almost ten by eleven feet in size. Its acquisi-
tion for the Museum was a piece of the
purest luck, as few prints in the world are
more famous or have been more assiduously
sought for over a longer period of years.
It taught the curator that, in print col-
lecting at least, anything may come to the
man who has his eyes open.

Two important sets of English prints were
also acquired during the year, a fine copy of
de Chavannes, Pissarro, Delacroix, Redon,
Toulouse-Lautrec, Mailol, Forain, Vuil-
lard, Bonnard, Matisse, Ensor, Leibl, Koll-
witz, Menzel, and Liebermann, as well as a
number of the younger contemporary art-
ists. The collection of ornament has also
been added to during the year, particularly
by a most interesting series of eighteenth-
century Lyonnese designs for weaves.

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the celebrated Malton’s Views of London,
which is not improbably the most beautiful
set of English eighteenth-century architec-
tural plates, and a complete set, largely in
first states, of Turner’s celebrated Liber
Studiorum, undoubtedly the most celebrated
series of plates ever made in England.

Among the makers and designers of other
prints acquired during the past year may be
mentioned Israhel van Meckenem, Lucas of
Leyden, Altdorfer, Cranach, Burgkmair,
Holbein, Huber, the Master D. S., G. Lem-
berger, Brueghel, Jean Goujon, Callot,
Goudt, van de Velde, Morin, Tiepolo,
Prud’hon, Daumier, Millet, Manet, Puvis

A STATUE OF PROTESILAOS
An important new acquisition for the
Classical Department has been placed this
month in the Room of Recent Accessions.
It is a marble warrior, somewhat over life-
size, in a fair state of preservation, un-
doubtedly one of the most impressive
pieces in our collection (figs. 1–3).² He is
represented standing, on a slanting base,

1 Total height as preserved with plinth, 7 ft.
3 in. (2.21 m.).
² A more detailed article on this important
statue will appear in the next number of Metro-
politan Museum Studies.
FIG. I. STATUE OF PROTESILAOS. ROMAN COPY OF A GREEK WORK OF ABOUT 450-440 B.C.
and leaning back slightly as if to acquire momentum for throwing his spear against an enemy. He wears a helmet with leather lining and carried a shield on his left arm. The statue is evidently a Roman copy of a Greek work produced soon after the middle of the fifth century, full of power and swing, and monumental in conception. The original was presumably of bronze, as were the majority of free-standing statues of that time.

The type is a new one and we welcome it as an important addition to our somewhat meager store of works of this important period, contemporary with the Parthenon metopes (450-440 B.C.). But who is this mighty warrior about to attack an enemy? It would be difficult to make an identification — the choice of warrior heroes is so extensive in Greek history — were it not for one important clue. In the British Museum is a torso, evidently another replica from the same original as our statue; and found with it and belonging to it is a slanting base, worked in greater detail than ours, in the form evidently of the fore part of a ship surrounded by waves. On the evidence of this base the figure in the British Museum was identified as the sea-god Poseidon, perhaps wielding his trident. Our statue, preserved with helmeted head and arms which carried spear and shield, now excludes this possibility. But the example in the British Museum teaches us that our slanting base must be explained as a simplified rendering of the ram of a boat. So our hero must have been one associated with a ship from which he advanced for an attack. Such a one was Proteus, the son of Iphiklos, "the first man who dared to leap ashore when the Greek fleet touched the Troad." An oracle had foretold that whoever first stepped on Trojan soil would be the first to fall. But Proteus, nothing daunted, jumped on land from his ship, "bealt death to not a few barbarians and was then himself killed by Hektor."

It was a splendid deed in true heroic style, and the memory of Proteus was ever afterwards revered. There was a shrine of him in Thessaly, at Phylake, his home, and games were instituted there in his honor (Pindar). Near his grave at Elaios in the Thracian Chersonese there was a temple with rich treasures as well as a shrine (Herodotos). Philostratos, writing of this sanctuary in the early third century

4 The head is said to have been found in the same general locality as the statue, the marble and weathering are identical, the size and style fit; but it does not actually join on to the body, since an intervening portion is missing.

5 The disturbing support in the form of a tree trunk would not have been needed in the bronze original.
A.D., speaks of a temple statue of Protesilaos "standing on a base which was shaped like the prow of a boat." Moreover, coins of Elaios of the time of Commodus have on the reverse representations of Protesilaos standing on the fore part of a ship, clad in helmet, cuirass, and short chiton, in the right arm a spear, the left raised. Coins of Phthiotian Thebes in Thessaly have similar representations of Protesilaos, but standing in front of the ship instead of on it.

With such evidence we need not hesitate to identify our new statue as Protesilaos descending from his ship to set foot on Troy.6 It is apparently the only extant statue of this hero — except of course the second replica in the British Museum which can now be rechristened; and very few representations of him are known at all,7 one or more on early vases, two on Roman sarcophagi — where not only the landing at Troy, but his reunion with his wife, Laodameia, is represented, perhaps one of the Heroon of Gjölbaschi, a head on a coin of Skione, and the two coin reliefs mentioned above. As a Thessalian, he evidently was not so popular with Athenian and Peloponnesian artists as their own heroes, and so, while Herakles, Theseus, Perseus, and Odysseus have become household names, Protesilaos is comparatively unfamiliar. Though northern Greece held him in reverence for his deeds, the artistic South set up few memorials in his honor. Pausanias, on his travels in southern Greece, saw no statues of Protesilaos in any of the sanctuaries he visited. The British Museum torso was discovered at Kyziikos in Mysia, which, according to tradition, was founded by Thessalian settlers, and so a statue of him in that city was an appropriate offering. But the love story of Protesilaos and the inconsolable sorrow of his widow had a psychological appeal for a dramatist; and if Euripides' play, Protesilaos, had survived, his name would doubtless have been better known today.8 So dependent are even great heroes on the artists for their permanent fame!

FIG. 3. STATUE OF PROTESILAOS
LEFT SIDE

6 This identification was first tentatively suggested, I believe, by Edward Warren.
7 cf. the list given by Türk in Roscher's Lexicon, columns 3165 ff.
8 Wordsworth's Laodamia is so nineteenth-century in spirit that it is little read today.