

Resourceful Reporter Relates Warner's Windowless Wonders

By DOROTHY THOMSON
 "Art museum feature story"—that was my assignment and it didn't look like a very exciting one. It was raining too, and that didn't help the gloomy outlook of the whole thing but soon my bundled figure timidly entered the curious looking structure known as our art museum. After explaining my mission, I was given a pamphlet which contained the necessary information for my article.

It seemed that the Murray Warner Art Museum was but a dream of the future in 1928. The repeated mention of "Murray Warner" aroused by curiosity and here was the explanation. The aforementioned collection of Oriental Art was started by Major and Mrs. Murray Warner while the Major was serving the American government during the Boxer rebellion in China. He had a countless opportunities to obtain beautiful specimens of Chinese art treasures. Mrs. Warner began a collection of these objects as a hobby.

But what was her interest in the University? Why did she choose to give her valuable collection to our University? Here was the solution to that question. It seemed that her son was a professor in the law school here at that time, and when her husband died in 1920 she gave her art collection to the University as a memorial to him. The art was also dedicated to promote interest and appreciation between the Eastern and Western mind, and she felt that the West coast—looking across the Pacific to our Oriental neighbors—was the ideal place to foster this feeling.

Then the whole story began to take shape and I became more and more enthralled with the history of the building. Money was obtained for the actual construction from state wide contributions amounting to some \$250,000. The

people of Eugene gave \$25,000 of this total. The plans for the museum are the work of Dean E. F. Lawrence and Holford of Portland.

At the ceremony of laying the cornerstone, Edward Thomas Williams, professor of Oriental language and literature and the University of California and author of "China, Yesterday and Today," gave the dedication speech. Some of the things he said give new meaning to the works of art in our museum.

"In the study of oriental art, we shall become acquainted with Oriental society. Such an acquaintanceship cannot but cause feelings of prejudice to vanish and friendly interest to replace them." He went on to say, "This is a university. That means that here we seek the wisdom of all lands and all ages. Civilization was born in Asia. From Asia we derive our faith, the beginnings of our science and our philosophy. Her art is also worthy of our study. I hope that Oregon will continue to gather here the rare art treasures of the Orient to be an inspiration to her sons and daughters."

Finally in 1930, the art museum was completed and the Emeralds of that time were full of pictures of the new building and stories of the opening exhibit. Have you too wondered about the peculiar structure and why there are no windows and only a few doors? It seems that the effect of light on the textiles and paintings is ruinous and it is hoped that the collection will remain intact through many generations. The lack of windows is also to prevent theft of the art treasures valued at some \$500,000.

Mrs. Gertrude Bass Warner, the original donor of the Oriental Art collection, was named director of the museum for life, and since the time of her first donation she has been devoted to seeking new works of art for the museum.

The Warner collection includes

many rare and perfected preserved objects which include Chinese paintings by old masters, tapestries and embroideries, beautiful jade jewelry, Chinese porcelains, and ancient bronzes that date back to the Chou, Han and Sung dynasties.

Much Japanese Art

There are also Japanese prints, brocades, temple hangings, and beautiful collections of silver, pewter, copper bronze armor, and wood carvings. The Korean and Russian exhibits also contain countless treasures. On the modern side, the museum contains a large assortment of modern water colors, woodblock prints, and oil paintings with Oriental subjects by Helen Hyde, Elizabeth Keith, Charles Bartlett, Bertha Lum and Maude I Kerns.

The museum library contains a

Campus Carnival Chairmen Named

The second annual WAA all-campus carnival, to be held Saturday, January 26, will feature booths from every University living organization, and dancing all evening.

reference collection of about 5000 volumes pertaining to the Orient. The religion, industry, literature and especially art and history of China, Japan, Russia, India, the Dutch East Indies, and the Pacific basin are contained in these books. About one-half of these are rare books and much time and effort has been spent in their accumulation.

Virginia Scholl, WAA vice-president, announced present appointments for committee heads for the carnival. They are as follows: Barbara Wells and Pearl Peterson, general chairmen; Dagmar Shanks, publicity; Joyce Niedermeyer, decorations; Wanda Lue Payne, refreshment concession; Bobbie Fullmer, booths; Jerry Arnold, clean-up; Barbara Borrevik, tickets; Betty Ingebritson, finance; Mary Anne Hansen, arrangements, and Marguerite Hirschbuhl, properties.

Each organization will keep the money it makes from its booths, and pay a small fee for the floor space used for the booth.

There will be an admission charge and scrip will be used at the booths. Town people, as well as University students, are invited to attend.

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