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# Picture Lending Library Report

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## THE STUDENT PICTURE LENDING LIBRARY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

The Brown University Picture Lending Library was founded, under the direction of the Department of Art, in the spring of 1933 for students in Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. Funds were given for the purpose by the Community Art Project, conducted in Rhode Island under the auspices of the University and the School of Design through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

The purpose of the Library, as far as concerns the Brown students, is to promote the idea that pictures are a natural and an essential part of one's surroundings. The conception of the Library as a "Study Collection" has thus been consistently avoided. In fact the majority of Brown Students who are members of the Library are not enrolled in the courses of the Department of Art, so that the Library is of material aid in extending the influence of the Department.

A membership fee of twenty-five cents a semester is charged; this fee does not pay for the pictures, but defrays the expense of keeping them in repair. The pictures are all exhibited in the Art Galleries of the University and the School of Design at the beginning of each semester. Members of the Library at this time make their reservations for the entire semester, each member being entitled to a different picture each month (or more often if, at the end of the exhibition, unreserved pictures are available). Notices are sent out by the Secretary of the Department when the pictures are due to be returned, and a fine of five cents a day is imposed for late returns. The pictures are in general returned promptly. To date no pictures have been lost or badly damaged, although some retouching and refinishing of frames has been found necessary at the beginning of each semester to keep the pictures in the first class condition demanded by the purpose of the Library.

The original stock of the Library was 25 pictures; this number has been increased as demands warranted, until the Library now includes 170 pictures. Further additions will be made in 1936-7. Most of the pictures are the finest color reproductions obtainable, although a few original lithographs and Japanese and Chinese prints are included. The reproductions are as near the size of the originals as possible. They are framed with the same care that would be accorded originals; each picture is framed individually and permanently, no "stock" frames being used. The average cost of the pictures is about \$6, not including the frame.

The mouldings for the frames are cut in quantity by a local lumber yard. Four mouldings are used: one  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide and one  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide (these for use on watercolors, drawings, etc., that are matted under glass), one 2 inches wide and one  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide (these for use on oils that are framed close without glass). The mouldings, of simple profile to avoid damaging through constant handling, can be produced in quantity by the lumber yard for 6 to 10 cents a foot; the cost of framing pictures is thus very materially decreased. The frames are joined by a local frame maker, and are delivered to us unfinished. The frames are then finished by the staff of the Department of Art at the University with student help.

As suggested above, matted pictures (watercolors, prints, etc.) are mounted under glass with narrow frames. Heavy celluloid was at first used, but this proved unsatisfactory both practically and artistically, and there has been almost no glass breakage. The pictures that are framed close (oils, etc.) with the wider mouldings are mounted on heavy cardboard, gelatin-sized, and lightly varnished with a high grade of varnish to avoid discoloration. We feel that much of the success of the Brown Picture Lending Library is attributable to the framing, which is quiet but colorful (since the pictures are not to be seen as a collection in a Museum but singly in the students' rooms).

A label, mounted under celluloid to avoid soiling, is affixed to the back of each picture. The label includes the name of the artist, the dates of his life, his nationality, the medium used, and a brief objective comment on the style of the work.

The Carnegie Corporation, 522 5th Avenue, New York, has published a pamphlet on Picture Lending Libraries, based on the Libraries of Brown and several other institutions.

There follows a list of the pictures which now compose the Brown Library with statistics by which their relative popularity may be judged. The pictures are purchased from the various dealers in New York and elsewhere. When possible, a selection of new pictures is made by the Department of Art and obtained on approval from the dealers; this selection is then submitted to groups of students for the final choice of additions to the Library. At Brown it has been found that drawings and works in other colorless media are less popular than works in color. Subject matter is a less important consideration than we at first supposed, although religious subject matter has been avoided. In the second year of the Library, duplicates of the most popular pictures were bought, but this practice has been given up for it was found that a picture popular one year would often not be in demand the next. On the other hand, pictures little called for at first have often become popular later. Modern pictures, from Impressionism to the present styles, are most in demand, perhaps partly because these have on the whole been available in greatest number. Size is a consideration; in many cases, the picture from the Library will be the only picture in the student's room, and it should be large enough to make some effect; about 18 inches by 2 feet, framed, appears to be desirable size.



