

# GUIDE

## FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

10 East 71 Street • New York, NY 10021-4967  
212-547-0641 • [library@frick.org](mailto:library@frick.org)  
[www.frick.org/library](http://www.frick.org/library)



### READING ROOM HOURS

Monday to Friday 10 to 5  
Last request for materials 4  
New researchers please arrive by 3  
  
Saturdays 9:30 to 1  
Last request for materials 12  
New researchers please arrive by 11

### CLOSED

Holiday weekends  
Saturdays in June and July  
Month of August

### MISSION

The Frick Art Reference Library was founded in 1920 to serve “adults with a serious interest in art,” among them scholars, art professionals, collectors and students. The Library’s book and photograph research collections relate chiefly to paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints and illuminated manuscripts from the fourth to the mid-twentieth centuries by European and American artists, and to those categories of decorative arts represented in The Frick Collection. Known internationally for its rich holdings of auction and exhibition catalogs, the Library is a leading site for collecting and provenance research. Archival materials and special collections augment the research collections with documents pertaining to the history of art collecting in America and of Henry Clay Frick’s collecting in particular.

### ADMISSION & USE

Registration and an introductory tour are required to use the Library. Registered researchers receive a Library card, which they must present at each visit. Archival materials are available by appointment: 212-547-0648 or [archives@frick.org](mailto:archives@frick.org). All researchers are requested to observe the following:

- A photo ID is required for registration.
- Coats, parcels, large purses and briefcases must be checked.
- Works of art will not be checked. Those measuring under 24 inches square may be brought into the Reading Room at the discretion of the Reference Librarian.
- All hand-held items will be examined by the guard before researchers leave the Library.
- CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF.
- Use of digital cameras is permitted by appointment only.
- No food or beverages are permitted in the Library.
- Only pencils may be used when consulting archival materials and study photographs.

The Library may withdraw user privileges for breach of these rules or for other proper cause. Researchers observing damage to a book or photograph are asked to bring it to the attention of the Reading Room staff.

## REFERENCE SERVICES

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The Reading Room staff will advise researchers in the use of the online catalog FRESKO (Frick Research Catalog Online), indexes and other reference and electronic resources. The following services are provided:

- Answers to reference questions by telephone, and, for researchers located outside the New York metropolitan area, by mail or Web-based form: [www.frick.org/library/reference.htm](http://www.frick.org/library/reference.htm)
- Workshops in the use of electronic resources
- Interlibrary loan
- Reprographics

Research needs requiring access to materials beyond the daily allotment (20 requests) should be addressed in advance. Services are limited on Saturdays. For more information about reference services, see Services brochure.

## ACCESS TO MATERIALS

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The Library stacks are closed to the public. To request materials, a seat number and researcher code are required. Researchers request materials online within the Reading Room by searching FRESKO, which contains more than 300,000 records for books, auction catalogs, collection and exhibition catalogs, periodicals, microforms, electronic resources and Photoarchive artist files held at the Frick Art Reference Library. FRESKO is available at the Library and via the Web site: [www.fresco.frick.org](http://www.fresco.frick.org).

- In-process materials listed in FRESKO may be obtained by asking the Reading Room staff.
- Rare or fragile materials are available at the discretion of the Reading Room staff and the Chief Conservator.
- Archival materials are available by appointment only and are consulted at the front table in the Reading Room.
- Item requests (20 per day; 10 on Saturdays), are processed every fifteen minutes on the quarter hour, until 4, Monday to Friday, and until 12 noon, Saturdays. The paging staff delivers materials to the researchers.

Researchers are requested to return books and study photographs to the re-shelving carts, with the exception of rare, fragile, oversized and archival materials, which should be returned to the Reference Desk.

## TO RESERVE MATERIALS

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Limited reserve space is available. Up to four books and two photograph boxes may be reserved for one week. Reference materials, new books, rare books and archival materials may not be reserved.

- A separate reserve slip must be filled out for each item.
- Additional materials may be reserved for one day at the discretion of a Reference Librarian.

## COMPUTERS & WIRELESS ACCESS

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Laptop computers are permitted in the Reading Room. Wireless Internet access is available for researchers who have computers with wireless capabilities. A username and password are required (obtainable from the Reading Room staff).

