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ANNUAL REPORT of the DIRECTOR, June 5, 1888.

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At the last Annual Meeting, June 7, 1887, the new building was completed excepting the internal decoration and some interior finish of basement and attic.— Possession had been given to all the tenants, and the Decorative Art Society had begun actually to use the rooms. During the summer the Literary Club, the Fortnightly Club, and the Women's Club decorated and furnished their rooms, and <sup>through the year</sup> have occupied them regularly for meetings, beginning in Oct.

Since the removal of the Societies the school has occupied the whole of the two upper floors of the old building, excepting the rooms rented to the Society of Architectural Draughtsmen. This has enabled us to give the school several new rooms, namely —

- A room for Elementary Antique
- " " for Modelling
- " " for Designing
- " " for Life and Anatomy
- " " for Library
- " " for a Director's Office
- " " for a Lunch-room; —

and for the first time in its history the school has been properly housed.

Thirteen galleries and exhibition rooms have been occupied with collections of pictures and other objects of art. It has been found necessary to close Rooms I and II recently for the storage and packing of pictures. The Fifth Floor is fully occupied with studios, all rented.

During the summer and fall a large proportion of the collections of casts of antique sculpture belonging to the Elbridge G. Hall Collection, the gift of Mrs. A.M.H. Ellis, arrived and was put in place. Other consignments from London, Paris, Athens, Berlin and Munich have since been received, and the collection now occupies five rooms, arranged in general chronological order. Mrs. Ellis herself prepared the descriptive tablets which are attached to the works. A few orders are yet unfilled, and others will be made as the fund becomes available. -- It already constitutes one of the finest collections in the country. -

By the courtesy of Mr. Hempstead Washburne of this city, the well known collection of Portraits and other works belonging to his father, the late E. B. Washburne, was removed to the Art Institute upon Nov. 5 as a loan, and has ever since occupied Room VIII, a collection quite unlike in historical and family associations to anything else in this part of the country.

Upon Oct. 25, the valuable picture of "The Interior of St. Marks" by David Neal was presented by S. M. Nickerson, Esq., one of the Trustees. *(accepted T.M. 10/27/87)*

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Upon Nov. 19 a large and valuable Japanese bronze Incense Burner was presented by Marshall Field, Esq., also one of our Trustees.

Mrs. A.M.H. Ellis, the donor of the collection of casts and ~~already~~ our most munificent benefactor, has presented for the purchase of books for the Library, ~~together with the promise of~~ *and has promised* \$1000 more, of which \$250 has been paid in.

<sup>have</sup> I visited Libraries in various parts of the country and in consultation with Mrs. Ellis, <sup>have</sup> expended this money for standard works upon art. — Added to the school library these works constitute the nucleus of a reference library upon art, the value of which is attested by its constant use by students, members, and visitors.

Room XVIII has been fitted up for a library by cutting a new window ~~and~~, adding proper decoration, <sup>and providing</sup> book-cases, tables, matting, pictures and other appliances.

The duties of a librarian are added to those of the Director's secretary, and a card-catalogue capable of indefinite extension has been begun. The number of volumes now in the library is about 500, and the cost has been about \$2200.—

The library may be considered well founded.

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The new building was opened by a formal Reception upon the evening of Saturday, Nov. 19, 1887, when in spite of a furious snow storm a large and brilliant company were assembled. There were no formal ceremonies. — The most important feature of the occasion was the exhibition of a Loan Collection of Oil Pictures belonging to private owners all over the country, and of the new collection of sculpture, and the Washburne, Century, and Harper Collections. The exact arrangement of galleries is shown in the appended extract from the catalogue. —

At the period of the opening of the new building systematic efforts were made to add to the memberships, with considerable success. The whole number of members now is-

Governing Members	----	215
Honorary	"	3
Annual	"	<u>662</u>
Total	----	880

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LIST of PICTURES and other OBJECTS received by the ART

INSTITUTE between June 7, 1887 and June 5, 1888. - -

Several consignments of the Elbridge G. Hall Collection of Sculpture mentioned elsewhere--

Oct. 22 -- Eight frames Autotypes added to the collection presented by Wirt D. Walker.

Oct. 24 -- "A Sacristy in Aragon" (oil) by Wm. T. Dannat; also  
"Still-life" by Wm. T. Dannat, presented by the artist.  
A "Study Head of Aragonese Smuggler" (oil) by Wm. T. Dannat, bought from the Opera Festival Fund.

