PRE-COLUMBIAN ART

May 11 to June 22, 1970

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY GALLERY
at The University of Chicago, 1050 E. 59th St., 108 Goodspeed
Monday through Friday 10 - 5

In recent years there has been an increasing awareness and appreciation of the ancient art of the Americas. This show is but a limited representation of the art of the Pre-Columbian American Indians of Mesoamerica, an art that spans the period from approximately 1000 B.C. to the time of the Spanish conquest. Apart from textiles from Peru, this showing is limited to material from Mexico although the Mayan culture also extended into Guatemala. An independent set of high cultures existed in South America, and to a lesser extent in Central America. The level of civilization, although technically neolithic (metal was not used for tools) was much too advanced to label the art "primitive", yet certain aspects of some of the art is so classified. Monumental art and architecture was developed by the Maya and their followers, up to the Aztec culture existing at the time of the conquest. Large scale painting ("fresco") was well developed, as was fine wood and textile work, almost none of which has survived in the humid Mexican climate. The wheel was unknown as a useful object, so all pottery is hand-formed, and as a consequence, more elaborate and less sterile than if thrown on a wheel. Even the earliest cultures (such as the Olmec) had masters in stone and jade carving. The conquest destroyed the remaining elements of a great culture and put an end to an Indian tradition in art.

Julian R. Goldsmith

The Renaissance Society wishes to thank the donors named in the catalogue, and express appreciation for their assistance, also Dr. Donald Collier, Chief Curator of Anthropology at Field Museum of Natural History, and Mr. Allen Wardwell, Curator of Primitive Art at the Art Institute of Chicago.

E. S. D.
1. SCULPTURE, SEATED MAN WITH DRUM
   Mexico, West Coast Archaic Colima culture 3-1/2" high

2. SCULPTURE, STANDING MALE FIGURE HOLDING SHIELD AND CLUB
   Mexico, West Coast, Archaic Colima culture 4-3/4" high

3. SCULPTURE, STANDING FEMALE FIGURE
   Valley of Mexico, Tlatilco site 2-3/4" high

4. SCULPTURE, STANDING FEMALE FIGURE CARRYING CHILD ON BACK
   Mexico, West Coast, Archaic Colima 3-7/8" high

5. WHISTLE SHOWING TIGER DEITY DEVOURING MAN
   Maya culture, Island of Jaina (?) 5-1/8" high

6. HACHA
   Tajin style, Veracruz, Mexico 13-1/4" high

7. SCULPTURE, STANDING MALE FIGURE
   Copper, Mixtec culture, Mexico 2-7/8" high

8. INCENSE BURNER, SCULPTURED RELIEF FIGURE AT FRONT
   Mexico, Mixtec culture 16-1/2" high

9. VESSEL IN FORM OF A COATIMUNDI
   Mexico, Colima culture 9" long

10. HACHA IN THE FORM OF A YOUNG DEER
    Mexico, Veracruz, Tootonac 8-1/2" high

11-16. AZTEC MINIATURE VESSELS
   Period III-IV, Valley of Mexico and Valley of Toluca, Late 15th century A.D.

17. BRAZIER
    Mixtec style, Oaxaca, 14th and 15th centuries A.D.

18. TRIPOD GRATER BOWL
    Aztec, Toluca Valley, Late 15th century A.D.

19. STONE FIGURE OF JAGUAR
    Aztec, Toluca Valley, Late 15th century A.D.

20. "PADLOCK" STONE
    Late Classic, Veracruz style, Veracruz, 7th to 9th centuries A.D.

21. EFFIGY VESSEL
    Mixteca-Puebla style, Texcotzinco, 15th century A.D.

22. BEAKER
    Mixteca-Puebla style, Ex-Volador Market, Mexico City, Late 15th century A.D.

23. SEATED JOINED MALE-FEMALE PAIR
    Painted terra cotta, Nayarit 14" tall

24. PAINTED MAYAN PLATE
    10-1/2" diameter

25. BUFF MAYAN TRIPOD PLATE
    13-1/2" diameter

26. SEATED PULQUE DRINKER
    Painted terra cotta, Nayarit 12-1/4" tall

27. SEATED FEMALE, HEAD ON CHIN
    Terra cotta, Jalisco 9" tall

28. COATI-MUNDI (HEAD) VESSEL
    Black terra cotta, LasBocas 6-3/4" long

29. PAINTED MAYAN CYLINDRICAL VESSEL
    6-1/2" high, 5" diameter

30. SEATED FEMALE CURIOUSLY ABSTRACTED
    Painted terra cotta, Chinesco style, Nayarit 6-1/4" high

31. STANDING WARRIOR WITH SHIELD
    Painted terra cotta, Chinesco style, Nayarit 7" high

32. SEATED FIGURE
    Painted terra cotta, Chinesco style, Nayarit 7-3/4" high

33. DANCE GROUP - 15 FIGURES
    Buff terra cotta, Colima 9-1/2" diameter

34. SEATED MALE, ARMS ON KNEES
    Terra cotta, Chinesco style, Nayarit 16-1/2" tall

35. SEATED MALE
    Painted terra cotta, Jalisco 18" tall
44 COASTAL TIAHUANACO SASH END
Deeply fringed with a warrior head in profile, a supplementary head emerges from the neck. Warp weave in blue, rose green on a gold ground. 8th century 14 x 6-1/2 inches

45 COAST CHIMU PERU GAUZE FRAGMENT
Greenish blue gauze with a line of birds brocaded in tan, brown and red across the lower part. Both warp and weft threads are twisted in the base fabric, giving a crinkly appearance. 12th-14th centuries 19-1/2 x 13-1/8 inches

46 CHIMU BROCADE PANEL WITH TAPESTRY STRIPES
Central band of crimson with human figure. At top and bottom are narrow bands with similar little men in a row. This piece is unusual in that it consists of two different kinds of fabric utilizing the same warp. 2nd century 16-1/4 x 14 inches

47 LATE CHIMU FRAGMENT
Tapestry, black ground with rows of pelicans in red, blue, tan and white, Tapestry weave in wool. Cotton warp. 13th century 14-1/8 x 5-1/2 inches

Lent by Ann McNear

36 STANDING CELT-LIKE FIGURE
Green metadiorite, Mezcala, Guerrero 7-1/2” tall

37 ABSTRACT CARVING
Green stone, Colima 5-1/4” long 4” high

38 TWO SEATED FIGURES
Painted terra cotta, Chinesco style, Nayarit 4-1/4” high 3-1/2” high

39 STANDING MOTHER WITH BABY ON BACK
Buff terra cotta, Chupicaro 4-1/4” high

40 TWO HEADS
Toothless fire-god, Buff terra cotta, Vera Cruz 5” high
Toothless fire-god, Reddish terra cotta, Vera Cruz 4-1/2” high

41 HOUSE, FIVE FIGURES AND DOG
Painted terra cotta, Nayarit 8” high

42 HACHA, PUFFED CHEEK STYLE
Stone, Vera Cruz 9” high

43 MASK
Mottled stone, Teotihuacan 6-1/2” high and 7-3/4” wide

Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Julian R. Goldsmith