

Frick Fine Arts Library
FRICK FINE ARTS BUILDING &
THE NICHOLAS LOCHOFF CLOISTER
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Library Guide Series, No. 25

“Qui scit ubi scientis sit, ille est proximus habenti.” -- Brunetiere*

The Department of the History of Art and Architecture

The Department of the History of Art and Architecture (formerly the Frick Fine Arts Department) was founded at the University in 1926 by Miss Helen Clay Frick (1888-1984) to memorialize her father, the Pittsburgh industrialist, Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). First housed in State Hall (no longer extant) and later in the Cathedral of Learning, the department moved to the current building when it was completed in May 1965. The Frick Fine Arts Department and its library was only one memorial Miss Frick erected in her father's memory. The famous Frick Art Reference Library opened to the public in New York City in 1924, she opened the Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh's Point Breeze neighborhood in 1970 and, after her death in 1984, the Frick Art and Historical Center was established on the same grounds, previously the family's estate. The latter opened to the public in 1990. For additional information about the Department, please consult its web site: <http://www.pitt.edu/~arthome/index.html>

The Frick Fine Arts Building

The Frick Fine Arts Building at the University of Pittsburgh is located at the tip of Schenley Park and was designed by Pittsburgh architect, Burton Kenneth Johnstone (1907-1979) who was Head of the Architecture Department at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University). It was built of white limestone and marble with a terracotta tile roof around a central courtyard and opened in 1965. The octagonal cupola, rising 45' above ground, caps the central rotunda. The style of the building is reminiscent of the Villa Giulia (designed by Vignola) on the outskirts of 16th century Rome. The building houses the offices of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, the Frick Fine Arts Library, the University Art Gallery, the Nicholas Lochoff Coister, a concert hall, art studios, and classrooms. For additional information on the Frick Fine Arts Building, please consult:

Alberts, Robert. *Pitt: The Story of the University of Pittsburgh*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1987. Hillman Library - LD6013/A43/1986

Planning the Pitt Campus: Dreams and Schemes Never Realized.... Pittsburgh: University Art Gallery, Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Building, 1993. Frick – LD6014/P55/1993

The Mary Schenley Fountain

The Mary Schenley Fountain (1918) on Schenley Plaza in front of the Frick Fine Arts Building was in place prior to the construction of this building. It is one of a set of sculptures the city erected to honor the three citizens who created Schenley Park (Schenley, Bigelow, and McGee). It was designed and sculpted by Victor Brenner and depicts *Pan Hibernating in the Spirit of Harmony*. For additional information on sculpture in Pittsburgh, please consult:

Gay, Vernon. *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*. Photographs by Vernon Gay; text by Marilyn Evert. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1983. Frick – NB235/P6G39/1983

The Nicholas Lochoff Cloister

The heart of the building, the Nicholas Lochoff Cloister, surrounds an open court landscaped by Umberto Innocenti. The garden is dedicated to Chancellor John G. Bowman, a good friend of Miss Frick's and with whom she first planned the Department. A vaulted walkway provides a pleasant setting for Lochoff's paintings which are permanently fixed into the walls of the gallery. These reproductions of Italian artworks from the Medieval and Renaissance periods were originally commissioned in 1911 by the Grand Duke Alexei Alexeivich for the Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow.

After the October Revolution in 1911, however, they were no longer desired and remained in Italy. Miss Frick purchased the paintings on the advice of Bernard Berenson in the early 1930s. They remained in storage until November 1959 when they were exhibited in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning. At that time, Miss Frick announced that she would donate the collection and a new Frick Fine Arts Building to the University. One of the copies, *The Resurrection* by Piero della Francesca, had been purchased earlier by Miss Frick for a lecture hall (room 324) in the Cathedral of Learning. Another reproduction by Lochoff, *Madonna and Saints Francis and John* by Ambrogio Lorenzetti, was placed in the Reading Room of the Frick Art Reference Library in New York.

Of the copies located in the Nicholas Lockoff Cloister in the Frick Fine Arts Building, some were painted to imitate the state of the art works as they were in 1911 and others were painted to look as though they are fresh from the original artist's brushes. Each of Lochoff's copies is identified with a label that provides the original artist's name as well as the title and date of the work. The Lochoff reproductions are available for students to acquire a sense of the original works' color, detail, form and size much like the facsimiles of Medieval manuscripts in the library's collection.

The University Art Gallery

The University Art Gallery currently owns a collection of prints and graphic works dating from the 16th through the 20th centuries; a large collection of Callot and Callot-related prints, the complete collection of prints and a selection of woodblocks, sculptures and sketchbooks by the American print-maker Gertrude Quastler; a collection of 16th, 17th, and 18th century drawings from the Clapp and Denny families; a growing collection of 19th and 20th century photography; 200 years of portraiture; the Gimbel collection of American art; Pittsburgh related paintings by Hetzel, Gorson, and Kane; a small collection of Japanese prints; a collection of Asian ceramics and decorative objects; the original watercolors of all the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning; and a collection of other historical material related to the University. Changing exhibitions are sponsored by the Department of the History of Art and Architecture and the Friends organization. For additional information about the University Art Gallery, please visit its web site at <http://vrcoll.fa.pitt.edu/uag/index.html>

The Frick Fine Arts Library

The Library's handsome Reading Room is appointed with fruit wood paneling and rich cabinetwork set-off with elegant gold leaf trim designed by Italian craftsmen. Delicate wrought iron balcony railings and terracotta tile flooring complete the ambience of this lovely room. Matching shutters frame floor-to-ceiling windows that provide a view of Schenley Park. Maple tables paired with matching Windsor chairs furnish library patrons with study facilities. The library patron is greeted by a towering inscription mounted on the wall facing the entrance. It boldly states the library's dedication to Miss Frick's father, Henry Clay Frick.

This closed stack reference library of over 90,000 volumes and 350 subscriptions is devoted to the history of art. For additional information about the library collection, please visit its web site at http://www.library.pitt.edu/libraries/frick/fine_arts.html and/or consult Library Guide No. 14 entitled *The Frick Fine Arts Library Collection*. It will soon be mounted as a Research Guide on the ULS Digital Library.

The Frick Art and Historical Center

For information about the Frick Art and Historical Center located in the Point Breeze neighborhood of the city, please visit its web site at <http://frickart.org/home/>. This library also has also created a library guide about it that provides a map showing prospective visitors how to locate it. It is entitled *The Frick Art and Historical Center* and is mounted on the ULS Digital Library.

*"The person who knows where knowledge is, as good as has it." -- Brunetiere No. 25- Rev. 08/15/06