

A M E R I C A N C O M M I T T E E  
F O R S O U T H A S I A N A R T

Color Slide Project  
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Long label list for slide set #9501, produced 1991  
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The information in this list is based on Christie's auction catalog of the Koelz collection.

The introduction has been written by Carolyn Copeland, University of Michigan.

Walter Koelz was born in Waterloo, Michigan on September 11, 1895. He attended Oliviet College as an undergraduate and did his graduate work in biology at the University of Michigan, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in June of 1920.

During the summer of 1925, he began his exploration of distant cultures as a naturalist with Mac Millan Arctic Expedition. In the spring of 1930 he began a two year appointment as a biologist for the Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum in Kulu, India. In the autumn of 1932, he was appointed by the Regents of the University of Michigan as Research Fellow on the Charles L. Freer fund, and he returned to India to collect, with the help of his Lahuli friend, Rup Chand, some of the Tibetan art and artifacts that had captured his imagination in his earlier stay in this Buddhist area of northern India.

His summer expedition of 1933 has been recorded in his diaries; excerpts were published in the Michigan Alumnus: Quarterly Review in January of 1935. Before his return to Ann Arbor in the spring of 1934, he had shipped about 100 than-kas back to the United States. Roughly half of them were the property of the University of Michigan's Museum of Anthropology and the other half Dr. Koelz's private collection.

The private collection has been sold, following Dr. Koelz's death in 1989, by Christie's for the benefit of the Nature Conservancy. It is this latter private collection which is represented in this current slide set.

9501-9516  
Catalog entry #134  
A Fine Thang-ka Depicting The Mandala Of Hevajra

West Tibet  
Early 15th Century  
26x22in. (66.1x56cm.)

Hevajra standing in alidhasana with his consort Nairatmya, holding in each hand a kapala, surrounded by eight lotus-petals with each a dakini, all in a square palace, the four corners with vases, each side with a gate shaped as a stupa and encircled by a band of lotus-petals, one with the eight graveyards and a flaming band, surrounded by various Sa-skyapa monks, lamas and Indian pandits, the lower border with four dakinis flanked to their left by Mahakala, Sri Devi and Brahmanarupa, the reverse with mantras, some minor wear.

9517-9534  
Catalog entry #105  
A Fine Thang-ka Possibly Depicting Sa-Chen-Kun-Dga'-Snin-Po  
West Tibet  
Late 17th Century  
30 3/4x 23 1/2in. (78x59.7cm.)

Sa-chen-kun-dga'-snin-po is seated on a throne, his right hand in varadamudra and holding padma, wearing elaborate garments, shaven hairdress, in front of him a table with various ritual objects, above Vajradhara flanked by several mahasiddhas and lamas, probably both his sons Bsod-nams-rtse-mo and rJe-btsun-grags-pa below, holding ghanta and vajra respectively kapala, to both side-borders many Sa-skyapa lamas and monks, at the lower border preaching lamas, worshippers and the protective deities Brahmanarupa, Mahakala and Vaishravana, the reverse with mantras, minor cracks, repairs and slight damp damage.

9535-9546  
Catalog entry #132  
A Thang-ka Depicting Vajrabhairava  
Tibet  
19th Century  
26 1/4x193/4in. (66.6x50.3cm.)

Standing in pratyalidhasana on a lotus, Vajrabhairava's hand holding his specific attributes, naked except for the dharmapala-ornaments, a mala of several heads and a snake, his nine-faced head with a central bull's face, Vajradhara above and flanked by a mahasiddha, lamas and monks, Yama and Yami below, both standing on the bull, a form of Vaishravana, and the central Vajrabhairava surrounded by many local deities, each riding an animal, bird or human being, in a landscape, the reverse with mantras, some cracks, slight damp damage and some minor repairs.

9547-9556  
Catalog entry #107  
A Rare Thang-ka Depicting Tsong-kha-pa  
West Tibet

17th Century  
34x31in. (86.5x79.8cm.)

