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*The Pink Ribbon*

*Robert Henri (1865-1929)*

Charles Henry Hayden Fund

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*Romanesque Portal with Doors of Contemporary Date*

Charles Amos Cummings Fund

### Doors for the Romanesque Portal

**I**N 1930 the Romanesque Portal from the church of San Miguel in the Spanish town of Uncastillo in Saragossa was installed in the gallery containing the arts of the Middle Ages. Although the stonework of this great doorway of the twelfth century was impressive, its original doors of wood were lacking and so weathered planks of oak were set up temporarily to close the opening.

Our desire and quest for ancient doors suitable in age, size, and design culminated in a find, made through the assistance of Mr. H. A. Elsberg in the south of France, and our Romanesque doorway now has contemporaneous doors with ironwork characteristic of the period and the region.

They are of doubled planks of pine or fir-wood deeply scored by long exposure. The rather plain wrought iron reinforcements consist of four scrolled bars on each of the paired doors with what appear to be early losses and slight modifications. The right-hand leaf contains a cross of similar wrought iron and a sliding bolt, the hasp of which engages over a large lock-plate.

The doors were removed from a small church near Olette, Pyrénées Orientales, about fourteen miles west of Perpignan. The doors and the portal, although from opposite sides of the Pyrenees, stood in neighboring provinces of Spain and France, a region that remained Spanish until the seventeenth century, with one brief interlude.

The accompanying illustration shows the gain made by a fortunate purchase, through the Charles A. Cummings Fund.

E. J. H.

### Fourth Egyptian Study Room Opened

**A**T the beginning of October the latest in the series of Study Rooms of the Egyptian Department was opened to the public. Leading out of the Third Study Room, which contains objects of the Middle and New Kingdoms, it houses material of the period from the end of the New Kingdom through the Roman domination. Designed primarily for the use of students, and to supplement the exhibits in the late Egyptian Gallery on the main floor, the room nevertheless contains



Lid of Sarcophagus from Giza Ptolemaic Period

numerous objects of artistic merit and of interest to the general public.

Of importance no less to the archæologist than to the student of the later manifestations of Egyptian art is the series of funerary stelæ and offering tables from the royal tombs of Ethiopia and Meroë, and a rare group of Meroitic sandstone reliefs of which few examples are to be found in museums. These are all from the excavations of the Museum's expedition at various sites in the Sudan. Perhaps the greatest popular interest will be manifested in the mummies and allied material which are grouped together for the first time. Six mummies ranging in date from the latter part of the New Kingdom to the Roman Period are supplemented by a collection of faience funerary figures (*shawabti*), canopic jars, masks, and various examples of decorated cartonnage from mummy envelopes. Dominating the group is a fine slate anthropoid sarcophagus of Ptolemaic date from the Harvard University-Museum of Fine Arts excavations at Giza. It belonged to a general

named Kheper-Ra, and is accompanied (in a neighboring case) by a selection from the many hundreds of shawabti figures which were found with it. Other objects in the room are bronzes, including various vessels of practical use, as well as votive figures of gods and animals; beads and ornaments; stone and faience vessels; glass, and small sculpture.

The material is from many sources: the Way Collection, gifts from the Egypt Exploration Fund, the Egyptian Research Account, and individual friends of the Museum, and lastly from Professor Reisner's excavations for the Museum at Giza and at various Ethiopian and Meroitic sites.

This is chronologically the last in the series of Study Rooms planned for the Egyptian Department. The first (Predynastic) and the third (Middle and New Kingdoms) have been previously opened, and the eventual installation of the Second Study Room, which will contain objects of the Old Kingdom, will complete the series and round out the systematic arrangement of the collections. D. D.

#### Changes in the Museum

A NUMBER of changes in the Museum have been effected within recent weeks, following a close study of the reaction of visitors to the Museum environment. An opening between the Print Department and the Department of Decorative Arts has been made, thereby permitting easy access from the Evans Wing into the New Wing. Simultaneously the Print Department comes into the general tour of the visitor, and by widening the corridor extension leading to the opening, a new exhibition gallery for prints has been obtained.

As noted elsewhere, the Forecourt Gallery has been set aside, as a permanent exhibit place for new accessions.

New bulletin boards have been installed at both entrances to the Museum. Current exhibitions are listed and at the Huntington Avenue entrance a Directory in the form of a building plan is to be installed. The bulletin boards consist of framed corrugated felt backing into which white enamel letters of die-cast aluminum are inserted.

A reorganization of the custodian and utility service has been carried out. The building has been divided into zones, each zone under the surveillance of a captain who patrols the area and oversees the custodians detailed to smaller sections. Under the new arrangement each man serves in two capacities, half his working day being given to custodian duty, the other half to utility work. The reorganization, which has been under consideration for years, has been carried out in the interest of greater efficiency, economy, and protection of the collections.

Reconstruction of the Sales Desk is also under way whereby the publications may be examined under more favorable conditions than at present. The complete supply of Bulletins and other publications is now available at the Sales Desk.