



PRESS RELEASE

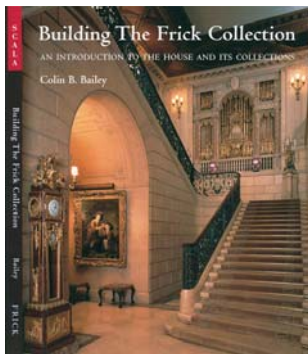
from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

1 EAST 70TH STREET • NEW YORK • NEW YORK 10021 • TELEPHONE (212) 288-0700 • FAX (212) 628-4417

FRICK COLLECTION PUBLISHES ITS FIRST BOOK FOCUSED ON THE HISTORY OF MANSION RESULT OF NEW ARCHIVAL RESEARCH BY CHIEF CURATOR COLIN B. BAILEY

Building The Frick Collection



The history of Henry Clay Frick's New York City residence is part architectural study, part family biography, and part institutional record. This November, and for the first time in its history, The Frick Collection publishes a book focused on the famed Fifth Avenue mansion that today serves as the museum's remarkable setting, a topic of longstanding interest to the general public, visitors to the museum, and scholars alike. *Building The Frick Collection: An Introduction to the House and Its Collections* was written by Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey and published in association with Scala.

Bailey, who joined the staff of the renowned museum in 2000, is the author of several books, including *Patriotic Taste: Collecting Modern Art in Pre-Revolutionary Paris*, which was awarded the Mitchell Prize for the best art history book of 2002–3. In *Building The Frick Collection*, Bailey not only carefully documents the construction of the Gilded Age mansion that today houses the museum but examines how its creation influenced Frick's taste during the final years of his life. Bailey's work draws from several biographies of Frick as well as from recent studies of domestic architecture and interior decoration during the Gilded Age, setting the house's construction—Frick's last great achievement—in context. He uses newly discovered letters and telegrams to reveal the extent of Frick's passionate and demanding involvement in the project, as well as the roles played by the various dealers, architects, decorators, and fellow collectors who advised him. The book (128 pages, 100 color illustrations; ISBN: 1857593812) will be available in softcover (\$14.95) and hardcover (\$24.95) in the Museum Shop of the Frick, on

the institution's Web site (www.frick.org), and by phone (212) 288-0700. The hardcover edition is available to the trade through Scala Publishers.

From the very beginning, the house was intended to become a museum following Frick's death and the death of his wife, Adelaide. During the couple's lifetime, it provided the setting for their incomparable collection of Old Masters and nineteenth-century paintings and served as the family home—to Frick, his wife, his daughter Helen (less so his married son, Childs), and some twenty-seven servants. After construction ended in 1914 and the interiors began to take shape, Frick became increasingly aware of how sculpture, furniture, and the decorative arts might enhance the rooms and halls in which his pictures hung. Gradually, the same discrimination and insistence on quality that had long marked his activity as a collector of paintings were applied to his selection of objects for the furnishing of the major ground-floor rooms. In 1915 and 1916, with the guidance of the English art dealer Joseph Duveen, Frick acquired many of the finest objects from J. Pierpont Morgan's estate—Limoges enamels, Renaissance bronzes, Sèvres porcelains, and eighteenth-century French furniture—thus establishing the various specializations (in addition to paintings) for which The Frick Collection has been renowned since it opened its doors to the public in December 1935.

Building The Frick Collection represents a collaboration with staff members in departments across the institution. For help with research, Bailey relied on members of the curatorial department, who were in turn aided by the archivists at the Frick Art Reference Library as they navigated the vast resources of the Frick family archives. Photographers working in both the Collection and the Library supplied new images and restored vintage ones. Elaine Koss, the Frick's editor-in-chief, supervised all aspects of the design and production of the book.



Dr. Colin B. Bailey, Chief Curator, The Frick Collection,
photo: Christine A. Butler

Comments Bailey, “Having known the house and its collection as an insider for the past six years, I was thrilled to study the origins of the building and to peer over Frick's shoulder, as it were, to follow the creation of 1 East 70th Street step by step.”

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION AND FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919), the coke and steel industrialist, philanthropist, and art collector, left his New York residence and his remarkable collection of Western paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to the public “for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a gallery of art, [and] of encouraging and developing the study of fine arts and of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects.” Designed and built for Mr. Frick in 1913 and 1914 by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings, the mansion provides a grand domestic setting reminiscent of the

noble houses of Europe for the masterworks from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century that it contains. Of special note are paintings by Bellini, Constable, Corot, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Ingres, Manet, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Titian, Turner, Velázquez, Vermeer, Whistler, and other masters. Mr. Frick's superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, and Limoges enamels bring a special ambiance to the galleries, while the interior and exterior gardens and the amenities created since the founder's time in the 1930s and 1970s contribute to the serenity of the visitor's experience. Renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and lectures, The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library, founded by Henry Clay Frick's daughter Miss Helen Clay Frick, located in an adjoining building at 10 East 71st Street. Both a research library and a photo archive, the Frick Art Reference Library is one of the world's great repositories of documents for the study of Western art. It has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Hours: open six days a week: 10am to 6pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11am to 5pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11am to 5pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$15; senior citizens \$10; students \$5; "pay as you wish" on Sundays from 11am to 1pm

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Subway: #6 local (on Lexington Avenue) to 68th Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

Tour Information: included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Museum Shop: the shop is open the same days as the Museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution.

Group Visits: Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

Public Programs: A calendar of events is published regularly and is available upon request.

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For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Manager of Media Relations & Marketing, or Geetha Natarajan, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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