Tsong-kha-pa is seated in vajrasana on a lotus, both hands in dharmachakramudra and holding lotuses supporting the khadga and pustaka, wearing elaborate garments and his specific cap, flanked by his pupils mKhas-grub-rje and dGe-'dun-grub, an architectural frame behind set with diminutive figures of Amitayus, a gold painted cloth hanging down and decorated with two deities, the seated Buddha Sakyamuni above and flanked by Maitreya and Manjusri, surrounded by various dGe-lugs-pa lamas and monks and the yi-dam Guhyasamaja, an offering monk below and flanked by Vaishravana, minute cracks.

9557-9564  
Catalog entry #110  
A Thang-ka Depicting Four Saints From The  
Bka'-Brgyud-Pa Sect  
East Tibet  
Circa 1700  
32x19 1/2 in. (81x49.5 cm.)

At upper border is Naropa seated on a cloud, his legs with the yogapatta, the right hand holding the kapala, the left resting on his garment, Mi-la-ras-pa below, seated on an antelope-skin, his right hand at his ear, the left holding horn, in front the diminutive figure of Ras-chung-pa, flanked by rJe-phag-mo-grub-pa, seated on a throne, the left hand holding ratna, wearing elaborate garments, in front a wandering ascete, to his right below rJe-rgyal-ras, seated on a cushion on a low table, both hands holding a manuscript, wearing a monk's robe and a typical headdress, in front a table with offerings and to his left the lama Yar-mgon-pa, seated on a double cushion, his left hand holding akshamal, wearing various cloaks and specific cap, offerings in front, all in a mountainous landscape with Tibetan buildings at the background, the names written in gilt dBu-can script at the red border, the reverse with mantras in Lantsha and dBu-med script, some damp damage.

9565-9575  
Catalog entry #119  
A Rare Thang-ka Depicting Kshetrapala  
West Tibet  
Late 15th/Early 16th Century  
24x20in. (61.1x49.9cm.)

The dark-blue guardian of the graveyards is seated on his roaring bear, the raised right hand holding the kartrika, the left the kapala, wearing a human-bone skirt, ornaments and floating scarf, his face with third eye, beard, hangs and flaming hairdress bound together by a tiara set with three skulls, flanked to his left by possibly a two-armed manifestation of Mahakala, his raised right hand holding darpana, the left the kapala, wearing long coat held together by a sash, and a flaming aureol behind, a small repair and some minor wear.

9576-9586

Catalog entry #123

A Thank-ga Depicting Subhuti

Tibet

Late 18th Century

26x16 1/2in (66.1x42cm.)

Seated on a blanket and caressing a saved Garuda, wearing elaborate garments, Maudgalyayana above, Subhuti's mother opposite and offering a lotus to Buddha Sakyamuni, a diminutive figure of Subhuti meditating in a cave behind, the four lokapalas below and a scene of the battle between a Nagi and a Garuda, in a partly cut brocade mounting, some repairs and minor cracks.

9587

Catalog entry #127

A Thang-ka Depicting Vajrabhairava

East Tibet

19th Century

32 1/4x20 1/2in. (82.1x52.2cm.)

Standing in pratyahidhasana on a lotus, his hands holding the specific attributes, naked for the dharmapala-ornaments, a mala of severed heads and a snake, his nine-face head with a central bull's face, a flaming aureole behind, Vajradhara above and flanked by Padmasambhava, Buddha Sakyamuni, Manjusri and a dGe-lugs-pa monk, three kapalas below, the central one with human figures, flanked by a lama, Yama and Yami, ten local deities below, each riding an animal or human being, the reverse with mantras, in a brocade mounting, some cracks and slight damp damage.

9588

Catalog entry #131

A Thang-ka Depicting Mkhas-grub-chub-gnas-dpal-bzad

Central Tibet

18th Century

26x19in. (66.2x48.4cm.)

Seated on an elaborate throne, holding a manuscript, wearing various garments and his specific cap, a table with offerings in front of him, a form of Vajradhara above, flanked to his right by Kalachakra and to his left by Samvara, at the lama's shoulder level Guhyasamaja and Stag-shon-Mahakala, at his lover left Tshe-ring-ma and to his right another protective deity, in an extensive landscape, the reverse with mantras, some minor cracks and small repairs.

9589

Catalog entry #122

A Thang-ka Depicting Blo-bzang-ye-shes-gdul-by'i-bsod-nams

Tibet

Circa 1750

26x16in. (66.1x40.7cm.)

