

THE FRICK COLLECTION: A CASE STUDY

An important collaborative agreement with the Helen Clay Frick Foundation, The Frick Collection, and the University of Pittsburgh has brought Frick family papers on deposit to New York. These, together with the Institutional Archives of The Frick Collection, illuminate how Henry Clay Frick was intent on forming a collection whose aesthetic worth would be appreciated well beyond the immediate family. Observing what others had done, at the Wallace Collection and elsewhere in Europe, Frick and his daughter Helen (always her collector-father’s alter ego), kept meticulous records of their travels abroad with the family and saw how a personal legacy could be molded by establishing a house museum. Following Mr. Frick’s death, the Trustees continued to acquire art as they also saw to radical changes in the physical plant of the newly minted Frick Collection. These included razing and rebuilding the Frick Art Reference Library, creating the Garden Court, Oval Room, Music Room, and East Gallery, and moving works such as François Boucher’s *Art and Sciences* series from the family rooms of the second floor to new galleries below. In 1977, the needs of a growing public led to the construction of a new wing and the 70TH Street Garden, designed by Russell Page. Then, as will doubtless be true in the future, the goal was always to remain true to the ethos of the founder, thereby maintaining a connection with a collector of the past, even as we appreciate his character in a twenty-first-century context.

-Inge Reist

THIRD FLOOR PANEL				
1		4	5	
		6	7	
2		8	9	
3		10	11	

- 1 *The Frick Collection façade*, c. 1936
- 2 *The Garden Court*, construction, The Frick Collection, 1913
- 3 *The Garden Court*, The Frick Collection
- 4 *Gallery during renovation to museum*, Henry Clay Frick Residence, 1933
- 5 *West Gallery*, The Frick Collection
- 6 *Library during renovation to museum*, Henry Clay Frick Residence, 1933
- 7 *Library*, The Frick Collection
- 8 *Living Hall during renovation to museum*, Henry Clay Frick Residence, 1933
- 9 *Living Hall*, The Frick Collection
- 10 *Dining Room during renovation to museum*, Henry Clay Frick Residence, 1933
- 11 *Dining Room*, The Frick Collection



THIRD FLOOR CASE

Mr. Vanderbilt’s House and Collection, Boston, 1884.
Frontispiece of volume 4: View in Picture-Gallery with Fifty-First Street Vestibule
Invoice, Cottier & Co. to H.C. Frick, 4 September 1906
Journal of Helen Clay Frick. Entries of 27 and 28 January 1909 describing the Wallace Collection and Westminster Abbey
Letter, H.C. Frick to Roger Fry, 31 July 1911
Catalogue of the Henry C. Frick Collection of Paintings New York, 1908
Loan Exhibition of Pictures from the Collection of Henry Clay Frick, 1910, held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Title page. The Frick Collection: An Illustrated Catalogue of the Works of Art in the Collection of Henry Clay Frick. Pittsburgh, 1949-56
Report, Knoedler & Co. to H.C. Frick confirming removal of paintings from Vanderbilt residence to 1 East 70 Street, 11 June 1914
Photograph – *The Frick Collection West Gallery*, pre-1935
Letter, Bradley Stoughton, secretary of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, to H.C. Frick, 17 November 1917, requesting permission to view art collection
Letter, Sara Ely Parsons, educator at the Ely School, Greenwich, Connecticut, to H.C. Frick, 11 April 1918, requesting permission to view art collection
Letter, Esther Keagey, teacher at Hunter College, New York, to H.C. Frick, 6 October 1919, requesting permission to view art collection
Paintings from The Frick Collection. New York, 1990
Last Will and Testament of Henry Clay Frick. Article IV, Section 4, June, 1915
The Frick Collection: A Tour. New York, 1999-2002. Printed text of Acoustiguide tours – available in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish
Handbook of Paintings: The Frick Collection. New York, 2004

COVER:
Construction of Frick mansion, 1913
The Frick Collection, façade c. 1936
The Frick Collection, West Gallery

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS
HOUSE MUSEUMS

2006-2007



FRICK ART REFERENCE LIBRARY
10 EAST 71 STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10021



Main staircase of the central passage, Mount Vernon, Virginia

AS INSTITUTIONS THAT OPEN a door to the private lives and thoughts of art collectors, house museums offer unique visual and intellectual experiences to their visitors. Most are universally adored, in part because of their intimate settings and non-didactic display of works of art, and, also in part, because they foster a vicarious experience of art collecting in a time gone by. Not all house museums are created equal, however, nor are they intended to be. Any patron of the Frick Art Reference Library who has examined its extensive holdings of catalogues and chronicles of house museums in America and Europe well knows the vast range of possibilities in defining the museum’s mission, its philosophy of display, and its fidelity to the founder’s time and taste. Now that the Frick Art Reference Library is formalizing its position as a Center for the History of Collecting in America, an examination of the role house museums have and will play in this growing field of study is invaluable.

FIRST FLOOR PANEL			
1	2	3	4
5		6	7
		8	9

- 1 Main staircase of the central passage, Mount Vernon
- 2 Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 3 Main Hall, The Huntington Art Gallery
- 4 The Huntington Art Gallery, San Marino, California
- 5 Peggy Guggenheim at the entrance to her museum, Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, Venice, September 1949
- 6 Marble Hall, Flagler Museum, Palm Beach
- 7 Flagler Museum, Palm Beach
- 8 The Library, Sir John Soane's Museum, London
- 9 Sir John Soane's Museum, London

Main Hall, The Huntington Art Gallery



The Library, Sir John Soane's Museum, London

FIRST FLOOR CASE

- Pictures of H. Hope, Esq. Cavendish Square. London, 1810
- Catalogue Raisonné of the Pictures Belonging to the Most Honourable the Marquis of Stafford, in the gallery of Cleveland House. London, 1808
- Facsimile of page noting admission requirements to Cleveland House
- Vues pittoresques de principaux édifices de Paris Paris, (1787?)
- Description des tableaux du Palais Royal. Paris, 1727
- The Wallace Collection at Hertford House London, New York, 1904
- The Huntington: Library, Art Gallery, Botanical Gardens New York, 1983
- A Miscellany of Objects from Sir John Soane's Museum London, 1992
- The Nissim de Camondo Museum. Paris, 1991
- George Washington's Mount Vernon. New York, 1998
- The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood. London, 2001
- Fundación Lázaro Galdiano Museum Madrid, 1997
- Art Held Hostage: The Story of the Barnes Collection New York, 2003
- Flagler Museum: An Illustrated Guide Palm Beach, 1999
- Letters of Bernard Berenson and Isabella Stewart Gardner, 1887-1924. Boston, 1987
- Peggy Guggenheim: A Collector's Album Paris, New York, 1996



Mount Vernon, Virginia



Flagler Museum, Palm Beach

EXHIBITION
Frick Art Reference Library Research Program

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION
The Library's Conservation Department
Conservation & Digital Labs

- Don Swanson, 19 May 2006