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from
THE FRICK COLLECTION

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MEDIA ALERT:
*FALL EXHIBITION AT THE FRICK COLLECTION
CELEBRATES IMPORTANT BEQUEST OF CLOCKS AND WATCHES*

November 14, 2001, through February 24, 2002

In the fall of 2001, The Frick Collection will present *The Art of the Timekeeper: Masterpieces from the Winthrop Edey Bequest*. This exhibition will mark the first showing of a significant selection of the important clocks and watches given to the institution in 1999 by one of the most remarkable twentieth-century collectors of timepieces. An acknowledgment of this generous gift of Winthrop Kellogg Edey (1937 – 1999), *The Art of the Timekeeper* will feature **thirteen clocks** and **eight watches** ranging in date from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries and revealing the breadth of his passion for collecting in arguably the most remarkable period in the history of timekeeping. Indeed, the featured works will illustrate several significant technical developments that influenced not only the design and appearance of clocks and watches, but also the impact that improved methods of timekeeping had upon the growth of Western civilization. *The Art of the Timekeeper* is organized by guest curator and museum consultant William J. H. Andrewes, formerly David P. Wheatland Curator, Harvard University, and co-author with Dava Sobel of the bestseller *The Illustrated Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time*. Many of the featured clocks and watches have not been shown publicly in this country for several decades. On view from Wednesday, November 14, 2001, through Sunday, February 24, 2002, the presentation is supported through a generous gift by Winthrop Edey; a challenge grant made in honor of William J. H. Andrewes, guest curator; Montres Breguet; Janine Luke; Mimi Gilpatrick; Brooke Astor;

Richard and Ronay Menschel; David Owsley; The Ridgefield Foundation; Stanley and Betty DeForest Scott; and the support of the Fellows of The Frick Collection.

THE GIFT OF A NOTABLE CONNOISSEUR ENHANCES THE FRICK COLLECTION'S HOLDINGS IN THE DECORATIVE ARTS

Comments Director Samuel Sachs II, “We are extremely honored by the bequest of Winthrop Kellogg Edey, a great friend to The Frick Collection, and are pleased to present these amazing horological masterpieces to the public. Not only do these clocks and watches represent an important addition to our holdings, but they create for the Frick an opportunity now and in the future to serve collectors and connoisseurs focused on this topic. The total gift includes some twenty-five clocks and fourteen watches as well as a remarkable library on the history of time measurement, a component that enhances the holdings of the Frick Art Reference Library as well. It is an exciting moment for the Frick.”

Adds guest curator William J. H. Andrewes, “The quality of this collection is exceptional, and this exhibition will provide visitors with the rare opportunity to examine the work of both the clockmaker and the casemaker. Through the mechanical ingenuity and intrinsic beauty of the artifacts, visitors will be able to glimpse the world that captured the imagination of Winthrop Edey when he was a young boy and see what inspired him to become a collector and scholar in this fascinating field.”

Indeed, as a child of twelve, Kelly, as his friends called him, began the journal in which he recorded nearly all of his horological acquisitions, which at that time already included seventeen clocks and four watches. Over the next forty-nine years, he purchased a large number of pieces, many of which he exchanged or sold to upgrade his collection with artifacts of greater significance. This continual refinement over a period of nearly five decades enabled him to assemble a small but exceptionally fine collection, illustrating both the stylistic and the technical development of clocks and watches from about 1500 to 1830. Edey wrote two books on French clocks. The first,

entitled simply *French Clocks*, was published in 1967, when he was thirty. The second, *French Clocks in North American Collections*, was the catalogue of the exhibition that he organized at The Frick Collection in 1982.

ILLUSTRATED PUBLICATION:

A fully illustrated booklet by guest curator William J. H. Andrewes accompanies the exhibition. This softcover publication will be available in the Museum Shop of The Frick Collection, which can be reached at (212) 288-0700.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2001, 5:30
Speaker: William J. H. Andrewes, guest curator
Title: *The Art of the Timekeeper*

This lecture will describe the fascinating history of clocks and watches from about 1500 to 1800 in the context of art and science and will feature several of the masterpieces from the Winthrop Edey bequest.

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

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: 10am to 6pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and from 1pm to 6pm Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1:00 to 6:00pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

Admission: \$10, general public; \$5, students & senior citizens.

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: now included in the price of admission is an 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 closes at 5:45pm, and is open otherwise the same days and hours as the Museum.

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, Communications Officer

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