## GIFT & DEPOSITORY PROGRAM

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Authors are encouraged to deposit their publications and research materials with the Library. Donations of books, photographs and archival materials are welcome. A book donation is acknowledged with a bookplate and a credit line in the online catalog.

## CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF COLLECTING IN AMERICA

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For information about the programs and activities of the Center, see [www.frick.org/center/index.htm](http://www.frick.org/center/index.htm)

## SUGGESTIONS

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Suggestions for book acquisitions may be entered in FRESKO or given to the Reading Room staff. Contributions of additional information for the Library's study photographs are valued, particularly as they relate to provenance, attribution history and portrait subject identification.

## WHEELCHAIR & ASSISTED ACCESS

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The wheelchair ramp is to the left of the main entrance of the museum at 1 East 70 Street.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

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- Photoarchive of more than one million images of paintings, drawings and sculpture by more than 36,000 artists, with documentation, including many unpublished opinions
- Photographs of lost, damaged and stolen art, as well as of works still held in private collections initially documented by the library photography expeditions
- The Museum of Modern Art Reference Photo Files
- Auction catalogs dating from the 17th century to the present, many annotated with price and buyer information
- Montias database of 16th and 17th century inventories of Dutch art collections from the Gemeentearchief Amsterdam
- Microfiche of the Witt Library collection of photographs
- Microfiche of the Cicognara Library of the Vatican
- Microfiche of Christie's and Sotheby's Pictorial Archives
- The Frick Art Reference Library Original Index to Art Periodicals, covering articles in journals from 1850-1969
- American, European and Russian art periodicals of the 19th and early 20th centuries
- Cataloged exhibition ephemera
- Private collection catalogs

## MAIN READING ROOM

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### REFERENCE MATERIAL

1. New Books
2. Directories
3. Registers – Collectors – Connoisseurs
4. Signatures and Monograms – Art Law
5. Sale Records – Auction House Directories – Collection Marks
6. *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*
7. *Der Neue Pauly – New Catholic Encyclopedia*
8. Frick Collection Publications
9. Indices – Costumes – Heraldry
10. Mythology – Iconography – Middle Ages
11. Exhibition Records
12. Exhibition Records
13. American Art and Artists
14. British Art and Artists
15. European Art and Artists
16. Biographical Dictionaries
17. Biographical Dictionaries
18. Language Dictionaries
19. STAFF ONLY
20. Bibliographies – Information Science – Style Guides
22. RESERVE MATERIAL
23. Bénézit – Vollmer – Saur (AKL)
24. *Gesamtregister* – Saur (AKL)
25. Saur (AKL)
26. Saur (AKL) – Thieme-Becker
27. Thieme-Becker – Saur (*Artists of the World*)
28. RESERVE MATERIAL
30. *Grove Dictionary of Art*
31. Current Periodicals – English language
32. Current Periodicals – Foreign language

### ALCOVE

1. Auction Results
2. Diderot – Columbia Encyclopedias – *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*
3. *American National Biography* – *Dictionary of National Biography* – History – Religion