The Pan-chen lama bLo-bzang-ye-shes (1663-1737) is seated on a Chinese throne, his right hand in vitarkamudra, the left resting on his lap and holding patra, wearing elaborate garments and his specific yellow cap, a green nimbus behind,

the red Amitabha above, holding patra, flanked to his right by Vajrabhairava and to his left by his teacher mKhan-chen-rdo-rje-'jun-pa and various buildings in Tibetan style, offerings on a table below and Beg-tse, Sri Devi and the White Brahma at the lower border, in an extensive landscape, in brocade mounting, some cracks and slight damp damage.

9590

Catalog entry #126

A Thang-ka Depicting Buddha Sakyamuni

Tibet

19th Century

32 1/4x 21in. (82.1x53.5cm.)

Seated in vajrasana on a lotus resting on a shaped throne supported by lions, his right hand in bhumisparśamudra, his left resting on his lap in dhyānamudra, wearing long cloak, a radiating halo behind, surrounded by the congregation of dGe-lugs-pa lamas and monks, the protective deities Jambhala, Sadbhujamahakala, Vajrabhairava, Yama and Sri Devi below, in an extensive landscape and lower border with a one line inscription in the dBu-can script, some minor damp damage.

9591

Catalog entry #111

A Thang-ka Depicting Buddha Sakyamuni

East Tibet

19th Century

27x19in. (68.6x48.3cm.)

Seated in vajrasana on a lotus within a pagoda, his left hand in dhyānamudra and holding the patra, his right in bhumisparśamudra, wearing a monk's robe, aureole behind, flanked by Sariputra and Maudgalyayana and to each side eight arhats, the four lokapalas below, in an extensive landscape, a partly cut brocade mounting, cracks and some damp damage.

9592

Catalog entry #117

A Fine Thang-ka Depicting The Mandala Of Vairocana

South Tibet

Late 15th Century

20x17 1/2in. (49.9x49.5cm.)

Vairocana is seated in vajrasana on a lotus within an architectural frame, surrounded by eight bodhisattvas, each placed within a lotus-petal, all in a square palace with to each side a gate shaped as a stupa, encircled by bands of scrolling motifs, lotus-petals and a ring of fire, the four corners with a vase, each with a scrolling lotus encompassing the seven royal symbols, the upper border with nine Sa-skyapa monks and the lower border with the eight manifestations of Kubera, some minor wear and cracks.

9593

Catalog entry #116

A Thang-ka Depicting Pindola Bharadvaja

East Tibet

17th Century  
23 1/4x 17in. (59.1x43.2cm.)

The arhat is seated in lalitasana on an elaborate throne, surrounded by various monks and a lay-person with offerings, his right hand is holding the pustaka, the left the patra, wearing monk's garments, shaven hairdress and a small beard, a halo behind his head, scenes of rescuing a nagini from the claws of a Garuda below, in a mountainous landscape, the reverse with mantras, with some minor cracks and some areas of stain.

9594  
Catalog entry #125  
A Fine Thang-ka Depicting Samvara And Vajravara  
West Tibet  
15th Century  
17x13 1/2in. (43.4x34.4cm.)

Standing in alidhasana with his consort on the prostrate figures of Bhairava and Kalarati on a lotus, his twelve hands holding his specific attributes, wearing human-bone ornaments, a mala of severed heads, his head with four faces, Vajravara is offering him a kapala with blood and holding a vajra, wearing a human-bone skirt, ornaments and a mala of skulls, a flaming aureol behind, Vajradhara and Vajrasattva above and flanked to their left by Nagarjuna, surrounded by various mahasiddhas, dakinis and animal and bird-headed deities, the reverse with mantras and short inscription.

9595  
Catalog entry #121  
A Thang-ka Depicting Syamatara  
Tibet  
Late 19th Century  
18x13in. (45.8x33.1cm.)

The green Tara is seated in lalitasana on a lotus, her right hand in varadamudra, the left in vitarkamudra and both hands holding a lotus, wearing a dhoti, scarf and bodhisattva-ornaments, a radiating aureol behind, the red Amitabha above and holding patra, flanked by a Karma-pa and dGe-lugs-pa monk, the white Tara below, flanked by the dark-blue Ekajati and the yellow Tara, in an elaborate landscape, the reverse with mantras, in a brocade mounting, some cracks.

