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Madonna and Child

By the Master ▼◆

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the Museum under Sylvester R. Koehler, and on the latter's death was faced with the task of registering and cataloguing the many thousands of prints which had come to the Museum in the Sewall and Babcock collections. The accuracy, learning, and thoroughness with which he carried out this task is perhaps best known to us who work with the collection today. Mr. Richter saw the Department emerge from its cramped basement rooms in the old building to begin a period of greater growth and usefulness in its present quarters. In that development he played a large part. A keen student of prints, a friendly and scholarly counsellor to all who sought his aid, he was a valued official of the Museum and of the Department he greatly loved.

Miss Gertrude Townsend Appointed Curator of Textiles

FROM the first of January the Trustees have constituted the Section of Textiles a separate Department and appointed Miss Gertrude Townsend, who was Keeper of Textiles, Curator of the Department.

The collection of Textiles has had a long and honorable career dating back to the very beginnings of the Museum. It was early recognized by the appointment of Miss J. Brooks in 1900 as Assistant in Charge. In 1901 Miss Helen A. Lehr was engaged at first to mend and mount the collection, and is happily still in the department today seconding the Curator in her varied duties. In 1902 Miss Brooks reported a total of 5,303 pieces including, besides the tapestries and rugs, 550 Coptic, 57 Pre-Columbian Peruvian, over 1,600 brocades from Europe and the Orient and nearly 400 Italian velvets. At this time Dr. Ross had already given three-fifths of the collection, and today this is still true though the number of pieces has increased to more than 9,000. It is especially strong in early Peruvian embroideries and includes among the tapestries such outstanding examples as the Flemish tapestry representing the Apostles' Creed, given by Mrs. John H. Wright in 1908, and the Gothic tapestry of the Passion from Knoke, given by Mr. Robert Treat Paine, 2nd, in 1929. It is therefore not surprising that the Department Study is one of those most used by students, who number during the course of a year nearly 3,000, and who owe to it a rare opportunity for training in design.

In 1905 Miss Sarah G. Flint followed Miss Brooks, retaining the position until her marriage in 1919, when as Mrs. Charles Townsend she became Advisor to the Department, and Miss Gertrude Townsend filled the vacancy as Assistant in Charge of Textiles.

In 1926 the Trustees appointed Miss Townsend Keeper of Textiles in recognition of her knowledge and grasp of the subject. This year they have further recognized the value of her work and the importance of the collection.

Professor Reisner Returns to Egypt

ON December 19, Professor George A. Reisner, Curator of the Department of Egyptian Art, left the Museum to return to Egypt, having been in Boston since September 17. During his stay of three months he conducted three courses in Egyptology at Harvard, gave two public lectures at the Museum on "The Royal Family of the Fourth Dynasty" and "Ancient Trade Relations between Egypt and Ethiopia," and a series of eight Lowell Lectures in Boston on "Historical Research in Egypt." Returning to Egypt, where he arrived on January 7, he resumes the direction of the Harvard University-Museum of Fine Arts Egyptian Expedition, which is at present engaged on the excavation of two important sites. The first of these is at the Pyramids of Giza, where the Expedition will continue the clearing of the cemetery of the Cheops Royal Family to the east of the Great Pyramid. It was in this cemetery that the burial chamber of Queen Hetep-heres I with its unique treasure of gold-cased royal furniture of the early Fourth Dynasty was discovered, as well as the rock-cut tomb chapels of Queen Meresankh III with their highly significant reliefs and inscriptions, which have been of very great value for the light they have thrown on the history of the royal family of the Pyramid Age. The second site now in hand is at Semna in the Sudan, where, in the Second Cataract region, there is a group of three forts dating from the Middle and New Kingdoms. From these buildings and the cemeteries belonging to them it is hoped to obtain added information bearing on the military control exercised by Egypt in the Sudan and on the trade relations of the two countries.

Early Woodcuts on Exhibition

MR. JAMES C. MCGUIRE has generously loaned the Museum a selected group of woodcuts and metal-cuts of the fifteenth century. These prints will be on exhibition in the first print gallery from February 14 to April 1, and will include some of the most representative relief-printed cuts which were produced in Germany and the Netherlands prior to 1500.

Books Illustrated by Lepère

A GROUP of books illustrated by Auguste Lepère has been loaned to the Museum by Mr. William A. Sargent, and will be on view in the Print Corridor (Gallery 10) from February first to March fifteenth. Lepère's interest in the subject of book illustration amounted to almost a passion, and although he was trained in the old school of reproductive wood-engraving, he eventually found his real place as a woodcutter and as an original creative artist. Between the years 1892 and 1907 he produced much of his best illustrative work, making use of both woodcut and etching and latterly experimenting with typography and color printing. In succession there appeared *Paysages parisiens* (1892), *Paris au hasard* (1895), *Dimanches pa-*