

HIST 250
MUSEUM SCAVENGER HUNT REPORT

NAME: _____

Take the Metro to the “Smithsonian” stop on the Blue/Silver/Orange Line. (If coming from AU/Tenleytown, take the Red Line to “Metro Center,” then transfer to the Blue/Silver/Orange line toward “Largo Town Center.”) Enter the Freer Gallery of Art from the main entrance, on the side that faces the National Mall. Galleries 1-19 are on this floor (Floor 1). They include the arts of ancient China, Korea, Japan, the Islamic World, the Indian Subcontinent, and the Peacock Room, among others. On the other side of the outdoor courtyard is a staircase that leads down to the Sackler Gallery of Art on the basement floor (Floor B1). On this floor are the arts of ancient Iran and various other rotating temporary exhibits, including the Tibetan Shrine Room.

Answer the following 20 questions. Each question is worth ½ point.

Enter the **Freer Gallery of Art** from the main entrance and walk up the flight of stairs to the first hallway. Turn right and look at the fierce statue at the end of the hallway. (There is a similar statue at the other end of the hallway behind you.) What material is this statue made from?

1. Type of material: _____

Backtrack one doorway and **enter Gallery 1**. Walk through the first room and enter Gallery 2. Turn left and take a look at the four stone square reliefs depicting the life of the Buddha. What is the title given to the relief that is positioned third from the left?

2. Title of relief: _____

While facing the four square stone reliefs, turn around 180° and locate a square brownish-reddish stone relief that depicts an ancient Indian stupa. According to the placard, what type of stone is this relief made out of?

3. Type of stone: _____

Exit this gallery and walk back into the main hallway from whence you came. Turn left and walk toward the other scary demon standing at the other end of the hallway. As you near this demon, turn left into Gallery 18. The first glass display case you will encounter right in front of you holds a remarkable bronze vessel forged in the shape of a bird. What other clever and pragmatic function did this bronze vessel originally have beyond mere aesthetics?

4. Other pragmatic function: _____

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While looking at the front of the bird bronze and with your back to the main hallway, turn to the right and find the glass display containing three bronze vessels. Under which dynasty were all three of these bronzes produced?

5. Name of dynasty: _____

In this same gallery, find the bronze vessel that is decorated with hunting scenes. Stand on your tippy toes to take a look at the interior surface of the bronze. There are three rows of animals. What type of animal is depicted on the lowest of the three rows?

6. Type of animal: _____

In this same gallery, find the display case that contains a chariot ornament in the shape of a dragon head and a pair of crossbow fittings. What is the title given to this display case on the placard?

7. Title of display case exhibit: _____

While facing the display case with the crossbow fittings, turn around 180° and walk into the next gallery. You should now find yourself in a room filled with Buddhist sculptures (if you are instead surrounded by jade artifacts, you went the wrong way!). Look at the magnificent stone murals hanging on the wall on your left as you walk into this gallery. What is the name of the Buddhist heaven that is depicted on these stone relief murals?

8. Name of Buddhist heaven: _____

In this same gallery, find the white, cream-colored marble stele depicting two buddhas sitting side by side. (While facing the stone wall mural on the left, this will be the artifact immediately behind you.) Under which dynasty was this marble stele produced?

9. Name of dynasty: _____

Exit through the doorway marked “17” and walk back out into the main hall. You should be standing right next to one of those two scary standing demons. Enter the first room on your left, which contains Song ceramics. Find the display case with a tall white vase. How many ceramic objects in total (including this white vase) are displayed in this case?

10. Number of ceramic objects: _____

In this same gallery, find the painted scroll that depicts a group of old men partying. How many of these men wear tall black hats and light-colored robes with black trim?

11. Number of men: _____

Exit this room by returning to the main hallway and walking straight ahead into Gallery 13 right in front of you. Find the painted scroll—placed flat within a long display case

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(i.e., not hanging on the wall)—that depicts a large number of real and imagined beasts. How many of these beasts are depicted with a red “flame” emanation around their bodies in order to indicate supernatural qualities?

12. Number of red-emanating beasts: _____

In this same gallery, find the hanging wall painting that depicts three men, one of whom is scratching his back. In which dynasty was this painted in?

13. Name of dynasty: _____

In this same gallery, find the hanging wall painting that has been identified as a forgery. How many red seals have been impressed onto the surface of the painting?

14. Number of red seals: _____

In this same gallery, find the display case with two porcelain dishes decorated with dragon motifs. Under which Ming dynasty emperor were these two dishes produced?

15. Name of emperor: _____

In the center of this same gallery is a large display case labeled “Qing Emperors’ Treasure Cabinet” (it looks like something you might buy at IKEA). On its many shelves are thirty antiquities of various sorts. Under which dynasty was the white stone “pillow” made? (Note: The characters inscribed onto the surface of the pillow were added during a later dynasty—I want you to name the earlier dynasty that made the pillow itself.)

16. Name of dynasty: _____

In this same cabinet, there is only one object that dates back to the Shang dynasty—meaning that it could very well have been used as part of an oracle bone ritual, perhaps even held by King Wu Ding himself! On which numbered shelf does this object stand?

17. Number of shelf: _____

Exit this gallery through the opposite side from which you entered it back into the main hallway. You should now see the entrance to the Peacock Room on your left. Enter the Peacock Room and take a close look at the four corners of the walls. How many of the four wall corners contain not only beautiful ceramics and porcelain objects, but also a shelf niche on which a sculpture resembling a human or human-like deity stands?

18. Number of wall corners: _____

Exit the Peacock Room and walk straight ahead. Toward the end of the hallway, turn left into Gallery 9. There is only one sculpture in this room: a tall Tang dynasty bodhisattva described on its placard as having an “ungainly pose and proportions.” What is the

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technical name for the type of statue that has resulted in this aesthetically unpleasing appearance?

19. Name of type of statue: _____

Exit Gallery 9 and walk down the several sets of staircases to the lower level of the museum (follow the signs for Galleries 21-30). Walk through the exhibit titled “A Taste for Luxury in Ancient Iran.” Once through it, turn right and walk past the gift shop (which will be on your right). At the end of this hallway, turn left and walk down another long hallway. Toward the end of this hallway, you will encounter a “Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room” on your right. Enter the shrine room and be at peace for a moment. Now get back to work—this is a two-part question! Locate the statue that is wearing a real miniature yellow robe (there is only one statue in the entire shrine room dressed like this). How many cups of rice have been placed on his left side (the viewer’s right side)?

20a. Number of cups of rice: _____

Locate the two stacks of long rectangular paper that have been placed on a trunk on the floor. The paper has been dyed a deep indigo blue and gold ink has been used for writing. These are Tibetan Buddhist sutras. While standing at the center of the shrine room, are these sutras located on your left side or on your right side?

20b. Location of sutras (left or right): _____

You have now completed the scavenger hunt. I hope you will take another hour or so to peruse the many fascinating exhibits that were not included in this assignment. In particular, I would recommend the temporary exhibit “Staging the Supernatural: Ghosts and Theater in Japanese Prints,” which is located just around the corner from the Tibetan Shrine Room.

FINAL SCORE: _____ / 10