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Metropolitan Museum.

The Metropolitan Museum of New York city is the most important of the many museums in our country, and is better known than all the others, although it is not varied in its collections as most of them but consists almost entirely of paintings and sculpture. It stands in Central Park and was formed following a meeting of the art committee of the union league in that city in October, 1864. Before it became permanently settled it had various homes and consisted of some purchased pictures as well as a collection that was loaned by private owners. The project at once was received with favor, and shortly large gifts in money and art objects were given to the museum and the first important purchase of antiquities was in 1872, when the collection unearthed by General L. P. di Cesnola in Cyprus was added to the exhibits.

The first portion of the present magnificent building in Central Park, which is visited by more than a million people each year, was inaugurated in 1880. The Cyprus collection already has no parallel anywhere for extent and value. It comprises stone sculptures, sarcophagi, in-

scriptions, alabaster, ivories, lamps, pottery, terra cotta statuettes, bronzes, glass, gems, jewelry and other objects and classes of objects which are unique.

The museum's collection of glass was increased by a purchase from Charvet and presented by Henry G. Marquand, also a later collection presented by J. J. Jarvis; making the entire collection of glass the most valuable known.

There are magnificent collections of Babylonian, Assyrian, and other ancient cylinders, seal and inscribed clay tablets; Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian and American antiquities, the last in gold and silver; as well as pottery and stone; modern sculptures and bronzes; the Huntington collection of memorials of Washington, Franklin and Lafayette; the E. C. Moore collection of ancient terra cotta statuettes, ancient and modern glass; oriental enameled and other pottery, and objects of art in metal, ivory, etc.; the Coles collection of tapestries and vases; the Lazarus collection of miniatures, enamels, jewelry and fans; the Drexel collection of objects of art in gold and silver; the C. W. King collection of ancient gems, purchased and presented to the museum by John Taylor Johnston;

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