

San Francisco, *in accepting a priceless treasure*

pays a tribute to Avery Brundage

*who stands as the world greatest connoisseur
in Ancient Oriental Art*

According to his own statement given a few years ago in Lausanne at a press conference. Mr. Avery Brundage said that he started life without any private means but with a will of iron. He worked in order to pay his own studies, and, as sportsman, found time to train and become champion N° 1, of the United States in the athletic field. In 1912, he competed in the Stockholm Olympic Games. Who can do better these days?

I beg to be forgiven for this indiscretion if it is one - since we learn these facts from an illustrated prospectus (Californian), in circulation in San Francisco (and elsewhere) from which we extract the following essential points:

'During his career as an engineer and building contractor, and as President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery Brundage has the opportunity to study the cultures of many nations. His instinctive delight in the Arts developed into the serious dedication of a collector. Today, the Brundage Collection of Oriental Art is recognized as the most famous and largest collection of irreplaceable treasures now available in the world. Indeed, some of the pieces of this collection date back as far as 1500 B.C.

'This is the collection that Mr. Brundage has been offering to San Francisco as a

permanent part of this City's great cultural tradition. The Brundage Collection has been valued at 16 to 18 million dollars, but the true worth of such a treasure as the collection offered to San Francisco by Mr. Brundage must also be measured in terms of its great cultural value to the City, in spite of the fact that many Art institutions near by - and the Art Institute of Chicago in particular, of which Mr. Brundage is a trustee - are extremely anxious to obtain all or part of his collection, Mr. Brundage believes that it should be housed intact, and that its home should be in San Francisco.

'Two of the factors that influenced Mr. Brundage in his choice are: San Francisco's long heritage as the gateway to the Orient and the proximity of the De Young Museum to Golden Gate Park's magnificent Oriental Garden... a superb background for his collection.

'San Francisco is now preparing a plan to finance the construction of a special wing of the De Young Museum where half the collection will be placed as soon as all facilities are completed. The remaining half will be given to the museum over a 25-year period or upon Mr. Brundage's death, if that should occur during this period.'