The Recent Accessions Room

Due to reconstruction in some of the smaller galleries devoted to Islamic art, a small but choice exhibition of recently acquired works in this field will be shown in the Recent Accessions Room from April 13 until mid-September. The two large galleries devoted to rugs, enameled glass, ceramics, and some miniatures will continue to be open to visitors. Most of the recent accessions were acquired by purchase or gift during Dr. Maurice S. Dimand's curatorship. Two outstanding rugs are exhibited, one given by Mrs. Harry Payne Bingham and the other by Joseph V. McMullan. A few examples of Mohammedan glazed earthenware show the bold style so popular in Persia in the tenth century of our era, whereas another bowl is an example of the efforts of Persian potters of the sixteenth century to copy Chinese celadon. Turkish pottery, characteristic in color, provides a great contrast to these pieces and is represented by a mosque lamp and a handsome plate, both from Iznik. Inlaying metalwork was one of the great skills of Mohammedan metalworkers. A small circular box decorated with the signs of the zodiac and with Kufic inscriptions shows how delicately this work could be done, whereas a ewer, perhaps a little earlier in date, is an excellent example of a bold style. India also is represented with a few examples that display the character of the art of that country which at times has been so closely associated with Persia. A selection of the objects on display in the Recent Accessions Room, all of them now in the Near East collection, are illustrated on the following pages.
Fig. 2 (opposite). Animal and arabesque rug. From Kerman, Persia, about 1600 A.D. Length 19 feet 10 inches Gift of Mrs. Harry Payne Bingham, 1959

Fig. 5 (right). Slip-painted bowl. Persian, from Nishapur, x century A.D. Diameter 13 3/8 inches Purchase, Frederick P. Huntley Bequest, 1958

Fig. 3. Box of bronze inlaid with silver and decorated with the signs of the zodiac. Persian, Saljuk period, first half of XIII century A.D. Height 5 3/4 inches Dick Fund, 1959

Fig. 4. Glazed mosque lamp with Arabic inscription. From Isnik, Turkey, XV-XVI century A.D. Height 6 5/8 inches Dick Fund, 1959