



PRESS RELEASE

from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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

ACCESS TO AUCTION CATALOGUE INFORMATION NOW GREATLY INCREASED AT THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY – UNIQUELY IN THE NYC METROPOLITAN AREA

FRICK'S POSITION AS A LEADING SITE FOR PROVENANCE RESEARCH IS FORTIFIED

Increasingly, when art is purchased, the history of past ownership is under scrutiny, and auction catalogues play an absolutely central role when private collectors, museums, and dealers conduct research. Therefore, it is vital to the art market that sales catalogues be accessible, and the **Frick Art Reference Library**, one of the world's richest collections of such material, is pleased to announce two advances in this area that further strengthen its role as a leading site internationally for provenance research.

First, the Frick Research Catalog Online (FRESCO), reached through the Web site <http://fresco.frick.org> now includes records for all of the Library's auction catalogues—75,000 volumes dating from the early seventeenth century to the present. With this information now listed online, the total number of records for library resources available in FRESCO comes to more than 310,000. To aid researchers in tracking down these publications, the records have been made accessible through searches of the auction catalogues in isolation and also in the context of the Library's entire holdings. The FRESCO records for auction catalogues list general information such as auction house, auction city, date of sale, and consigners.

Second, researchers may now view detailed information on precise lots and prices even in auction catalogues not owned by the Library by consulting a wealth of important newly acquired print and online resources, among them, the *Art Sales Catalogues Online*. The Frick Art Reference Library is the only

such institution in the New York metropolitan region to offer this important resource, which provides online access to historic auction sale catalogues from the years 1600 through 1900. Because most original copies of these catalogues are held in European libraries, this resource is particularly helpful for local researchers. Furthermore, because the original volumes often contain illuminating handwritten annotations of prices and buyers, this rich visual resource provides a valuable complement to the volumes already held in the stacks of the Frick Art Reference Library. The Library's offering of twelve online databases of auction information and a multitude of print indexes, in combination with the 75,000 catalogues stored on site, thus provides researchers in the metropolitan area with the most complete coverage of information on art at auctions.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Frick Art Reference Library was founded in 1920 by Helen Clay Frick as a memorial to her father, Henry Clay Frick, whose collection and mansion were bequeathed to the public, later becoming the famed museum, The Frick Collection. The mission of the Library was and remains to make available to a broad community of researchers materials for the study of art in the Western tradition from the fourth to the mid-twentieth century. Its particular emphasis on object-focused research led the Library to amass a photoarchive as well as a comprehensive research library. Today the Library's holdings of books, periodicals, auction catalogues, online resources, special collections, and archives complement the photoarchive and constitute one of the world's most valued art research centers and the most comprehensive resource on the history of collecting and patronage.

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

General Library Information Phone: (212) 288-8700

Web site: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: 10 East 71th Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues

Hours: 10:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, and 9:30am to 1:00pm Saturdays. Closed Sundays, Holiday weekends, Saturdays in June and July, the month of August. Following its August closing, the Library will re-open to the public the day after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 6, 2005). Admission: use of the Library is free

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

#88, June 24, 2005

For further press information, please contact Geetha Natarajan, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

Media Relations Phone: (212) 547-6844

General Phone: (212) 288-0700

Fax: (212) 628-4417

E-mail address: mediarelations@frick.org