Oct. 25 -- "Interior of St. Marks" (oil) by David Neal, presented by Samuel M. Nickerson --  
*Etching Battle of Roanoke's Drift Martin Brien to*  
In Jan. Mrs. E. S. Stickney presented, the Art Insti-

tute the valuable collection of Engravings made by her late husband; and in April added 17 framed engravings, with the promise ultimately of many more now hanging in her house. The collection has been <sup>reviewed by</sup> ~~assorted with the assistance of~~ Mr. Hamill and Mr. Rogers of the Board of Trustees, <sup>and</sup> The engravings have been properly mounted and a convenient case ordered to hold them.

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Something less than eight months have elapsed since the opening of the new building. - During this period the greatest activity has prevailed. There have been <sup>three</sup> important exhibitions-- the Loan Collection of Oils, <sup>the</sup> and Loan Collection of Water-colors, and the First Annual Exhibition of American pictures now in progress. Besides these, the following special exhibitions have been held:-- the Reid Collection of Drawings of Old Masters; The Reid Collection of English Drawings; the Collection of the works of the late Annie C. Shaw, one of our Honorary Members, whose death upon <sup>Aug 31</sup> ~~June 30~~ was fitly commemorated by the Board of Trustees: The Harper collection of Original Drawings, the Harper

collection of Wood- engravings; the Original Drawings for the illustration of "Lamia", by Will H. Low; the picture of "The Death of Mozart" by Munkacsy, loaned by <sup>Low.</sup> R. A. Alger— besides a great number of pictures, <sup>Sculptures</sup> Japanese works, tapestry, and other objects loaned for exhibition.

These numerous exhibitions in rapid succession, with the <sup>management</sup> arrangement of the school, have entailed a great amount of correspondence, cataloguing, and labor of all kinds upon the small force which we employ. — It has been impossible to make descriptive catalogues of the cast collection, to catalogue the library thoroughly with cross references, or to prepare an index of the Stickney collection of engravings. — It may be doubted whether there is any person in this part of the country qualified to make a good catalogue of engravings. It must in any case be a work of leisure and scholarship.—

The obligations of the Art Institute should be acknowledged to the following persons:—

To Herter Bros. for <sup>the loan of</sup> a case of Japanese fabrics, sword guards &c.

To Harper & Bro. for <sup>loan of</sup> the drawings and engravings.

To J. B. Lippincott Co. for <sup>the loan of</sup> Low's "Lamia". —

To A. R. Alger for <sup>loan of</sup> the "Munkacsy" and other valuable pictures—

To Hempstead Washburne, Esq., for <sup>loan of</sup> the Washburne Collection.—

To J. R. Kester for <sup>loan of two</sup> the Roman Vases—

To Dr. John H. Barrows for <sup>delivering</sup> the address at the <sup>School</sup> exhibition of June, 1887.

To Mrs. E.S. Stickney for <sup>gift of the E. S.</sup> the Stickney collection of engravings



To C. Hennecke for <sup>a</sup>the group of Statuettes—

To <sup>M</sup>C. Durand-Ruel for the gift of his valuable work on Etching.

To Mrs. A.M.H. Ellis for the gift of numerous books, <sup>and</sup> photographs, besides her important gifts to collections and library.—

To ~~M~~ A. Giles for the gift of a collection of photographs of Modern French Sculpture.

To J. J. Hill of St. Paul,

To Frederick Layton of Milwaukee and many others for the loan of pictures.

There have also been many favors shown to the Institute, such as the printing of catalogues by the John Morris Co., and the transportation of casts by Alderman Dixon, upon which the Secretary can report more particularly.

Mention ought to be made of the great number of meetings of Societies of all kinds in the building— It has already become a center of art and literature, and in some directions of benevolence, as it ought to be. The attendance upon the free days has sometimes reached 1400 and even 1800. - ?

Total number of visitors from Nov. 19, 1887 to June 5, 1888 - 36521— 166 days.

Daily average - - - - - 220

Daily average of scholars —  $\frac{40}{260}$   
Total

The question of Sunday opening has been postponed in deference to the views of a body of our supporters.

During the past winter there has been a course of 6 afternoon lectures and 6 evening lectures upon art, Tuesdays. — The lecturers have given their services— Their names and subjects are appended—



## EVENING LECTURES

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Jan. 5	Prof. Ives---	Every Day Art.
Jan. 17	Mr. Gookin- - - -	Old Masters of Japan.
Jan. 31	Mr. Taft - - - -	French Masterpieces of Sculpture
Feb. 14	Mr. Larned - - - -	Spirit of Parisian Art
Feb. 28	Mr. Adams - - - -	Imagination in contemporary Art
Mar 13	Mr. Hutchinson - -	Value of Modern Art.

