



# ARCHIVED PRESS RELEASE

from

# THE FRICK COLLECTION

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## NEW SERIES OF INSTALLATIONS IN REFURBISHED ENAMELS ROOM TO BE INAUGURATED WITH A PRESENTATION OF RENAISSANCE WORKS

For the first time in decades, The Frick Collection has undertaken a refurbishment of the Enamels Room display cases designed by John Russell Pope. The intimate wood-paneled Enamels Room, originally a private office for industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919), was transformed into a small cabinet gallery in his lifetime following the acquisition of a collection of rich Renaissance enamels, many formerly owned by J. P. Morgan. His enamels collection has been displayed in this room ever since, together with other Renaissance objects and paintings.

Following a closure period of several months this spring, a fiber-optic lighting system was installed providing a new environment for the close viewing of precious, small-scale objects. A new installation was developed, and plans have been made to change the display annually, allowing the Collection to highlight its Renaissance holdings with greater flexibility. Fresh attention will be drawn to various objects in the Collection, including recent



Riccio (Andrea Briosco), *Oil Lamp*  
Bronze  
Padua, first quarter of the sixteenth century  
The Frick Collection, New York  
Photo: Richard di Liberto

acquisitions, and from time to time, special loans will be incorporated as well. The Enamels Room will reopen for public viewing on Tuesday, May 27, 2003, and the first display will expose the public to the broad range of media represented in the Frick's holdings of this period. Approximately twenty-five objects—enamels, bronzes, clocks, and a rare Saint-Porchaire ceramic ewer—will be presented in two large cases on either side of Renaissance paintings by Barna da Siena, Cimabue, Duccio, Gentile da Fabriano, Piero della Francesca, and Paolo and Giovanni Veneziano. This project has been coordinated by **Yvonne Elet**, the Collection's first Andrew Mellon Fellow, in conjunction with Associate Curator **Denise Allen** and Conservator of Objects **Barbara Roberts**.

**Stephen Saitas** designed the case interiors, and **Stephen Cannon-Brookes** designed and installed the new lighting system.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST PRESENTATION



Leonard Limousin, *Antoine de Bourbon, King of Navarre(?)*, c. 1505–1575/77  
Enamel on copper  
The Frick Collection, New York  
Photo: Richard di Liberto

The Limoges enamels on view in the new installation take many forms and reveal the broad range of applications to which this brilliant but delicate medium was applied in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century France—from secular objects such as portraits, a casket, and tableware—to objects of religious association, such as devotional images and triptychs. Also featured are two portraits by Leonard Limosin and a plaque of the *Triumph of the Eucharist and the Catholic Faith*, which depicts Claude de Lorraine, Antoinette de Bourbon, and other members of the House of Guise victorious over a group of Protestant heretics. Other enamels in the display are a casket adorned with putti and mottoes of courtly love and a tazza, or footed bowl, depicting Lot and his daughters, his wife turned to salt, and the burning of Sodom. The presentation also features a large enamel portrait medallion of Cicero by Jean II Pénicaud. This special loan comes from the collection of Jack Soutanian.

The Renaissance bronzes in this display include a magnificent bronze oil lamp by the Paduan sculptor Andrea Briosco, known as Riccio (see page 1); a highly expressive Mantuan bronze statuette of a nude female figure, perhaps Eve (right); and a bronze statuette of Queen Tomyris with the head of King Cyrus, by Severo da Ravenna. Additionally, the display features a bronze handbell by Gian



*Nude Female Figure (Eve?)*  
Bronze  
Mantua (?), first quarter of the sixteenth century  
The Frick Collection, New York  
Photo: Richard di Liberto



Pierre de Fobis, *Gilt-Brass Table Clock*  
France, c. 1532  
The Frick Collection, New York; Bequest of  
Winthrop Kellogg Edey, 1999  
Photo: Richard di Liberto

Girolamo Grandi that art historian Wilhelm Bode once described as the most beautiful and rich in quality of all Renaissance examples. A recent acquisition included in the inaugural display is a small spring-driven French table clock made by Pierre de Fobis that dates to the first half of the sixteenth century (left). This remarkable object came to the Collection as part of the bequest of Winthrop Edey in 1991 and was featured in the acclaimed 2001 exhibition *The Art of the Timekeeper*. The gothic pillars on the case and the manner in which the striking train is controlled suggest that this timepiece may be one of the earliest extant examples of this type.

Chief Curator Colin B. Bailey comments, “Researching the history of the Enamels Room and reexamining the objects that can be placed there on display has been a lengthy—but very rewarding—process for us. This room has traditionally housed our important Limoges enamels, works of art that are intimate in scale, exquisitely decorated,

but perhaps less familiar to the general public. The need to improve lighting and reconsider the display of these objects led both to the refurbishment of Pope's cases and to a new arrangement that incorporates Renaissance masterpieces in other media, evoking the tradition of the *Kunstkammer* or Cabinet of Curiosities. In keeping with that tradition, it is our hope that these works of art will enjoy renewed attention and appreciation—and will undoubtedly inspire wonder.”

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**General Information Phone:** (212) 288-0700

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

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

**Where:** 1 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street, near Fifth Avenue.

**Hours: open six days a week, with recently expanded hours:** 10 am to 6 pm on Tuesdays through Thursdays and on Saturdays; 10 am to 9 pm on Fridays; and 1 pm to 6 pm on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, December 24, and December 25. Limited hours (1 to 6 pm) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day.

**Admission:** \$12 for the general public; \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for students

**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 68<sup>th</sup> Street station; **Bus:** M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70<sup>th</sup> 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 Stephanie Ruggiero, Media Relations & Marketing Coordinator

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