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from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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**ONLINE AUCTION CATALOG DATABASE NOW INCLUDES
COMPREHENSIVE RECORDS FROM
FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY**

The Frick Art Reference Library announces the completion of a two-year project to enter records for its renowned collection of auction sale catalogs into SCIPPIO, the international database of the Research Libraries Group. *SCIPPIO: Art and Rare Book Sale Catalogs* is the only online collaborative catalog of auction sale catalogs in existence, providing bibliographic access to valuable sources of information on the provenance of works of art and the history of patronage, taste, and market trends. Records contain dates and places of sale, catalog title, the auction house, sellers, institutional holdings, and other information. Among other contributors to SCIPPIO are the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Art Museum; the Getty Research Center, Los Angeles; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Art Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City.

Comments Patricia Barnett, Andrew W. Mellon Librarian of the Frick Art Reference Library, "Among the Library's unique resources that serve to chronicle the history of collecting, taste, and connoisseurship, the collection of nearly 70,000 annotated auction sale catalogs justly stands as one of the richest assemblages

of primary sources for scholarly research in this resurgent field of study. To enhance access to these historic records has been a most rewarding undertaking.”

Since its founding in 1920, the Library has purchased and acquired European auction catalogs dating back to the seventeenth century. Quite a number of these catalogs might have otherwise perished during the Second World War, when many European depositories of such rare documents were destroyed.

The Library has been a contributor to SCIPPIO of its current sale catalogs since 1996, entering new items upon receipt. As a result of this project, generously funded by a grant from the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust, more than 63,000 records representing auction catalogs dating from 1616 to 1996 have been entered into the database. In addition, nearly 4,000 of the Library's catalogs have now been identified as rare, or possibly unique, in North America or the world. This figure nearly doubles the number originally cited in Lugt's *Répertoire des catalogues de ventes publiques (1600-1925)*. Begun in 1998, the retrospective conversion of the Frick Art Reference Library's auction sale catalogs records is part of a five-year program to increase accessibility to the library's bibliographic and photographic records by conversion to electronic formats.

ABOUT THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Frick Collection operates the Frick Art Reference Library at 10 East 71st Street, both a research library and a photoarchive. It is one of the world's great repositories for the documentation and study of Western art and has served the international art world for more than seventy-five years. Helen Clay Frick created the Library to further her father's goals for The Frick Collection: "to encourage and develop the study of the fine arts, and to advance the general knowledge of kindred subjects."

The Library's collections of 275,000 books and 900,000 photographs are complemented by a large collection of microforms and a growing number of electronic text and image resources. In addition, the Library is a repository for auction sale catalogues and provenance information, as well as for archives and special collections documenting the history of art collecting. Access to these collections is by means of on-site and online catalogs, indexes, and finding aids. In recent years, the Library has undertaken

specially funded projects that enhance the development, preservation, and publication of its text and image resources.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phones:

Library (212) 288-8700

Museum (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where:

Library: 10 East 71st Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues.

Museum: 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Library Hours: 10am to 5pm, Monday through Friday; 9:30am to 1pm on Saturday.

Closed August and on Saturdays in June and July. Please call for holiday closure schedule.

Museum 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.

Library Admission: free.

Museum Admission: \$7, general public; \$5, students & senior citizens.

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the museum, 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

Museum Tour Information: now included in the price of admission is an Acoustiguide INFORM® Audio Tour of the permanent collection, provided by Acoustiguide. The tour is offered in five languages: English, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. An Italian version will be introduced this spring.

Museum Shop: the shop closes at 5:45pm, and is open otherwise the same days and hours as the Museum.

Museum Group Visits: Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

Museum 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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