

ART NOTES

The Rhinoceros in China: Ever since the appearance of Mr. Carl W. Bishop's extremely interesting article "Rhinoceros and Wild Ox in Ancient China" appeared in this journal* we have been on the look out for something that could be considered as an unmistakable reproduction of a rhinoceros in the ancient art work of China. More than once we have been shown figures that were supposed to represent this animal, but which required a considerable stretch of imagination to diagnose as such. Recently we mentioned our quest to Mr. R. D. Abraham, late Honorary Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society (North China Branch), who is a keen collector of Chinese antiques and art objects, and he informed us that he had a very fine example of a rhinoceros in the form of a bronze belt-buckle believed to be of the T'ang or earlier period. He sent us an excellent photograph of this extraordinarily interesting relic, which is reproduced here. There can be no mistaking this figure, and we have no hesitation in saying that it is the first representation of a rhinoceros that we have seen in Chinese art about which this can be said. It is so accurate in general outline and detail that we feel sure the artist or artisan who made the buckle must have been familiar with the actual animal. What is most interesting about it is that it has the two horns of the animal known as the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*). The great Indian rhinoceros (*R. unicornis*) and its near relative the Javan rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*) are characterized by the presence of but a single horn. All three forms have the heavy folds in the skin that are distinctly shown in our model. It would seem, then, that the form of rhinoceros found in China in ancient times was the two-horned Sumatran type, which, incidentally, has a range to-day extending from Assam and Burma through the Malay Peninsula to Siam, Borneo and Sumatra. The bronze buckle, then, is a very interesting piece of evidence that the

rhinoceros actually did occur in China in historical times.

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An Exhibition of Etchings: Early in January an exhibition of etchings by Mr. Ernst Halpern, a young Viennese artist travelling round the world and making a temporary stay in Shanghai, was held in the new premises of the Shanghai Art Club on the sixth floor of Bearn Apartments, 453 Avenue Joffre. These consisted mainly of scenes in the various countries visited by the artist during his world tour, with a sprinkling of Chinese subjects. Perhaps the most striking of the etchings shown were two of Spanish bullfights, remarkable for their vigour and action. Mr. Halpern left Shanghai for Bali on January 16, where he expects to stay for a year before continuing on his itinerary through French Indo-China, India, Kashmir, thence by way of Ceylon to South Africa and South America.

The Shanghai Art Club's New Premises: On January 11 the members of the Shanghai Art Club held a reception in their new home on the sixth floor of Bearn Apartments at 453 Avenue Joffre, when the premises were formally declared open. These are well situated and are light and airy with plenty of room, and the Club is to be congratulated on finding such pleasant quarters.

Exhibitions of Chinese Paintings in Germany: An exhibition of modern Chinese paintings was opened to the public on January 20 in the building of the Prussian Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin, when many distinguished art lovers and diplomatic and scientific celebrities gathered for the occasion. Mr. Liu Tsung-chieh, the new Chinese Minister in Germany, who is himself an artist of some reputation, made a brief address in which he extended, on behalf of his Government, an invitation to organize an exhibition of German art in China. This met with a warm re-

*The China Journal, Vol. XVIII, No. 6 (June), 1933, pp. 322-330.

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An ancient Bronze Belt Buckle in the Form of a two-horned Rhinoceros. In the Collection of Mr. R. D. Abraham, Shanghai, it is believed to date from the Tang Dynasty or earlier. The only two-horned Rhinoceros known to exist in Asia to-day is the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*), which occurs in Burma, Assam, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra.