

CLOUGH-HANSON GALLERY

The Jessie L. Clough Art Memorial
for Teaching



SOUTHWESTERN AT MEMPHIS

The late Miss Floy K. Hanson, of Memphis, well known and beloved teacher of art, gave Southwestern her valuable collection of oriental objects of art to be known as The Jessie L. Clough Art Memorial for Teaching, in memory of her first art teacher and friend, Miss Jessie L. Clough.

Miss Hanson was reared in Memphis and was graduated as valedictorian of her class at the Jenny M. Higbee School. It was in the Higbee School that she began her art study under Miss Clough. Her work in art was continued at the Chicago Art Institute and at the Art Students' League in New York. She was graduated from the Art Department of Teachers' College, Columbia University, where, under the influence of Arthur W. Dow, she became interested in crafts.

For fifteen years she lived in New York, where she maintained her own studio and worked with various crafts, such as blockprinting fabrics and designing and carving furniture. Her original work was warmly received and was exhibited by invitation at the Applied Arts Exhibition held at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh and at the Touchstone Galleries and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Miss Hanson and her friend Miss Clough traveled extensively and studied numerous crafts with native masters in the Orient. The secrets of real lacquer, cherished in Japan but unknown to the Western World, were taught to Miss Hanson by a lacquerer of the royal staff in Kyoto.

On one trip around the world, Miss Hanson and her fellow craftswoman Miss Clough, were joined by Miss Hanson's sister, Miss Etta Hanson, also an ardent lover of art. Starting from England

where they spent several months studying in the British Museum, they visited India, Java, China, Japan, Turkey, Greece, and other countries. In all their travels they collected materials of many kinds: textiles, Japanese prints, articles of brass, copper, and precious metals, jewelry, pottery, woodcarvings, and other objects of art. These objects were selected primarily for their usefulness in the study and teaching of design in arts and crafts. Many articles in this collection were exhibited by invitation at the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery of Memphis.

In 1954, through the courtesy of the Far Eastern Section of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, a visit to Southwestern by Miss Pauline Simmons, Assistant Curator of the Far Eastern Division was made possible. The purpose of Miss Simmons' visit was to examine and to initiate the cataloguing of the Jessie L. Clough Art Memorial for Teaching. In 1958, Miss Margaret Gentles, Associate Curator of Oriental Art at the Art Institute of Chicago catalogued the Japanese prints. In 1959, Mr. William C. Latchford of the firm of Gunn-Latchford, Incorporated of New York, and a member of the Appraisers Association of America made an inventory and gave an appraisal of the holdings in the field of Oriental art.

The late Miss Etta Hanson served as curator of this collection from 1953 until her death in 1968. Mrs. Wallace Johnston is currently curator and has supervised the opening of the permanent gallery.

With the opening of S. DeWitt Clough Hall and the Clough-Hanson Gallery, the entire collection is displayed for the first time. This "library of objects" now comes into its full range of usefulness in making available material for the understanding of the fine arts.