**Outstanding Recent Accessions**

This animal-shaped support for a royal throne continues, in the Muslim period, a Sasanian tradition that had used winged horses, eagles, and lions for this purpose. All these animals are royal symbols, and the winged ones may also have implied the ascension or apotheosis of the incumbent of the seat of power. The griffin – a combination of eagle and lion – was particularly appropriate for such a function. Very few such throne legs from the Sasanian and early Islamic periods have been preserved, and this is one of the monumental examples.

Richard Ettinghausen

*Throne leg in the form of the forepart of a griffin. Iranian, early Islamic, 8th century. Bronze, height 20½ inches. Purchase, Joseph Pulitzer Bequest, 1971.143*

Opposite: This monumental indoor wall fountain was executed for the Fossombroni Palace at Arezzo about 1528 by Simone Mosca, praised by Vasari as one of the greatest ornamental sculptors of his time. The sharpness of its details, carved of *pietra serena* (the cool gray sandstone so typical of Tuscan works), can only be termed exquisite. But even more impressive is the purity and grandeur of its overall architectural design. Conceived as a triumphal arch, it represents a synthesis of elements derived from Antonio da Sangallo the younger and Michelangelo, the two supreme Renaissance architects, with whom Mosca was closely associated.

Olga Raggio

*Height about 16 feet 3 inches. Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1971.158*
In Federal Baltimore, English neoclassical furniture styles were carefully emulated not only in fine wood veneers and inlays, but also in the sophisticated painted versions popularized by Hepplewhite and Sheraton. This painted square card table with ovolo corners is closely related in decorative details to a set of furniture made in 1805 for merchant John Morris by the Irish-born cabinetmakers John and Hugh Findlay. In the same year the Findlays advertised that their painted furniture was "ornamented and varnished in a stile not equalled on the Continent – with real Views, Fancy Landscapes, Flowers, Trophies of Music . . ." The center panel of this table bears a picturesque scene of castles and sailing ship – apparently one of their "Fancy Landscapes" rather than the real views of Baltimore found on the Morris set; flanking the scenes are the "Trophies of Music" also mentioned in their advertisement.

Marilynn Johnson

Height 29⅔ inches. Purchase, Mrs. Russell Sage Gift, 1970.189

This is a masterpiece. Inspired by the wild and fantastic mountains of central China, Hung Jen sets off a rocky monolith with delicate surroundings – pine branches, drifting mist, and a waterfall that courses out of the scroll at the right. The picture is an interplay of contrasts – drama and subtlety, permanence and transience – reinforced by the boldly individualistic painter's expressive brushwork.

Fong Chow