

THE THEODORE M. DAVIS BEQUEST

Theodore M. Davis, of Newport, Rhode Island, died at Miami, Florida, on February 23, 1915, in his seventy-eighth year. He bequeathed to this Museum practically his entire collection of works of art on condition that his estate should prove large enough to carry out certain specific gifts of money to his relatives and friends. The will was contested and a long period of litigation ensued, during which the collection was exhibited in the Museum pending the decision of the courts. Early last summer the contest was finally settled in our favor, and the works of art bequeathed by Mr. Davis have now become the property of the Museum.

The collection, numbering over a thousand objects, covers a wide range: Egyptian and classical antiquities; European paintings, sculpture, furniture, and textiles; Near Eastern rugs, textiles, pottery, and miniatures; Far Eastern porcelain and amber. These works of art are exhibited in the galleries of the various departments concerned, following the arrangement adopted

when the Museum was given the custodianship of the collection during the period of litigation. It has not proved practical to arrange a temporary exhibition of the collection as a whole, because of the serious disruption this would cause in so many departments of the Museum. On the other hand, it is clearly desirable that attention should be called in some befitting way to the extraordinary importance and interest of this great benefaction.

For this reason, the Museum is publishing a special supplement to the BULLETIN, devoted solely to the Theodore M. Davis Collection. This supplement will not only serve to remind our visitors that many beautiful works of art, long familiar to them in our galleries, are now owned by the Museum, but it will also be a tribute, however inadequate, to the memory of Theodore M. Davis, distinguished lawyer and financier, eminent Egyptologist and collector, generous benefactor.

JOSEPH BRECK.