PICTURE LENDING LIBRARY STATISTICS

<u>Painter</u>	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Possible times out.</u>	<u>Times out.</u>
Bonnard	Flowers	14	10
Brueghel	Old Shepard	6	3
"	Flemish Proverb	3	2
"	Winter Scene	6	6
Canaletto	Roman Scene	18	12
"	View Near Venice	12	12
Cezanne	L'Estaque	9	9
"	Farmer	3	3
"	Landscape in S. France	16	15
"	Landscape	3	1
"	Still Life	12	9
"	Street	3	1
"	Hangman's House	6	6
"	Landscape Sketch	12	6
"	La Montaigne St. Victoire	9	9
"	Still Life (flowers)	9	8
"	Chateau	3	3
Charlot	Guitarist	3	3
Chinese	Bamboo	14	3
"	Tiger	6	6
Daumier	Crinoline	11	5
"	3rd Class Carriage	20	20
Da Vinci	Head	17	10
Degas	Bather	14	9
"	2 Dancers	3	3
"	Milliner	6	6
"	Dancers Rehearsing	9	9
"	Theater Box	9	9
"	Before the Races	12	12
"	On the Stage	12	12
"	After the Bath	9	8
Delacroix	Tiger	20	11
Derain	Landscape	12	11
"	Landscape (oil)	6	4
Dickinson	Harlem River Bridge	3	3
Durer	Study of Old Man	5	5
"	Four Horsemen	17	6
"	Owl	3	0
"	Rabbit	3	0
Flint	Landscape	12	9
Florentine Sc.	Profile Drawing	14	7
Fragonard	Park	9	4
Gauguin	Horses on Beach	9	8
"	Tahitian Women	6	4
"	Landscape in S. Seas	12	10
"	Barbarian Tales	6	6
Gericault	Horse and Groom	12	6
"	Battle Scene	6	1
Gontcharova	Abstraction	9	3
Guardi	Canal	17	12
Guys	The Bar	9	3
Hals	Gypsy Girl	12	12
Holbein	Daughter of T. Moore	19	15
"	Portrait Drawing	19	16
"	Ormond	6	5
"	Ann of Cleves	9	9

<u>Painter</u>	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Possible times out.</u>	<u>Times out.</u>
Holbein	Wife of Burgomaster	19	9
"	Ecclesiastic	19	14
"	Portrait of Kratzer	6	6
"	Jane Seymour, Wife of Henry 8	9	9
Homer	Sloop	22	22
"	Stowing Sails	19	19
"	Palm Tree at Nassau	12	12
"	Palm Tree at Nassau	9	9
Hiroshige	Hakone Mt. and Lake	12	10
"	Waterfall	3	3
"	Trees	3	1
Hokusai	The Wave	9	9
Ingres	M. Le Blanc	3	3
"	Mme. Le Blanc	3	1
Indian Mughal Sc.	Riding Horse and Runner	14	9
"	Prince Riding Elephant	20	10
Japanese	Portrait of Yukihiro	3	1
"	Stencil Horse	3	3
"	Stencil Horse Rearing	3	3
"	Landscape	3	1
Jongkind	Canal in Brussesl	3	3
Kent	Character from Canterbury Tales	3	3
"	Mt. Equinox in Winter	3	3
Kunisada Toyokuni	Actors	17	10
"	Actor	9	2
"	Horse	9	4
Lawrence	Georgia Lennox	9	9
Leger	L'Encrier	3	1
Lenk	Window Sill	9	7
Lorrain	Landscape	9	3
Manet	Girl Serving Beer	6	4
"	Paris, Wet Street	6	6
Marc	Red Horses	3	3
Marquet	Notre Dame	3	3
Metsys	Banker and His Wife	12	12
Matisse	Dancing Figure	9	5
"	Odalisque	14	3
Memling	Portrait	9	6
Monet	Rouen Cathedral	12	10
"	Landscape	6	6
"	Regatta at Argenteuill	12	12
"	Regatta at Argenteuill	6	6
"	Seine at Giverny	12	12
"	Seine at Giverny	6	6
Picasso	Absinthe Drinkers	9	9
Pisanello	Horses	14	11
"	Princess of Este Family	17	11
Pissarro	Red Roofs	9	7
"	Street in Rouen	6	6
Rembrandt	Saskia Laughing	20	14
"	Old Pole	6	5
"	Landscape	3	3
"	Arrival	11	7
"	Elephants	13	10
"	Self Portrait	13	6
Renoir	Moulin de la Galette	9	9
"	Lady with Veil	12	12
"	Girl Reading	20	20

<u>Painter</u>	<u>Picture</u>	<u>Possible times out.</u>	<u>Times out.</u>
Redon	The Dream	9	2
Rivera	Indians Bathing	14	10
Schongauer	Temptation of St. Anthony	17	5
Signac	Port (St. Malo)	12	12
"	Toulon	12	10
Sisley	Bridge at Moret	9	7
Sotatsu	Party in Moonlight	6	2
Tiepolo	Ceiling Decoration	14	4
Toulouse Lautrec	Rider	3	1
"	Clown	6	6
"	Moulin Rouge	6	6
Turner	Arth from Lake Zug	22	18
Utrillo	St. in Paris	9	7
Van Capelle	Calm at Sea	20	20
Van Gogh	Bridge	11	10
"	Portrait of Ormand Roulin	3	3
"	Starry Night	12	7
"	Apple Trees	3	3
"	Landscape with Cypresses	6	6
"	Flags	12	11
"	Bridge at Arles	12	12
"	Cafe Interior	6	5
"	High House	12	11
"	Restaurant de la Sirene	9	9
Veneziano	Head	12	9
Vermeer	Letter	20	19
"	Letter	9	7
"	Yellow Turban	20	17
"	Yellow Turban	6	6
"	View of Harlem	9	9
"	View of Harlem	12	11
"	Woman at Virginals	9	5
"	Artist in Studio	3	3
Watteau	Figure Drawing	3	1
"	Fete Champetre	3	3
Watson	October Day	9	7
Wengenroth	Fisherman's House	12	11
"	Rocks, Eastport	9	9
Wu Tao-Tzu	Landscape	9	6
Zingg	Landscape with House	9	4