



Bronze Leopards, royal symbols of Benin. (Above).

Bronze portrait of the Queen of Ife. (Right).



San Francisco shows ancient Nigerian art

San Francisco - The most spectacular loan of Black African art ever made to the United States will be on view at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor from April 27 through June 29, 1980. Under the patronage of the Government of Nigeria, the exhibition is entitled "Treasures of Ancient Nigeria: Legacy of 2,000 Years." The unprecedented three-city tour is possible largely because the Nigerian Museum in Lagos is now constructing a new wing.

The one-hundred objects, including Benin bronze plaques are the earliest West African art

discovered only recently by archaeologists, represent a span of history which predates the Golden Age of Greece and the birth of Christ. Two of the rarest works, a pair of bronze leopards, were royal symbols of the Kingdom of Benin. Another splendid bronze is a portrait of a queen of Ife (1200 - 1500 A.D.), cast with technical virtuosity that rivals the best work of the European Renaissance.

A fragment of what is believed to be the first representation of an elephant in Black African art is also included.

The exhibition encompasses works from the earliest known Nigerian tradition, the Nok culture, (500 B.C. - 200 A.D.); representative objects from Igbo-Ukwu, a site in southeast Nigeria (which dates to the mid-9th century A.D.); and the court art of the city-states of Ife (1200 - 1500 A.D.) and Benin (1400 - 1897 A.D.).

Organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts, the exhibition will make its final U.S. appearance in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in August. Funding for the tour has come from grants from Mobil and

the National Endowment for the Arts. It is also supported by a Federal Indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities and The Museum Society.

The exhibition catalogue was written by Dr. Ekpo Eyo, director of the Nigerian Federal Department of Antiquities, and Dr. Frank Willett, Director of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, Scotland. It is published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

Special event for San Francisco will be at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor from April 27th until June 29th, 1980.

college provides funeral service training

Mt. Hood Community College offers one of the only three funeral service educational programs in the West. Two California institutions, one in San Francisco and one near Los Angeles, are providing similar training. The closest schools outside of Oregon and California are in Oklahoma and Minnesota.

Interships are a standard and valuable part of the Mount Hood funeral services program, according to Walter Thorsell, funeral services instructor.

"Included as part of our curriculum is an intership experience

which in essence utilizes a local funeral home as a lab setting for instruction," Thorsell says. Students who will graduate in May spend 16 hours a week working in funeral homes and attend seminar discussions once a week at the college as part of their intership.

Mount Hood students have nearly completed their two-year course before they go into the field. Prior to academic education most states require apprenticeships for funeral service applicants. An average apprenticeship period of over 14 months has been served by most people before

they enter MHCC.

Apprenticeships and interships are different in several ways. An apprenticeship, explains Thorsell, precedes classroom education, is a state requirement and is state run. Interships are college courses and do not apply toward apprenticeship requirements.

"Interships are a non-paid class instruction method," he says, "as opposed to an apprenticeship which is truly an on-the-job position, paid experience." Thorsell believes there is value in both the apprenticeship and intership roles.

Apprenticeship allow interested persons to view their proposed job by participating in the work situation. They invest a relatively short time before their formal education begins. In this way, some find out funeral service occupations are not for them at all, and are spared the expense and time investment of college, only to find out during an internship that they made the wrong choice.

"An internship is the application of classroom theory to a practical setting," he adds. During that period, all the course work of two years comes together and the accumulated knowledge and skills are put to use.

The Mount Hood program is designated a limited entry program with a maximum of 30 in the graduating class. This year 20-students will graduate. Even through MHCC draws students from a wide geographical area, the college does not receive more applicants than can be accepted. Thorsell credits this to the apprenticeship program, allowing a natural screening out process. Without it, he believes, more students would start the course without clear knowledge of their career goals.

Students in the Mount Hood program finish with the education necessary to apply for two licenses, one as a funeral director, the other as an embalmer. Oregon will accept one or the other. Some states require a combined license referred to as a mortician's license. Thorsell believes there are severe limitations for a person who has just one of the two licenses.

An embalmer's license requires one year of professional schooling in special funeral services courses, while funeral service directors must have two years of higher education, not necessarily in professional subjects. For instance, a funeral services director's license could be applied for by a college sociology major.

"Our program offers an associate degree (two-year) program," Thorsell

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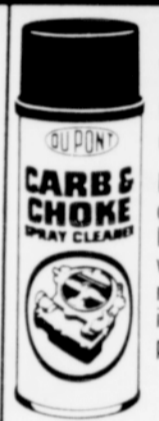
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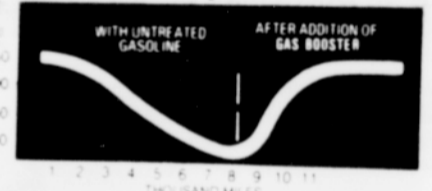
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