



The Frick Collection Celebrates 150th Anniversary of Founder's Birth with Free Admission for Public on Sunday, December 19, 1999, Special Presentation of Drawings, and an Honorary Dinner

On the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the birthday of founder **Henry Clay Frick** (1849 – 1919), The Frick Collection welcomes the public to join in a day of celebration by visiting the institution for no charge on **Sunday, December 19, 1999, from 1pm to 6pm**. In addition to the display of the remarkable permanent collection, which includes notable paintings, sculptures, and decorative artworks, a group of ten drawings purchased between 1913 and 1916 and rarely on public view will be shown.

Represented in *Henry Clay Frick as a Collector of Drawings* are **Thomas Gainsborough, Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, James McNeill Whistler, and Daniel Gardner**. On view from December 14, 1999 through January 30, 2000, this presentation offers the public an unusual opportunity to consider the eye of this great collector with respect to the drawings he studiously added to his magnificent holdings. Additionally, a dinner in appreciation of the institution's highest level of members, the Henry Clay Frick Fellows, will be held in the original elegant dining room, now one of the most popular galleries in the mansion, on Monday, January 17, 2000. The much-anticipated event, the third such annual celebration of the generous commitment made to the Collection by important supporters, also takes its theme from the 150th birthday anniversary of the founder.



Henry Clay Frick was born on December 19, 1849. The Pittsburgh steel magnate was renowned in life for his distinguished taste as a collector, and upon his death Frick bequeathed to the public 126 paintings by such masters as Bellini, Titian, Holbein, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Velázquez, and Whistler, as well as a fine collection of Renaissance bronze sculpture, major examples of Renaissance and eighteenth-century decorative art, Chinese porcelain, Limoges enamels, tapestries, and rugs. Also left to the public was the Fifth Avenue mansion in which these masterpieces are harmoniously installed, and The Frick Collection

opened to the public in 1935. Little is known about Henry Clay Frick as a collector of drawings, however this portion of his holdings reveals a refined eye at work. The presentation includes two chalk portrait studies and a

landscape in mixed media by Thomas Gainsborough, three drawings in ink and wash by Rembrandt, three pastels by Whistler, and a gouache and pastel portrait by Daniel Gardner. Frick purchased these drawings from a wide range of periods and schools with the same preference for serene landscapes and portraits as is also reflected in his selection of paintings.

The institution has recently introduced an Acoustiguide tour of the permanent collection and mansion, which will be offered at no charge, as always, to visitors on December 19, 1999. The Frick Collection is the only North American fine arts museum that offers a complimentary audio tour in four in five languages: English, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. A sixth, Italian, will be introduced this winter courtesy of Bulgari. The independently operated units allow visitors to create customized tours through the institution, selecting to hear narrations about the works and rooms in any order desired. This enormously popular development has allowed The Frick Collection to greatly enhance its informational offerings while maintaining the objective to provide the contemplative atmosphere of the private home of a collector, an environment with a minimum of the traditional trappings of a formal museum.

For Further Information on Membership Programs, Please Call (212) 288-0700.

Also on View this Fall and Winter

Velázquez in New York Museums

(Through January 16, 2000)

Watteau and His World: French Drawing from 1700 to 1750

(Through January 9, 2000)

Constable's Salisbury Cathedral: Two Versions Reunited

(Through December 31, 1999)

Basic Information

General Information Phone: (212) 288-0700

Website: www.frick.org

E-mail: info@frick.org

Where: The Collection is located at 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.

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.

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. The tour is offered in five languages: English, French, German, 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.

20, November 23, 1999

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

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Page updated on: November 29, 1999

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[Reviews](#)

[New Publications](#)



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[Library](#)

[Information](#)

[Calendar](#)

[News](#)

[Membership](#)

[Education](#)

[Shop](#)

