

The main building is designed to point.

Buddha and Buddhism Will Be Explained

Mrs. Gayle Aiken, Sr., to Explain the History
of Gautama Sunday in Lecture at
Delgado Art Museum

BY ETHEL HUTSON

Rudyard Kipling's British soldier who described his sweetheart in Mandalay as she kissed the foot of a "Bloomin' idol made o' mud"

Wot they called the great god Budd—Fluky lot she cared for idols, when I kissed 'er where she stood!" and have had a rather inaccurate idea of the true attitude of a Buddhist toward the image of the great teacher Siddhartha, known as "The Buddha" or "The Enlightened;" but perhaps he was not much more ignorant than most Westerners on that matter, for scholars who have deciphered the ancient Pali texts which give the most authoritative version known of the real life and teachings of the noble Aryan sage tell us that these were very different from the current notions among Europeans and Americans about Buddha and Buddhism.

Some of these foggy misconceptions may be cleared away for those who attended the lecture by Mrs. Gayle Aiken, Sr., Sunday-afternoon at 4 p. m., in the Isaac Delgado Museum of Art, on "The Legend of Buddha," when Mrs. Aiken will give a brief rehearsal of the principal events in the history of Gautama, revered for more than 2000 years by untold millions of devout believers as the latest incarnation of the highest and most blessed truths.

To Show Art

To illustrate her talk, Mrs. Aiken will have in the museum some very striking representations in the art of the Orient, of the form of the great sage of India. In the first place, there is a large gilded wooden image of Buddha, seated on a lotus-flower in a shrine of curious Chinese workmanship, whose front and sides blaze with gold and vermillion, and are fairly alive with carvings representing "things in Heaven, things on the earth, and things under the earth" and in the sea as well. This is one of the outstanding objects in the museum, attracting much attention from visitors, and especially from children, who delight in its color and its curious ornament, and always seem attracted by the being smile of the serene figure, sitting in the attitude so impossible to Western habits, but so natural to Easterners—with legs crossed and upturned soles; and bearing the "five marks" by which the Buddha in all ages was supposed to be distinguished.

Just so the Buddha is depicted in most of the statues and paintings, whether made by his devotees in his own land of India, ages ago before the Mohammedan creed had driven Buddhism out of the great part of the land of its origin, or by the Tibetan monks, or the Japanese craftsmen, or by the dwellers in Burma and Siam. But the learned can tell where and when such images were made, for they differ in style, costume, and many other details, and even the casual eye can note some of these differences in the collection of rare old Buddhas and Bodhistavas to be seen in the glass cases in an adjoining room which contains the Cline collection of Oriental bronzes.

Some of these bronzes, are evidently Hindoo others Chinese, others Tibetan, it is said; and some of them are very old indeed, according to the experts who have examined them since Dr. I. M. Cline found one of them in an auction sale, and traced the others through a sale made from a local freight office. Loot from the Boxer rebellion, Dr. Cline believes them to be; and declares that there is no doubt in his mind that the soldier who stolen them had raided a royal museum, and shipped them to New Orleans expecting to come to this country and claim them, but was killed before he was able to get away.

May Be Stolen

At any rate, Professor Fulkishimi, noted Oriental archaeologist from

Japan, who passed through New Orleans in 1911 on his way to England, told Dr. Cline that the collection contained some of the rarest pieces of Chinese bronze in existence, and it was his opinion that they had been stolen from the Imperial Palace at Peking.

This collection contains, according to Dr. Cline, pieces which date from the Chow dynasty, which began 1122 years before Christ, down through the Han, Wei, Tang, Sung, Yuan and Ming dynasty—the latter commencing 1368 A. D. Thus they represent work of some 2400 years, and the oldest pieces—which of course are not images of Buddhas, but are bowls, beakers and bronze animals—are perhaps older than the poems of Homer.

As Buddhism did not reach China before the second or third century B. C., the Chinese images of Buddha cannot be older than this period, but some of the images are Tibetan, and some Hindoo, and one, at least, is believed to belong to a period within a few hundred years of the death of Siddhartha, Sakyamuni, otherwise known as "Gautama" and as "Buddha," and by a hundred other titles of love and regard in the tongues of the Asiatic peoples who revere him.

How this great teacher was born in far-off northern India some 500 years or more before the Christian era, how he lived and died, taught and traveled, Mrs. Aiken will tell her hearers. She is well fitted for this task, as she has long made a study of the literature and thought of those Eastern lands, and her own literary talents assure her audience of a delightful half-hour. Mrs. Aiken, who succeeded the late Mrs. Mollie E. Moore Davis as president of the club the latter founded, known as "The Geographic," and still holds that office, has also served as president of the Quarante club, and has written poems, plays and pageants, and taken a leading part in many of the things that have given New Orleans social life a certain distinction.

This is the final lecture in the series offered for the three summer months by the board of administrators of the Delgado Museum of which Hon. Charles F. Claiborne is president, and S. A. Trufant secretary-treasurer. They have been given under the guidance of the art committee, of which Professor Ellis, worth Woodward, director of the Newcomb College of Art, Tulane University, is chairman and form the fourth series of summer lectures to be given in the museum to acquaint the public with the objects of art contained in its collections.

Turkey's new public health inspectors are being scorned by the old women, who desire to stick to their ancient practices.

Miss Miriam E. O'Brien, of Dedham, Mass., recently succeeded in scaling the Aiguille Grepon, one of the most difficult of the Alpine peaks.

Ruth Page, Metropolitan Opera Company dancer, will dance at the coronation ceremonies in the Japanese Imperial theater.

Diabetes Discovery From Europe

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