

BULLETIN OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

VOLUME XXV

BOSTON, AUGUST, 1927

NUMBER 150



THE MARRIAGE OF SAINT CATHERINE

LORENZO LOTTO (1480-1556)

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS



Bodhisattva

Kusana, Mathura

Arthur Mason Knapp Fund

Fig. 4



Toilet Scene

Kusana, Mathura

Thomas Oaks Rogers Fund

Fig. 5

energy inherent in a royal or divine personage.* In the case of the Buddha there may be a specific reference either to the Great Miracle at Śrāvastī, when flames proceeded from the upper part of his body, and streams of water from his feet,† or to the occasion when the Buddha manifested the divine fire when overcoming the nāga in the fire temple of the Kāśyapa heretics. On the latter occasion "the Blessed One," who is spoken of as the "perfect master of the element of fire," "converting his body into fire, sent forth flames" (*Mahāvagga*, I, 15, 4 and 6).

The square panel in countersunk relief, illustrated in Figure 4, measures 25 by 28 cm. or about 10 by 11 inches. It seems to represent a Bodhisattva, seated on a throne with high side panels, and supported by two dwarfish recumbent yakṣas; a yakṣa and yakṣi, each with a fly-whisk, stand behind as attendants. The position is one of greater relaxation, one of the legs being pendent; but the hands are held in the same characteristic positions as those of the Buddha. The exact architectural application of the piece is doubtful. The date may be late Kuṣāna.

Another and smaller square panel (17½ cm. or 7 inches square) in countersunk relief forms one

*For the manifestation of flame by Kaniska on the occasion of his conflict with a nagaraja, see Beal, *Buddhist Records of the Western World*, p. 65. It may be observed that the shoulder-wings of certain other types, e. g., the Mathura Surya of *Arch. Surv. Ind.*, Ann. Rep. 1909-10, Pl. XXVIII, may be derived from shoulder-flames; a transformation also known in the Mediterranean area, see Jacobsthal, *Der Blitz in der orientalischen und griechischen Kunst*.

The fiery energy denoted by the shoulder-flames is essentially solar. In this connection it may be observed that the Babylonian solar deity Shamash, when represented anthropomorphically, has shoulder-flames (more rarely streams of water); and when symbolically, by a disk with four light rays alternating with four streams (cf. the double miracle at Sravastī). There cannot be any doubt that some elements of sun and fire worship are present in early Buddhist art. Cf. Stein, *Serindia*, p. 874.

†For this double miracle at Sravastī, cf. Foucher, *L'art greco-bouddhique du Gandhara*, Vol. I, pp. 351, 535, and Fig. 263.

face of a railing cross-bar (Fig. 5), of which the reverse bears a lotus medallion in high relief. The scene so gracefully treated is one of those toilet or genre subjects characteristic of the Mathurā school. Such themes, when a complete identification can be made, are often found to illustrate some particular story, usually a *Jātaḥa*. As it stands, the relief represents a man binding a fillet on his hair, preparatory to tying the voluminous turban which is held on a tray in the hands of an attendant maidservant. ANANDA COOMARASWAMY.

The Tomb of Queen Hetep-heres

RECENT advices from Dr. Reisner on the final clearance of the tomb of Queen Hetep-heres are of interest. The alabaster sarcophagus of the Queen, found closed and undisturbed, was opened on March 3 last, after all other objects in the chamber had been removed, and was discovered to be empty. It was then thought that the recess in the west wall of the chamber, which was blocked with masonry and sealed with a coating of plaster, might contain the body of the Queen, and accordingly, on May 23, this recess was opened. In it was found an alabaster Canopic box in which were still preserved the entrails of the Queen, but no body. All possible places in which the body could have been put having now been examined, it becomes evident that it must have been destroyed by the thieves who entered the original tomb at Dashûr, and who must have torn it to pieces in abstracting the jewelry with which it would have been adorned. Furthermore the discovery of the Canopic box and its contents shows us that the body of the Queen had been mummified.