



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

# THE FRICK COLLECTION

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## THE FRICK COLLECTION MARKS ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015

### CELEBRATION INCLUDES A DAY OF PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH ADMISSION, FREE PROGRAMING, AND A NEW PUBLICATION



Eighty years ago, The Frick Collection opened its doors to the public, thereby fulfilling the aim of Henry Clay Frick (1849–1919) to present to New York City his extraordinary art collection and magnificent mansion. The museum's opening was accompanied by national headlines, and luminaries of the social and political worlds attended the inaugural celebration. Decades later, the museum remains one of New York City's cultural treasures, famed for its unique ambiance and masterpieces by Bellini, Fragonard, Gainsborough, Goya, El Greco, Holbein, Houdon, Ingres, Rembrandt, Renoir, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and others. Members of the public also enjoy acclaimed special exhibitions and related publications, diverse education programs, concerts, and the riches of the Frick Art Reference Library. To mark this milestone, the Frick will offer a day of **Pay-What-You-Wish** admission and free programing on December 16, 2015, the anniversary of the museum's public opening in 1935.

Visitors will have access to the permanent collection, as well as the acclaimed special exhibition *Andrea del Sarto: The Renaissance Workshop in Action*, the first major monographic show on the artist to be hosted in the United States. The exhibition explores the important role drawings played in Andrea's paintings and sheds new light on his creative process. Also on view will be *From Sèvres to Fifth Avenue: French Porcelain at The Frick Collection*. This

exhibition marks the first time in 35 years that the museum has shown these objects together and explores the role that Sèvres porcelain played in eighteenth-century France as well as during the American Gilded Age.

Please consult [frick.org/anniversary](http://frick.org/anniversary) for further information and additions to the 2015 celebration.

## **FREE PROGRAMING AND NOON LECTURE COMMEMORATE**

### **THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY**

*No reservations are required; first-come, first-served.*

#### **LIBRARY TOURS**

**10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 3:15 p.m. (repeats)**

Join Andrew W. Mellon Chief Librarian Stephen Bury for a brief introduction and architectural tour of the Frick Art Reference Library. *Tours are limited to ten participants each.*

#### **LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING**

*The History of The Frick Collection*

**12:00 Noon**

Director Ian Wardropper provides a history of the institution from its opening in 1935 to the present, followed by a book signing of his newly published guide *The Frick Collection: Director's Choice*. *This lecture will be webcast live and archived for future viewing on our Web site. Please visit [frick.org/live](http://frick.org/live) for details.*

#### **INTRODUCTORY TALKS**

**1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. (repeats)**

Enjoy a 10-minute talk about Henry Clay Frick and the transformation of 1 East 70th Street from a mansion to a museum. *All talks meet in the Garden Court.*

#### **GALLERY CONVERSATION**

**1:30 p.m.**

Head of Education Rika Burnham leads a 30-minute dialogue on a single masterpiece in The Frick Collection. *This program meets in the Garden Court and seating will be provided.*

#### **GALLERY TALKS**

**2:30 and 3:30 p.m.**

The Education staff will offer two 20-minute gallery talks, each featuring beloved works of art from the Frick's permanent collection. *Both talks will meet in the Garden Court.*

## SKETCHING

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy informal sketching and music in the Garden Court. Visitors of all skill levels are welcome, and drawing materials are provided. *For those who wish to bring their own art materials, please review the [guidelines for sketching in the galleries prior to your visit.](#)*

## NEW PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS DIRECTOR'S PERMANENT COLLECTION FAVORITES

In anticipation of this milestone, the Frick has published *The Frick Collection: Director's Choice*, featuring highlights from the museum's holdings selected by Ian Wardropper. The book includes masterpieces by Bellini, Fragonard, El Greco, Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Whistler, as well as superb examples of French eighteenth-century furniture, Italian Renaissance bronzes, and Limoges enamels. It caps off a remarkable year of publications related to the permanent collection. Other titles published in 2015 include *A Market for Merchant Princes: Collecting Italian Renaissance Paintings in America* (January; Pennsylvania State University Press), published by the Frick's Center for the History of Collecting; *In a New Light: Giovanni Bellini's "St. Francis in the Desert"* (February; published in association with D Giles Ltd.), a substantial volume on one of the most beloved pictures in the permanent collection; *The Frick Collection: Decorative Arts Handbook* (June; published in association with Scala), the first handbook devoted to the museum's decorative arts; and *Limoges Enamels at The Frick Collection* (September; D Giles Ltd.), written by Frick Director Ian Wardropper. All titles can be purchased in the Frick Museum Shop or online at [frick.org/shop](http://frick.org/shop).



## FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY CELEBRATES AN ANNIVERSARY IN 2015



Main Reading Room of the Frick Art Reference Library, The Frick Collection, New York; photo: Michael Bodycomb

The Frick Art Reference Library was founded in 1920 by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Helen, and is home to one of the world's greatest art research collections. It was greatly expanded and moved into a new building adjacent to the original Frick mansion the year the museum opened in 1935. To mark this occasion, the Library will offer free architectural tours of the building throughout the day. Designed by John Russell Pope, the six-story French-revival structure boasted many innovative features for its day, including air-conditioned stacks and dumb-waiters to move books between floors in conjunction with a Telautograph system. Information on the history of the Frick Art Reference Library, a timeline, and virtual tour will be available online at [frick.org/anniversary](http://frick.org/anniversary).

## DEDICATED WEBPAGE EXPLORES THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FRICK AFTER HENRY CLAY FRICK

With Henry Clay Frick's death in 1919, his will was made public and the destiny of his collection and mansion was formalized. Beginning in 1920 and continuing after the death of his wife, Adelaide, in 1931, the Board of Trustees established by Mr. Frick's will engaged in discussions about how to create a museum from this legacy. A dedicated Webpage highlights archival resources related to this transformative period in the museum's history. The Webpage includes *The Frick after Frick*, by Inge Reist, Director for the Library's Center for the History of Collecting, an essay and slideshow that explores how the collection has grown since Frick's death in 1919 to the present; *From Mansion to Museum*, an online exhibition, that presents architectural drawings, photographs, and other materials focusing on the expansion of the 1913–14 home (designed by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings) undertaken by architect John Russell Pope; and *'Legacy of Beauty' The Frick Collection 1935*, a sampling of excerpts from the contemporary press surrounding the 1935 museum opening, available online for the first time as an eBook. Links to documents on both the founding and building of The Frick Collection from the Frick Archives and archival photographs of the 1930s construction will be accessible as well.



The Garden Court undergoing planting experiments in August 1935 prior its public

### 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 garden and the amenities created since the founder's time in the 1930s contribute to the serenity of the visitor's experience. The Frick Collection also is renowned for its small, focused exhibitions and for its highly regarded concert series and dynamic education program.

Adjoining The Frick Collection is the Frick Art Reference Library, founded more than ninety years ago by Henry Clay Frick's daughter, Helen Clay Frick. Housed in a landmarked building at 10 E. 71st Street, the Library is one of the world's leading institutions for research in the fields of art history and collecting. More than a quarter of its specialist book stock is not held by any other library. It includes extensive archives and a photo archive that make it an important resource for provenance research. Its catalog, finding aids, and many full-text documents and images are available online at <http://arcade.nyarc.org>. The Library also supports the Center for the History of Collecting, 4 which organizes symposia and awards fellowships. The Frick Art Reference Library is open to the public free of charge.

## INTERACT

Social:    /FrickCollection

#TheFrickat80

#FrickCollection

## BASIC INFORMATION

**General Information Phone:** 212.288.0700

**Web site:** [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)

**Building project:** [www.frickfuture.org](http://www.frickfuture.org)

**E-mail:** [info@frick.org](mailto:info@frick.org)

**App:** [frick.org/app](http://frick.org/app)

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

**Museum Hours:** open six days a week: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day

**Admission:** \$22; senior citizens \$17; students \$12; "pay what you wish" on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS:** Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection

**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 Audio Tour of the permanent collection. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

**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.

# 270, November 23, 2015

For further press information, please contact Alexis Light, Senior Manager of Media Relations & Marketing

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