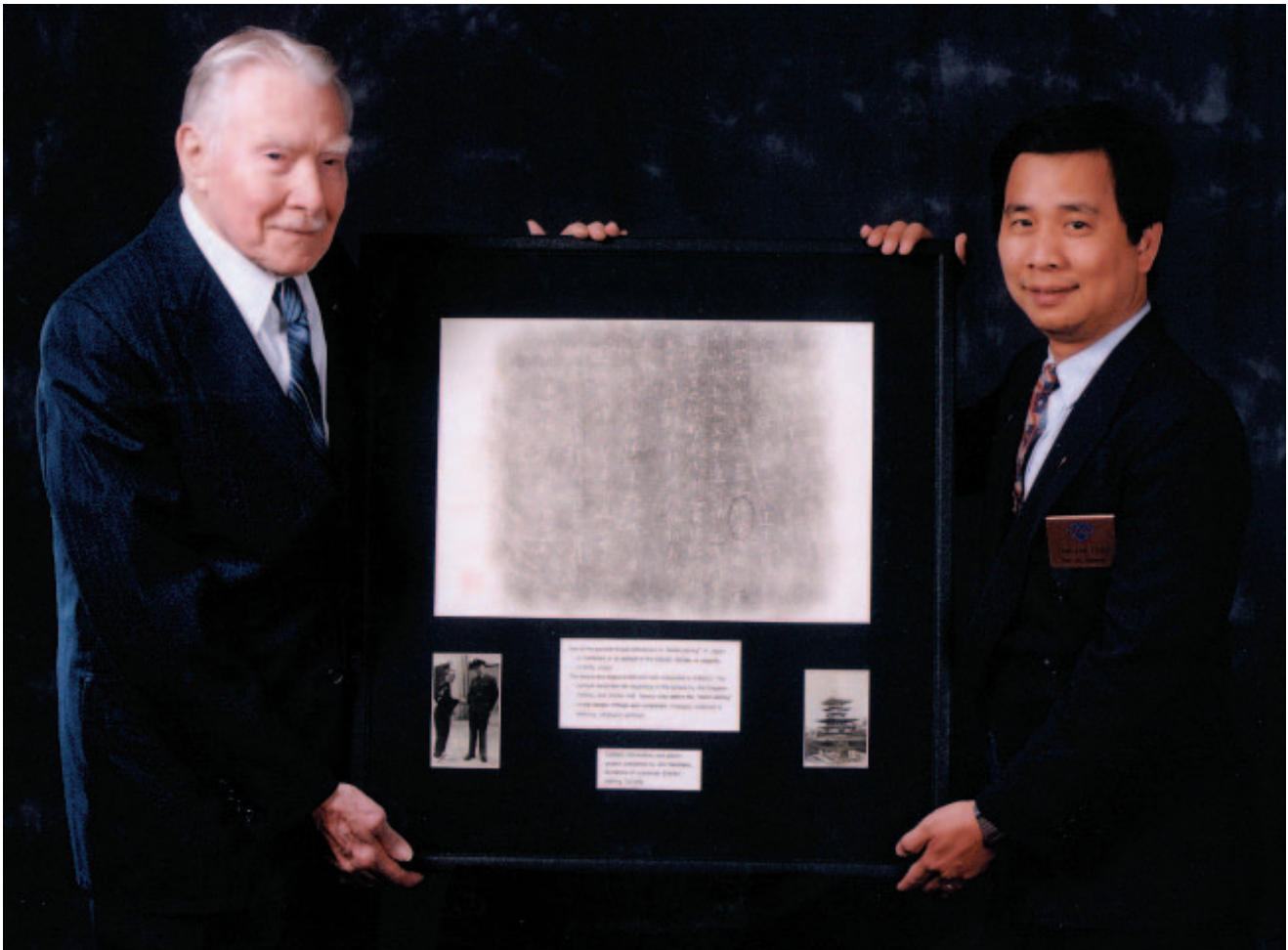


Rubbing of Japanese Temple Carving (Circa 600 A.D.) Contains First Reference to Plating in Japan



Ezra Blount (left) kept the rubbing of the temple carving that refers to plating until May of 1996, when he formally presented it to the AESF through then-First Vice President Tam Tran. The framed rubbing, along with descriptive copy and photos of the temple, Mr. Takahama and Ezra Blount, were recently displayed at the AESF Activity Center at SUR/FIN® '96—Cleveland.