9596  
Catalog entry #118  
A Rare Thang-ka Depicting Bhaisajyaguru  
West Tibet  
Late 14th Century  
22x18in. (56x45cm.)

The dark-blue Medicine-Buddha is seated in vajrasana on a lotus, his right hand is holding the myrobalan-fruit, the left is resting in dhyanamudra on his lap and holding the patra, wearing cloak leaving his right shoulder bare, flanked by Chandragupta and Suryagupta holding respectively moon and sun symbols, all placed in an architectural frame supporting five stupas, each containing a tathagata, the upper border with Prajnaparamita and the seven other Medicine-Buddhas and two monks, the side-borders with each a row of bodhisattvas and inner row with monks and lamas, the lower border with the twelve yaksha princes, each holding a mongoose, various deities on their vehicles above and both rows flanked at each end by the four lokapalas, the reverse with stupa containing many mantras and Buddhist creed inscription, left side-border worn and various small areas of slight wear.

9597

Catalog entry #124

A Thang-ka Depicting Two Manifestations Of Padmasambhava

East Tibet

19th Century

27x 19in. (68.6x48.2cm.)

In the upper right corner Guru Blo-ldan-mchog-srin is depicted, seated on a lotus, wearing royal garments and jewelry, his raised right hand is holding the damaru and the left the darpana, the lower left corner shows Gure rDo-rje-gro-lod, riding his tiger, holding a vajra in his right hand and the vajrakila in his left, surrounded by various mahasiddhas, in a mountainous landscape, each figure inscribed below with their names, the reverse with mantras, in a brocade mounting, one repair, minute cracks and slight damp damage to left border.

9598

Catalog entry #113

A Thang-ka Depicting Padmasambhava

East Tibet

Late 18th Century

24x16 1/2in. (61x42cm.)

Seated on a lotus rising from the waters, holding in his right hand the vajra, the left with kapala, the khatvanga resting against his shoulder, wearing various garments, jewelry and his specific cap surmounted by a half-vajra, a radiating nimbus behind, flanked by Mandarva and Ye-shes-mtsho-rgyal, Sadaksharilokesvara above and flanked by Manjusri holding khadga and the blue Vajrapani holding the vajra, Yang-le-ber below and holding sword and spear, in an extensive landscape, in a brocade mounting, minor cracks, some areas of slight wear and slight damp damage.

9599

Catalog entry #135

A Thang-ka Depicting Padmasambhava

Tibet

19th Century

32x22 1/2in. (81.4x57.2cm.)

Padmasambhava is dancing in ardhaparyanka on several human bodies lying on a lotus, his raised right hand holding the vajra, the left stretched downwards and holding the vajrakila, wearing various garments and his specific red cap, a radiating nimbus behind, another form of Padmasambhava above and Samantabhadra flanked by several lamas and monks from the rNying-ma-pa sect, the red Guru Drag-po holding the scorpion and the dark-blue Simhavaktra the kartrika, another manifestation of Padmasambhava below, flanked to his right by the nine-headed Rahula, Vaishravana on his lion and deity on a horse, to his left by Tshe-ring-ma on her lion, a Dam-can on his horse and a local deity on the bull, the reverse with inscription giving his name and mantras, a satin mounting, cracks.

9600

Catalog entry #120

A Thang-ka Depicting Three Mahasiddhas

Central Tibet

Early 18th Century

30 1/2x20 1/2in. (77.5x52.1cm.)

The main mahasiddha is seated in rajalilsana, the left hand resting on the lotus, the right hand in bhumisparśamudra, wearing elaborate dhoti, scarf and a crown, an aureole behind and a worshipper offering him a bowl in front, below to his right another, seated on an animal skin on a cushion, both hands in dhyānamudra, wearing long white cloud and white cap, flanked by the third seated on a rectangular base, wearing similar elaborate dresses and a crown, each with a partly illegible inscription below, in an extensive landscape and a meditating monk at the upper border, the reverse with mantras in Vartula script, some minor damp damage, small cracks and minor wear .