

SARAH HANDLER

## ARTS OF ANCIENT CHINA

*Chinese Calligraphy and Painting in the Collection of John M. Crawford, Jr.* Edited by Laurance Sickman. New York: The Pierpont Morgan Library, 1962. Pp. 302. \$100.

*Chinese Furniture: Hardwood Examples of the Ming and Early Ch'ing Dynasties.* By Robert Hatfield Ellsworth. New York: Random House, 1971. Pp. 299. \$75.

*Chinese Calligraphy and Painting in the Collection of John M. Crawford, Jr.* was published in 1962, yet today it is still a most important and impressive book which can be said to have opened up a new era in the study of Chinese art history. As Laurance Sickman points out in his Introduction, Charles L. Freer is the only other private individual outside the Far East who has owned such a wide range of scrolls and so many which previously belonged to famous Chinese collectors. Crawford's well-rounded collection contains examples ranging from a colored landscape attributed to the Five Dynasty Period, through the Northern and Southern Sung Academies, Ch'an Buddhist painting, Wu School, and Ming professionals to the seventeenth and eighteenth century "individualists." Early painting is especially well represented by some outstanding scrolls such as Kuo Hsi's "Lowlands with trees" and Ch'iao Chung-ch'ang's "Ode on the Red Cliff," formerly owned by Liang Ch'ing-piao and the Ch'ien-lung emperor. The inclusion of some excellent calligraphic scrolls makes this collection unique in the Western world.

The book is skillfully designed so as to appeal to both the specialist and the layman. It begins with three essays which together form a short introduction to the field. The first by Sickman gives a concise but lucid account of the physical