



8th Annual Report

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO.

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ask for letter

Report of W.M.R. French, Director for the annual Trustee Meeting of June 7, 1887.

At the last annual meeting, June 8, 1886, the foundation of the new building had been laid and construction had reached the first floor, 8 or 10 ft. above the sidewalk. The building is now completed, excepting the internal decoration, and some interior finish of basement and attic. Possession has been given from May 1 to all the tenants, namely, the Chicago Literary Club, the Fortnightly Club, the Women's Club and the Decorative Art Society. The Decorative Art Society is making full use of its rooms, and has held a public exhibition during the latter half of May. The other societies will not hold meetings in their rooms until fall. The removal of the societies from the old building during the last month has relieved the school of the pressure from which it has suffered for the last two years. It now occupies the whole of the building excepting that part leased to the Burlington Manufacturing Company.

In the new building there are thirteen galleries and exhibition rooms to be occupied by the Art Institute besides space in the fifth floor or attic not yet appropriated. Of these exhibition rooms four are on the ground floor, six on the first floor, and three on the second floor. By a vote of the Trustees it has been determined formally to open the museum between the 15th of Oct. and the 15th of Nov. next.

In a circular issued by the Executive Committee, April 15, 1887 the following statement of finances is made.

"During the past year the undivided effort of the Trustees has been directed to the erection of our new building, which will be opened to the public in October next. Cash subscriptions have been received for its construction and \$50,000 more are necessary for its completion.

With the new building completed, our financial condition will be as follows:

Value of land on Michigan Ave. 80 x 170 ft., - - - - -	\$ 80,000.00
Cost of new building	140,000.00
Cost of former improvements,	<u>30,000.00</u>
	250,000.00
Bonded indebtedness, bearing 5% interest,	\$100,000.00

The regular sources of income, aside from gifts, are rents, tuition fees, exhibition receipts and membership dues.

From rents after the appropriation of ample room to our own exhibitions and school, we derive an annual income of \$10,000 of which the sum of \$5000 is set aside for the payment of interest on bonds, and the balance, with the receipts from membership dues, is applied to the maintenance of the institution. We have always been free from floating indebtedness."

Besides the subscriptions of money the following gifts of materials; fittings, labor &c for the new building have been received.

(list of gifts of materials &c for new building)

It is proper to state in this connection that gifts have already begun to be received for the museum. Mr. Wirt D. Walker has presented \$500, the Opera Festival Association, \$2000 and Mrs. A.M. Hall Ellis \$7,000 to be expended upon collections.

On account of building operations no exhibitions or receptions have been held during the past year. The collection of casts has remained in the schoolrooms and halls of the Institute, and the more important pictures at the Union Club and Illinois Club. By the vote of the Trustees the sum of \$7000, of the gift of Mrs. A.M. Hall Ellis, has been appropriated to the purchase of casts of sculpture. Orders have been sent to Europe for a comprehensive collection, carefully prepared in consultation with Mrs. Lucy M. Mitchell, author of the valuable "History of Ancient Sculpture", which we hope to have in place at the opening of the Museum in October. Some small consignments, selected by A. F. Stevens in London and D. C. French in Paris, have already reached us, but are not yet set up. The Century Co. of New York has sent us a very valuable collection of 103 original drawings from the Century Magazine and St. Nicholas, as a permanent loan. These drawings are framed ready for hanging and will worthily fill one of the exhibition rooms. They are accessible to students, but not yet on public exhibition.

With the assent of Mr. Wirt D. Walker a part of his gift has been expended upon a collection of autotypes of works of the

Masters, a valuable and almost essential element in our collections. I urged the acquisition of such a collection upon the Trustees of the Art school in my first communication in January 1878, and have constantly urged it ever since. The collection was received yesterday (June 6, 1887).

The School has been larger and more prosperous and efficient than ever before. The whole number of students of all grades from Oct. 4 to June 7 has been 493, of whom 192 were male and 301 female. As compared with the previous year the number of students has increased from 405 to 493, and the tuition receipts from \$5,287.00 and to \$7,304.65. There is reason to expect a similar or greater increase in the next year.

The present staff of teachers, to whose enthusiasm, skill and harmony the success of the school is largely due, is made up as follows:

A. J. Rupert, Life Classes

Mr. C. A. Corwin, Life and Still Life.

Miss Alice D. Kellogg, Antique.

Miss C. D. Wade, Antique and Water Color

Mr. Louis J. Millet, Decorative Designing.

Mr. Lorado Taft, Modelling.

Mr. N. H. Carpenter, Perspective

Mr. W. M. R. French, Artistic Anatomy

Mr. J. H. Vanderpoel (absent in Paris)

Mr. Enoch Ward, Evening Antique.

and the following advanced students have acted as assistants of Miss Wade in the Saturday juvenile Class.

