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from

THE FRICK COLLECTION

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***FRICK COLLECTION
ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CONSERVATOR,
BARBARA O. ROBERTS***

**NEW CONSERVATION-BASED EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMING TO BE OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC**

The Frick Collection announces the appointment of **Barbara O. Roberts**, who takes up the post of Conservator at the museum as of June 5, 2000, with the retirement of Sveteslao Hlopoff. Ms. Roberts brings to the institution thirty years of experience in major public and private collections as a conservator and administrator. Over the course of her career, she has played a significant international role in educating a broad constituency about the protection and preservation of cultural property.

Comments Director Samuel Sachs II, "We are pleased to welcome Barbara Roberts to the staff of The Frick Collection. She will contribute not only her vast knowledge and experience to the furniture and other decorative art objects housed in the mansion, but she will also initiate an exciting public education program on conservation-related issues. She will give lectures and gallery talks and will develop conservation-based exhibitions, enabling the public to view and understand decorative arts treasures at The Frick Collection and their preservation in new ways." Sachs adds, "Through Barbara Roberts, The Frick Collection will maintain a higher profile in the conservation community as well."

Comments Roberts, "I look forward tremendously to collaborating with the Conservation team of the Frick Art Reference Library, a group headed by Don Swanson, its Chief Conservator, as we integrate the preservation and conservation priorities of the collections to present a unified and wide-ranging source of information to the public and scholars. Along with this initiative, the institution will undertake new fund-

raising efforts to address a variety of conservation needs, in addition to those ongoing at the Library through the National Endowment for the Humanities and the New York State Library Conservation/Preservation Program."

Among the projects for her immediate attention will be on-going work on the conservation of a major bequest of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century clocks and watches received from the Winthrop Edey estate in 1999. This work was begun by **Sveteslao (Nicky) Hlopoff**, who retires from the post of Conservator for Objects as of June 30. During his thirty-five-year consultancy at The Frick Collection, which followed his father's contribution of some fifteen years, Sveteslao Hlopoff devoted his substantial talents and watchful eye to preserving a myriad of objects at the Collection. In June, Roberts will spend time with Mr. Hlopoff reviewing the conservation history of the collection. Additionally, an extensive oral history on the decorative artworks in the Collection so long in his -- and his father's -- care will be captured. This effort will provide an invaluable source of information as Roberts takes the Collection forward, while preserving a sense of the important legacy of two generations of skillful caretakers.

Since 1988, Barbara O. Roberts has worked in private practice for major public institutions as well as private collectors, while playing a dynamic role in the conservation community as an advocate for preservation, education, and awareness. She has focussed particular attention on issues such as protection of collections before, during, and after an emergency event.

Roberts has held a number of professional posts at museums, among them The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, where she acted as Head Conservator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture from 1981 to 1988; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, where she was Assistant Conservator from 1978 to 1980. Prior to a period of private practice in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and East Africa, she held the post of Conservation Officer in the Department of Woodwork Conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London from 1970-1971. Her professional affiliations are many, including both the American and International Institutes for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Heritage Preservation, the Conservation Committee of the International Council of Museums, and the Western Association of Art Conservators.

ABOUT THE FRICK COLLECTION

The Frick Collection features masterpieces of Western art from the early Renaissance through the late nineteenth century. Important works by Bellini, El Greco, Rembrandt, Titian, Turner, Vermeer, Whistler, and many others are housed in one of the great mansions remaining from the Gilded Age. These paintings are complemented by one of the world's finest collections of Renaissance bronzes and by French sculpture of the eighteenth century, in addition to outstanding furniture and decorative art works from the ateliers of Riesener, Lacroix, Boulle, Carlin, Gouthière, and Sèvres. Each year more than 270,000 visitors from New York, across America, and around the world come to the Collection at 1 East 70th Street, once the residence of Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). Designed by Thomas Hastings of Carrère and Hastings and constructed in 1913-1914, the building was changed after Mrs. Frick's death in 1931, with alterations and additions made by the architect John Russell Pope. In 1935 the Collection opened to the public. A new Reception Hall, built in 1977, was designed by John Barrington Bayley, Harry van Dyke, and G. Frederick Poehler, as well as two temporary exhibition galleries.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS AT THE FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Frick Collection also operates the Frick Art Reference Library at 10 East 71st Street, both a research library and a photoarchive. The Library 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. The Conservation Department at the Library is headed by Don Swanson. He and his staff are responsible for the care of all of the books, archives, periodicals, photographs, and negatives at both the Library and Collection.

BASIC INFORMATION

General Information Phones:

Collection (212) 288-0700

Library (212) 288-8700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: The Collection is located at 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue. The Library is around the corner at 10 East 71st Street.

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 Hours: 10am to 4:45pm, Monday through Friday; 9:30am to 12:45pm on Saturday. Closed August and on Saturdays in June and July. Please call for holiday closure schedule.

Museum Admission: \$7, general public; \$5, students & senior citizens. See updated "Tour Information."

PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS: Children under ten are not admitted to the Collection, and those under sixteen must be accompanied by an adult.

Library Admission: 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

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 later this year.

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.

24, June 9, 2000

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Communications Officer

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