## AFTERNOON LECTURES

Feb. 21	Mr. French - - - -	Analogies between Composition in Art and Composition in Liter- ature--
Mar. 6	Mr. French - - - -	Continuation of previous lecture
Mar. 20	Mr. Pattison - - -	Gothic Truth and Latin Truth
April 3	Miss Starr - - - -	The Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel
April 17	Mrs. Shreve - - -	Architecture; its Successive Styles and their Characteristics
May 1	Mr. Jenney - - - -	The Evolution of the Styles

The thanks of the Institute are due to the lecturers.

Upon June 1 Mr. Eadweard Muybridge delivered a lecture to  
an appreciative audience on "Animal Locomotion", by invitation--

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The Art School, with the advantages of ample accommodations  
and a stronger staff of teachers, has improved sensibly in <sup>the</sup> quality  
and solidity of its work.-- It has increased somewhat in numbers,  
though not as greatly as last year. The number of students is  
shown by the Secretary's report.

The return of Mr. Vanderpeel, and the addition of Mr.  
Grover as teachers have a manifest effect.

Miss C.D. Wade, long a valuable teacher, is about to go Abroad  
for a year of study, by recent vote of the Trustees. Her  
connection with the Art Institute will be continued, and the sum

of \$25 a month paid to her. Certain friends have placed at the command of the Art Institute a sum of \$400 to enable Miss Wade to travel and farther qualify herself for her duties.

Few art schools in the country now have as able a staff as that of the Art Institute. Five of the teachers - Mr. Grover, Mr. Taft, Mr. Corwin, Mr. Millet, and Mr. Vanderpoel have had regular courses of education Abroad. There are no fewer than <sup>12</sup>/<sub>1</sub> other instructors all doing their work well.

The Saturday Class for children and Public School teachers is a feature peculiar to this school, and extremely valuable and successful. It has ~~had at sometime~~ <sup>reached</sup> during the last year, <sup>a membership of</sup> 130. ~~members at once.~~

The Designing Class has been made a part of the regular privileges of students, and is doing substantial work under Mr. Millet's skillful guidance.

An exhibition of selected examples of the students' Work was made at the Exposition last year.

The sum of \$60 a year has been promised by a friend who wishes to be unknown at present for the benefit of students.

The regular monthly examination- a feature also thought to be peculiar to the school is found to work admirably, both with students and teachers.

In several occasions during the year, exhibitions of pictures have been thrown open to the students by the courtesy of the Calumet Club and of C. F. Hazeltine.

The system <sup>of conducting the school</sup> now in operation is the result of experience, and has approved itself. The need now is to perfect detail,



rather than to make important changes. The school still needs certain appliances.-- It is believed that the exhibition of the present month will show decidedly better work than any previous year.--

The following former students or teachers of the Art Institute are known to be now studying abroad--

Munich-- Mr. W. J. Reynolds  
Mr. A. J. Rupert  
Mr. Wm. Krause  
Mr. Jas. L. Sclanders

*Sweden. Mr. Krause*

Paris-- Miss A.D. Kellogg  
Miss M.J. Chapman  
Mr. Louis Juergensen  
Miss Ida Haskell  
Miss Pauline Dohn  
Mrs. Lee  
Mr. Albright  
Mrs. Fraser  
Mr. Albert Sterner  
Miss Ida Springer

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Mention should not be omitted of the Annual Prize of \$300 established by Mr. James W. Ellsworth for the best American picture exhibited in the spring exhibition; to which the Art Institute has added a second prize of \$250 this year. The present exhibition, called together by these prizes, is perhaps the best purely American collection ever gathered, and its quality is due in great part to the exertions of Mr. Ellsworth and Mr. Thomas B. Clarke of New York.-- The continued success of this and other recurring exhibitions of the Art Institute must depend greatly upon the number of pictures sold in Chicago, a point to which the especial attention of the Trustees is called.--

It is suggested that a small committee be appointed by the Trustees to prepare, in consultation with the executive officers of the Institute, a scheme or programme of exhibitions, receptions, lectures and other entertainments for the coming year, to be published before the opening of the next season, about Nov. 1-

An exhibition of water-colors, made up similarly to the present exhibition of oils, is probably feasible. It is said that the artists resident in Chicago and the West propose to make an exhibition next fall or winter, a matter worthy of consideration. An annual exhibition of oils about the end of May is already established. For the summer just begun a sufficient loan collection can probably be obtained from private owners in Chicago-

Regret is often expressed that we have not a fine permanent collection of pictures, but it is certain that for our annual members, upon whom the support of the Institute depends in great measure, a changing collection with recurring exhibitions is far more attractive than any permanent collection could be--

Yours respectfully,

W.M.R. French,

Director



