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Arthur M. Sackler Collection

Chinese art exhibition 1930 set at county museum

An exhibition of 41 Chinese paintings from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection of New York and Princeton, N.J. will be on display in the Far Eastern Galleries of the county Museum of Art from Sept. 24 to Nov. 17.

The Sackler collection includes masterpieces from the 14th to the 20th centuries, with emphasis on the 17th Century. Its unique strengths lie in 15 important works of painting and calligraphy by Tao-chi (1641-ca. 1710) a Ming loyalist, half Taoist, half Buddhist, a wild "mountain man" and the leading individualist master of the early Ch'ing period. These 15 objects—seven scrolls and eight albums (comprising 73 individual leaves) all of the highest quality—demonstrate the full stylistic range of Tao-chi's

landscape, figure, flower and bamboo painting, and of his calligraphy. An album leaf, "The Echo," of 1677-78, is the earliest dated work by Tao-chi in a western collection, and an album of 12 scenes, "Reminiscences of Nanking," dated 1707, represents his latest dated landscapes. The Sackler group constitutes the largest collection of authentic works by this major Ch'ing dynasty artist.

In addition to Tao-chi, 23 other Chinese artists are represented in the Sackler collection. On exhibition will be hanging scrolls, handscrolls, albums and fans by leading masters of the Yuan, Ming and Ch'ing periods including: Ma Wan (ca. 1310-1378), Wen Cheng-ming (1470-1530), Chi-ning (ca. 1499-1552), Lan Ying (1583-1664), Hung-jen

(1610-1664), Cha Shih-piao (1615-1698), Fan Chi (1616-1694) and Kung Hsien (ca. 1618-1659). Thirty-five of the exhibited paintings are on loan from the Art Museum of Princeton University and six from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Problems of authentication abound in Chinese painting, partly because of the practice of repeating and reworking classical styles, always building new styles on the forms of the past. In the exhibition this problem is illustrated in several instances where copies and forgeries are paired with the originals.

An illustrated 392-page catalog, "Studies in Connoisseurship," by Marilyn and Shen Fu, organizers of the exhibition, is available in the museum bookshop for \$12.50. The exhibition, "Chinese

Paintings from the Sackler Collection" has been exceptionally well received at Princeton and the Cleveland Museum of Art and will travel to the Metropolitan Museum in New York after closing in Los Angeles on Nov. 17. It can be seen Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free and free docent tours are offered Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

CHINESE ART — "Two Children Flying a Kite" by Chinese artist Tao-chi (1641-1710) is one of 41 Chinese paintings from the Arthur M. Sack-

ler Collection which will go on exhibit at the county Museum of Art Sept. 24. Admission is free and guided tours are offered.

