



Photo by Dave Kao

An exhibit of oriental costumes will grace the University's art museum until Dec. 18.

East meets West at museum with Ch'ing dynasty garments

By Scott Sunday
Of the Emerald

"Decoding Dragons" is an appropriate title for the new exhibit of oriental costumes at the University's art museum. The creative Ch'ing Dynasty garments, with detailed embroidery, demonstrate that their makers were fond of elaborate designs.

The museum houses about 130 oriental costumes and textiles, two-thirds of which were received from the Gertrude Bass Warner collection in memory of her husband, Murray Warner. Records are kept on the collection and are available to those interested in doing research.

About 100 oriental costumes are on display in the museum's lobby and main floor changing galleries, and the rest can be seen upstairs in the main Chinese gallery.

The Warner collection was donated on condition that a museum be built to house it. Financed with private donations from people throughout the state, the museum opened in 1933 with a display from this original collection.

Since then, many garments and textiles have been added through more donations.

"This is all ours... a lot of people don't know we have this kind of quality in our collections," says Barbara Zentner, museum registrar. Gertrude Warner believed local art enthusiasts needed to be more informed about the Oriental people and their art according to Zentner.

Because the exhibit has met with enthusiasm from people all over Oregon, its display period has been extended to Dec. 18. Posters concerning the exhibit are available for \$5, and catalogs can be purchased for \$25. The catalog was written by John Vollmer, associate curator of textiles at the

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, who visited the University's art museum in 1981.

"This will let the world know we are here," Zentner says of the catalog.

Besides the museum's exhibit, the Main Library is displaying books on Chinese textiles from the Warner rare book collection in the first-floor lobby.

Also, the Museum of Natural History is showing items

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— Barbara Zentner

from its East Asian collections, and the Lane County Museum has Chinese furnishings from the old Osburn Hotel on display.

On display in the art museum's Oregon Gallery are photographs by Craig Law, a photography professor at Utah State University. Law's exhibit runs through October. He will present a free public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28 in 107 Lawrence.

The art museum is open from noon till 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, except holidays, with tours on Sundays at 2 p.m. It is free to the public. For more information, call the museum at 686-3027.

Prison system 'infantilizes' its adult inmates

By Pam Cline
Of the Emerald

"From the very beginning prisons didn't work, and we've spent a lot of time trying to find theories to explain why," said Kathryn Watterson Burkhart to an audience in the EMU Forum room Wednesday. Burkhart is the author of "Women in Prison."

Burkhart said she took a new approach to investigating prison life while she was a Philadelphia newspaper reporter, which motivated her to write the book.

"Every time I went into a prison to interview, I used to hope the walls would fall down, but the startling thing is that if that happened, many of the inmates would be busy rebuilding them in their minds because they wouldn't know how to live without them. And that's why over 60 per-

cent perpetrate a crime to get back in," Burkhart said.

Susan Thompson, co-founder of Women's Prison Network, shared similar opinions.

"Justice is not isolated from our lives, but its definitions are something we accept without question. From the days of the Constitution, laws have been designed to protect people with property and money," said Thompson, who also spoke in the Forum Room on Wednesday.

"But they aren't stopping the problem." As a young reporter, Burkhart was "horrified by prisons." But she said she soon opened her eyes and concluded "prisons don't make any sense at all."

"They didn't give people the opportunity to change for the better. In fact, they accomplished the opposite by debilitating

them to the point where they could no longer function acceptably in society," she said.

During a week spent "inside," Burkhart told how many women inmates become "infantilized."

"It really was frightening — how quickly I felt desperate. Under the authority of the guards, even speaking becomes a privilege... showers, mail, visitors — all are privileges," she said.

"But the bottom line in prisons for women is the mass infancy treatment," Burkhart said. "Women who have been decision makers all their lives are deprived of their decision making abilities. The expression of spontaneity, affection, the ability to decide when to eat or sleep, are all removed and these are all things a person needs to do in order to be a healthy adult."

And one of the biggest problems with the prison system today is the rate of recidivism, Burkhart said.

But in prisons where a release program is in effect, the number of returnees drops by 50 percent, she said.

Both Burkhart and Thompson stressed the difference that the availability of resources made in the outcome of criminals' sentences. Although crime crosses economic, social and cultural barriers, "the poor are most prevalently incarcerated," Thompson said.

And this imbalance is evidenced in the racial make-up of the prison population. For example, blacks comprise only 2 percent of Oregon's total population, yet the number of black women in prison is more than 20 percent.

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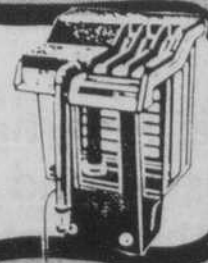
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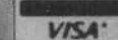
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