. L. Porch.
 - ✓ 133 Wood blocks for printing. 10-25-25
 - 1 Five snuff boxes. 10 each
 - 2 Yak horn with hammered brass ornaments used as snuff bottle. -15-50
 - 134 Lady head-dress from Lhasa. -10
 - 135 Three wooden bowls. 10 - each not here
 - 136 Tibetan lavalier inlaid with semi-precious stones. 30 No
 - 137 Tibetan brooches. 25 - each Sold 1 -
 - 138 Jewel boxes.
 - 1 Hammered brass box. 75
 - 2 Brass inlaid with semi-precious stones. 100.
 - 139 Prayer wheels. 10-10-40 Sold 1 -
- Inlaid charm Box
8 50

XI. Nepal Objects.

- 140 Pair of brass door handles representing dragons. 2 5 each
- 141 Nepalese brass hand hammered plate. 1000. Dst
- 142 Brass Ikon representing the life of Buddha. 500 Dst
- 143 Large Nepalese Ikon inlaid with semi-precious stones. 1000. - 2500. Dst
- 144 ~~Doos handles~~
- 145 Five branched offering lamp. 25 - m.p. resin
- 146 One brass Nepalese oil lamp. 25.
- 147 Three Nepalese vases for carrying drinking water. 50 each
- 148 Brass head of dragon for temple fountain. 35
- 149 Brass incense burner. 30
- 150 Two brass figures—dogs. 25
- 151 Nepalese necklace inlaid with semi-precious stones. 200
- ✓ 152 Temple portico—Carved wood. Nepal. 1600. Dst
- 153 Brass plate—ornamented. Nepal. 25. Dst
- 154 Nepalese Ikon, representing Krishna. 300.

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NEW YORK CITY