WILLIAM BLAKE’S ILLUMINATED BOOKS

A rare opportunity to study the work of William Blake, with its complex interplay of words and images, will be offered from April 4 to May 28 in an exhibition, in the Print and Drawings Galleries, of a selection of Blake’s illuminated books. The show is made possible by the generous loans of Paul Mellon, Lessing J. Rosenwald, and the Library of Congress. It was arranged by the Blake Trust in conjunction with Trianon Press, the publisher of facsimiles of the illuminated books. Among the books on view will be Songs of Innocence and Experience, the Book of Thel, Milton, and the unique colored copy of Jerusalem.

COLLECTING AMERICAN ART FOR THE METROPOLITAN: RECENT ACCESSIONS, 1961-1967

The Museum will exhibit from April 13 through the summer months a selection from its American accessions of the last six years. The extent of our collecting is mirrored in figures: 347 paintings, watercolors, drawings, and sculptures, and 371 objects of decorative art. The quality you may see for yourselves in three rooms of the American Wing and adjacent galleries.

The exhibition, and this Bulletin devoted to American works, are intended to dramatize the Museum’s intent to build additional galleries for display of its American collections, the most comprehensive ever gathered beneath one roof. Within less than a decade a new American Wing will rise to join with the old in presenting a panorama of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century American art.

IN THE PRESENCE OF KINGS

Royal treasures from the collections of the Museum, representing nearly all civilizations of the West and the Orient and covering a span of five thousand years, will be on view in the Harry Payne Bingham Special Exhibition Galleries from April 18 through June 11.

As would be expected, the objects will be of superb artistic quality, but we will also show—as the title implies—that they reflect the human aspect of those personalities who were the great of this world, who gave their names to art styles, who put their mark on whole periods of history. Royal treasures by their nature are not easily obtainable—most of them are still in their own national collections—but nonetheless the exhibition lists the names of well over one hundred rulers.

Brought together in this illustrious array, these works—the delicate tracery on the silver shrine of a medieval queen, the flashing jewels on the gold-encrusted scimitar of an Oriental despot, the flowery calligraphy of a Sung emperor, the granite face of a pharaoh—will speak to our visitors of the presence of kings.

H. N.