

CHINESE SCULPTOR

Return of Chan Sic-koon After War Years

PLANS FOR EXHIBITION

Among recent returnees is the famous, but shy, Chinese sculptor and painter, Mr Chan Sic-koon. Years ago, Hongkong knew him as Mr Goon T. Chan and had the privilege of admiring his work, which was always of a high standard.

Interviewed yesterday, Mr Chan was reluctant to dwell overmuch upon his work, maintaining, in a different way, that he is still a student striving towards perfection and will be to the end of his days. That is his reason for never taking photographs of the many busts and paintings he produced before the war.

"I am never satisfied with the work when completed and although visitors might say they are perfect I feel they could be better. This striving to attain perfection will mean that my last work will be my best," he explained.

During the war he lost many valuable paintings and statuettes and, as they were never photographed, only a memory remains with a few who recall seeing them pre-war.

Born not far from Hongkong, Mr Chan commenced studying when 17 years old and spent 16 years in various art academies throughout America, France and Italy. He is a graduate of the Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston.

He combines the subtlety of western sculpture and the expressive simplicity of ancient Chinese art.

In 1938, a number of his busts and paintings were on view at the Hongkong Art Exhibition, among which were busts of the then Governor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote, and Lieut-Gen F. Lindemann, former military advisor to China.

Mr Chan escaped during the occupation to Kwongchowwan where he continued working and produced a bronze bust of Chiang Kai-shek, commissioned by the Kwongchowwan authorities, which was placed in a special park. The Japanese, says Mr Chan, stole statues, paintings, instruments and a boiler from his Shamshuipo factory and studio so he will have to collect more material.

Among his bronze, clay and marble busts are those of the late Mr Hu Han-min, Kuomintang leader; the late Mr Wai Shiu-pak, Hongkong millionaire; Mr Chan Shi-ching, Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Kwongchowwan; the late Professor Hu Ti-shan of the Hongkong University; and Mr Liu Chi-wen, former Mayor of Canton.

Mr Chan intends to hold his first one-man exhibition here within a month at which many of his friends and admirers will once again be enabled to view the fine work of a master hand.

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