Ezra Blount, former member of the AES Board of Directors, honorary member of the AESF Cincinnati Branch and editor emeritus of *Products Finishing*, recently donated a rubbing of a carving from a temple in the Nara area of Japan to the AESF International Headquarters. The carving is of historical significance because it is believed to contain the first reference to electroplating in Japan.

Ezra began his association with Japan in 1951, when he was in the U.S. Air Force. At that time, AES Past President George Hogaboom gave him the name and address of Dr. Sakae Tajima, a Japanese professor who was interested in plating. Dr. Tajima was head of the electrochemistry department at Tokyo Metropoli-

tan University. During the year following their first meeting, Dr. Tajima escorted Ezra to many plating and anodizing plants in the greater Tokyo area.

Dr. Tajima also introduced Ezra to some local electroplaters at the home of Jiro Takahama. The entire second floor of the Takahama home was used for a meeting room, classroom and chemical laboratory. This provided a convenient place where the platers could meet, attend classes in plating techniques, and even analyze plating solutions.

It was through Mr. Takahama that Ezra learned more about the history of plating—from the Japanese experience. When Ezra left Japan in 1952, Mr. Takahama presented him with the Nara temple rubbing shown in the

photo. The temple was built about 600 A.D.

“Mr. Takahama did not say what type of plating was mentioned,” recalls Ezra, “nor could he provide any information about the rest of the engraving on the temple wall.

More Meetings

Led to Strong Association Between AESF & Japan

Through visits accompanied by Ezra in the mid-'60s, some well-known Society and industry representatives (such as AES Treasurer Kergan Wells and Bill Safranek, former AESF president and *P&SF* technical editor) were also introduced to Japanese plating industry representatives in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. There were other visits to Japan and



In 1953, the rubbing was displayed at the AES Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, where it was part of an exhibit on "Finishing in the Far East." The display featured a number of different electroplated and anodized products made in Japan.

many visits by Japanese groups to the U.S., especially to AES annual meetings (later, "SUR/FIN").

"All this led to increased association among what is now AESF and the Japan Electroplating Society, The Metal Finishing Society of Japan, the Japan Electrochemical Society, The All-Japan Electroplating Association (ZENTOREN), and local groups in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka," says Ezra. "Dr. Tajima served on the AESF Publications Board, attending

meetings faithfully during his tenure. Dr. Hayashi received a silver medal in 1986 for an outstanding paper published in *Plating and Surface Finishing* and was the AESF Scientific Achievement Award recipient in 1990. I really believe that all these events have enhanced the position of the AESF as a truly international Society that is concerned with the science and technology of electroplating and metal finishing."

P&SF

Ezra Blount— Respected Worldwide

Ezra Blount is well-respected throughout the worldwide finishing community for his knowledge and personality. He holds a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. From 1927 to 1948, he was associated with the finishing industry, either as a process engineer or department supervisor, including military service in the U.S. Air Force. From 1948 to 1967, he was editor of *Products Finishing* magazine. A member since 1941, he has served as an officer in the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Branches. He has also been an officer in the Metal Finishing Suppliers Association (MFSA).

During the Korean War, Ezra was recalled to active duty and served more than a year in Japan. During that time, he toured many finishing shops and spoke before the Japanese Electro-

plating Society. When he left Japan, he was made an honorary member of that Society.

In 1981, Ezra was honored with the Silver Medal Award presented by the All-Japan Electroplating Industry Association. He was the first non-Japanese to receive the award since its establishment in 1968. The citation accompanying the award states: "For contributions to our electroplating industry, and for efforts in exchanging people and information between the two nations for better understanding and mutual benefit."

Ezra also received a memorial gift and citation for his services to the Japan Electroplating Society. At its 20th anniversary, he was recognized for his "... assistance in organizing the Society in 1961, and for his continuing cooperation for many years."

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