Miss Alice Hay

Miss M. Vanderpoel

Miss Alice Helm

Miss Lydia P. Hess

Miss Bessie Brooks

Miss Wade and her young assistants have made the Saturday Class very successful. This class is intended for children and teachers and has during the year included ? members ranging in age from 6 years to mature age. The greater number are from 9 to 16 years old. We regard this as a most valuable training school for the regular classes. The numbers have been limited only by the size of the rooms and we expect now to enlarge it to the increased capacity. Financially it is a profitable class also.

Mr. Vanderpoel, who has for two years enjoyed an allowance in Paris, from the Trustees, will return to his work in the school next fall.

Mr. Rupert and Miss Kellogg are going abroad to study. I recommend that Mr. Vanderpoel's allowance be transferred to Mr. Rupert for one year in consideration of his most faithful service for the past six years, a trying period in the history of the school. Nothing can be more wholesome for the Institute than this interchange with European schools. Mr. Taft will also visit Paris this summer and return to his work in the fall.

Under his most competent instruction the modelling department has begun to assume its proper importance. Next year we shall be able to offer facilities for students of sculpture unsurpassed in any school in the country.

The most important change now desirable in the school is to make the Designing Class a part of the regular privileges of the students instead of a special class at extra expense as heretofore. The expense involved in this change will probably not be very appreciable in the general return, and the benefit will be very great. Mr. Millet has conducted both a day and evening class during the last year, and has shown unusual qualification as a teacher.

The evening school, studying chiefly drawing from life and antique, has numbered in all 153 members, 136 men, 17 women. This class, composed as it is, chiefly of persons engaged in the practical applications of drawing and design, deserves to be of great importance, and will probably become so under Mr. Vanderpoel next winter. The following memorandum of the occupations of 63 students present one evening last October is of interest;

Lithographers	12
Draughtsmen; architectural, mechanical, patent	10
Designers; show-cards, pictorial &c	10
Wood engravers and draughtsmen on wood	7
Painters: Signs, wagons, fresco	4
Engravers of gold, seals, or metals	4
Art students	4
Miscellaneous; book-keeper, druggist, hardware	7

Teachers

2

Scene painters, furniture designers &c. &c.

4

65

The classification of the school and the monthly examinations, reported last year, are working admirably, approved both by teachers and students.

Sixty or eighty selected examples of students' work were frames and exhibited at the Exposition last year.

The matter of a diploma, for students who have fulfilled the requirements of a certain course, is still under consideration. For teachers such a certificate is valuable.

The Tuesday Afternoon Lectures have been successfully continued. The following is the list of lectures.

Dec. 14	Mr. W.L.B. Jenney; Architectural Art/not Pictorial Art.
Dec. 21	Mr. Harold Smith; Art Education in Public Schools.
Jan. 11	Mr. Henry F. Spread; Practical Hints on Drawing and Painting.
Jan. 18	Enoch Ward: Wood Engraving for Illustrated Papers
Jan. 25	Mr. Lorado Taft. Processes of Sculpture
Feb. 1	Mr. W.M.R. French. National Character and National Art.
Feb. 8	Mr. Walter C. Larned; Life and Works of Jean Francois Millet.
Feb. 9	Mr. Henry Blackburn: The Value of a Line.
Feb. 15	Mr. Henry Blackburn: Sketches and Comments.
March 1	Mrs. T. Mitchell Tyng and Mrs. B. Williamson - The Land of Homer.
March 8	Miss Rose Fay: Decorative Art; its Historical Developement.
March 9	Mr. Frank Beard: An illustrated Talk on Art.
March 15	Mr. Louis H. Sullivan: Inspiration.
March 22	Mr. W.M.R. French: Artistic Qualities of Modern Caricaturists.
April 18	Mr. Henry Bacon: An Informal conversation on art and artists.

The thanks of the Institute are due to these lecturers, most of whom are not connected with the Institute and have given their services.

Receptions given to the students by Mrs. S. M. Nickerson and Mrs. J. F. Lester and to the teachers by the President, have contributed to the interest of the year. For an address at the close of the last school year we are indebted to Rev. J. Coleman Adams.

For the past year, under the present system of keeping accounts by which the Secretary's salary of \$1,800 is charged to the school the expenditures have been \$7,963.94, and the receipts for tuition \$7,304.65, a deficit of \$659. 29.

The expenditure is under the following heads.

The number of students and the tuition receipts will no doubt increase, but no institution of the high education can be independent without endowment. It is always the higher classes which cost most and pay least. It is not desirable that tuition should be free, but it is highly desirable that the school shall be independent of this consideration.

Very respectfully
Wm. R. French