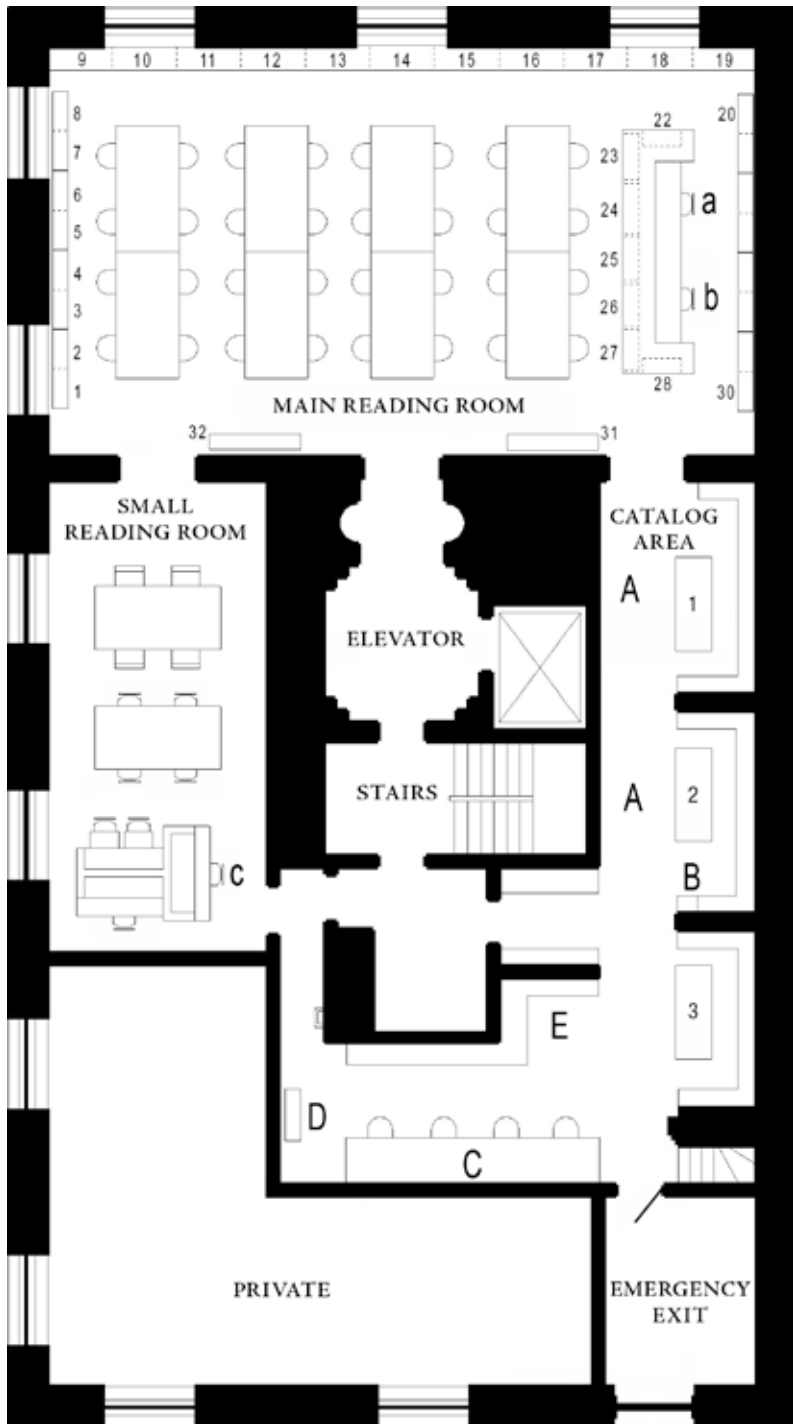
## ARCHITECTURE & HISTORY

The Library was founded by Helen Clay Frick in 1920 as a memorial to her father, and was first housed in the bowling alley of the Frick residence (now The Frick Collection) at 1 East 70 Street. In 1924, the first Library building, designed by the firm Carrère and Hastings, was constructed at 6 East 71 Street. In 1934, the Library moved to its present structure, designed by John Russell Pope. The firm of Buttrick, White and Burtis renovated the third floor public spaces in 1996.

The Main Reading Room is decorated in Italian Renaissance style. Paintings, clockwise, beginning with west wall:

- ✦ Portrait of Henry Clay Frick, by Sir Gerald Kelly, 1924
- ✦ Regatta in Venice, by Francesco Guardi, c. 1775-1780
- ✦ View of Venice, by Francesco Guardi, c. 1765-1775
- ✦ Madonna Between Saints Francis and John, copy by Nicolas Lochoff, 1930, after Pietro Lorenzetti's fresco in the Lower Church of San Francesco, Assisi, c. 1320-1329
- ✦ Portrait of Andrew W. Mellon, by Sir William Orpen, 1924

The Small Reading Room is paneled in the Jacobean oak that was formerly in the bowling alley of the Frick residence. The photographs in the room record the Library's early history.



Public Services Librarian – a

Reference Associate – b

Assistant Librarian – c

Photoarchive Index: Paintings and Drawings – A

Photoarchive Index: Sculpture and Illuminated Manuscripts – B

FRESCO Workstations – C

Original Index to Art Periodicals – D & E

Restrooms and Telephone – First Floor



*Lealtà - Loyalty*



*Fedeltà - Fidelity*

Detail of frieze above the fresco in the main Reading Room  
Miss Frick's dogs Master Bobbie and Paddie, by Angelo Magnanti

## SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

Financial contributions to the Library can be made by calling 212-547-0707 or visiting the Web site: [www.shopfrick.org/support](http://www.shopfrick.org/support).