

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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~~Invitation List~~
Local General
Selected National

#6

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ANCIENT ARTS OF THE ANDES TO BE SHOWN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Ancient gold jewelry, plates, cups, and sculpture valued at approximately half a million dollars have been lent by private and public collections in South America, Canada, and Europe, as well as this country, for an exhibition ANCIENT ARTS OF THE ANDES which will open at the Museum of Modern Art in New York on January 27 and which will be seen later this year at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. The exhibition has been organized and is being installed in a dramatic setting by René d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, who made two trips to South America to make arrangements for obtaining the gold and other objects, many of which have never been publicly exhibited before. This is the first time such an extensive selection of the greatest works of art from the Andean cultures has been assembled in one place.

Elaborate yellow and blue feather wall hangings, intricate red, black, and white handwoven tapestries, stoles and cloaks, paper thin pottery in classically beautiful, or intricately grotesque shapes, impressive stone sculptures and wood carvings, and beautiful bronze pieces will also be shown in the exhibition which covers the period from about 400 B. C. to the Spanish Conquest in the 16th century. Objects from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Chile, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Argentina will be included.

The fragile and precious objects from South America--one set of turquoise inlaid earrings arrived with their delicate fragments held in place by pieces of the earth in which they were found by archaeologists--were brought to this country through the cooperation of Pan American-Grace Airways and W. R. Grace and Co. which made a financial contribution to the exhibition and provided special handling of the objects flown here on their airline.

Four great Mochica gold headdresses, a large Chavin gold crown and the complete ceremonial adornments of a Chimu chieftain, consisting of a crown, gold feathers, collar, earrings and necklace are among the rare objects in the exhibition never before seen outside their native country. These particular objects are among those lent to the exhibition by Don Rafael Larco Hoyle, whose museum in Chiclin near Lima, Peru, contains one of the largest private collections of ancient Andean art anywhere in the world. Don Rafael, who generously permitted Mr. d'Harnoncourt to personally select objects for the show, is an outstanding scholar in the field of ancient art.

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He breeds Arab horses for a hobby and his daughter is a well known bull fighter in Peru.

Gold wall plaques, which will be used to panel a room in the exhibition, have been lent through the generous cooperation of the National Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Peru. More than 50 pieces from the extraordinary and famous collection of Norbert Mayrock of Santiago, Chile, a collection confined entirely to pieces under four inches in height, will also be in the exhibition. Some of these have been sent here from Chile, others from the Museum für Völkerkunde in Munich where part of Mr. Mayrock's collection is housed.

Other well known collections which will be represented in the exhibition include the Robert Woods Bliss Collection from the National Gallery in Washington, the private collection of Dr. Samuel K. Lothrop, who is a leading scholar in the field, the Peabody Museum at Harvard, the Dr. Eduard Gaffron Collection at the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Brooklyn Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and the collection of John Wise of New York.

ANCIENT ARTS OF THE ANDES is one of a series of exhibitions of primitive art presented by the Museum of Modern Art because of the relevance of ancient art to the art of our time.