

# PORTLAND AN ART CENTER

Museum Gives Opportunity for Frequent Exhibits of Valuable Paintings and Other Rare Works.

By Judge C. H. Carey.

URING the first century of the Nation's existence the American people had but little knowledge or appreciation of art. This undoubtedly was due to the fact that the country was new, and the energies of its people were absorbed in the more material affairs of life.

When Mrs. Trollope, the novelist, visited the United States in 1827, she wrote a book about us in which she spoke of the "utter ignorance respecting pictures to be found among persons of the first standing in society." Undoubtedly her observation was just, and the great present interest in art in this country has grown up since that date.

It is probable that this change is due, in part, to the acquisition of good examples of the work of great painters and sculptors in public galleries, and to the fact that culture, leisure, wealth and refinement are more general. Then, too, Americans are great travelers, and many of them have had opportunities of seeing the famous galleries of Europe.

At any rate, whatever be the cause, with the advent of the twentieth century has come a wonderful quickening of the public interest in the arts, both the fine and the industrial arts. Now schools and teachers are striving to promote the cultivation of taste and judgment, the love of the beautiful, and an appreciation of the achievements of great painters, sculptors, architects and landscape gardeners. Besides this, there is more insistence upon the application of the principles of beauty to the practical things in daily use, such as books, furniture, rugs, carpets, wall paper, buildings for public and private use, bridges, monuments, silverware, jewelry and coins. Societies have been formed in many American cities for the study of art, and lectures on art subjects are generally well attended. The press of the country has been quick to respond to the new demand for innumerable books, some of them most beautifully illustrated, are now within the reach of all, and these cover every conceivable part of the multifarious question. Moreover, the recent development in methods of the reproduction and printing of pictures, and the improvement in photography, and the wonderful increase in the output of illustrated magazines and newspapers, has greatly stimulated, as well as fed, the popular interest in art.

In this forward movement Portland, of the cities in the far West, easily takes the lead. Considering the number of the population, no Western city can be compared with Portland as the center of valuable collections of pictures and books. And more than this, no city of the West is as well provided with a suitable building in which works of art may be exhibited to advantage.

A very large collection of plaster casts from the antique was one of the first acquisitions of importance. It was the gift of the late Henry W. Corbett, and comprises casts from the principal examples of Greek and Roman sculpture in the great foreign collections. Few places have any such complete and representative collection. It is in every way worthy of the public-spirited donor, and its presence here is a constant influence tending to elevate public taste, and to incite an increased desire to know and appreciate the beautiful in art and history.

Several years ago there was erected at the corner of Fifth and Taylor streets a building, awkwardly named the "Art Museum." Its external appearance is not pretentious, and in fact, would scarcely be called beautiful, but its interior is most admirably adapted to its use as a place for the exhibition and for the study of art. It is a fireproof building, and provided with large well-lighted rooms. The stately occupies some of the lower floor, the stairways and halls are lined with framed photographs of famous paintings and the remainder of the building is used for various and frequent displays of pictures and other things of beauty. There is ample room for lectures and study classes and for the very good beginning of a library of books on the fine arts.

In this building some notable exhibitions have been shown. These consist of a loan collection of notable paintings from Portland homes; at another time, of a rare collection of Japanese prints, or etchings, and line engravings, and water colors; or, perhaps, of a collection of reproductions of the old masters. Several times the city has been favored with an opportunity to see there assembled, and to compare, a number of paintings by some noted painters, such as Little V. O'Ryan, Douglas Crane, George de Forrest Brush or Childe Hassam. There have been loan exhibitions of beautiful articles of workmanship and vertu, such as lace, gold and silver ornaments and vessels, jewelry, leather work, printing and book binding and furniture. The Arts and Crafts Society has had its annual exhibition of handicraft work, and there have been very interesting and instructive exhibits by the architects and amateur photographers, and others.

In fact, the Art Museum has become a powerful factor in the art life of the city. Its exhibitions are absolutely free to the public on certain days of the week, and but a nominal charge is made for admission at any time. Its affairs are controlled by an association, but the aim of the generous founders and promoters of the enterprise is to have the people of the city and state feel that the facilities here offered to enjoy the beautiful creations of mankind are open to all. As is the experience in other cities, it is found that the people who would most be benefited by frequent visits to the Art Museum are seemingly slow to take advantage of the opportunity, and doubtless it might be devised by which greater popular interest in the Art Museum and its work might be stimulated; but there can be no doubt that those who have already aided in its work may feel proud of the result so far attained and be encouraged for the future. It was published in Portland made inquiry of a gentleman connected with the museum at Denver, respecting the method of raising the necessary funds. His answer shows that the same plan is used there as in Portland, in giving exhibitions. But in enumerat-

ing the painters whose work had been exhibited, the pictures being loaned for the purpose by the residents of Denver, it became evident that that city has few pictures of first rate, and cannot be compared with Portland in that respect. The fact is that the exhibitions given at the Portland Art Museum every year for several years past are of much higher order than those of Denver, or any other city of the West, and are without exception.

And these exhibitions at Portland are almost continuous, a change being made at frequent intervals, but always pictures of high merit are on view. Portland may well glory in the rare and valuable collections of beautiful things owned by some of its citizens. One or two have wonderful collections of antique Oriental rugs of great value; several have collections of paintings, in which may be found masterpieces of some of the most famous artists of the world; there are collections of Japanese prints and curios, of etchings and engravings, and prints and water colors; most elaborate sets of photographs, to an other reproductions of the old masters; beautiful pieces of marble and bronze by famous sculptors; comprehensive and interesting collections of early and later examples of fine printing and bookmaking, first editions, rare old books and manuscripts, and fine and limited editions of great price. There are also the cherished household things of beauty and value, heirlooms, perhaps, or selections, chosen with taste and judgment from the markets of Europe or America, on trips from home—such things as are sometimes shown at the loan exhibitions—gold enameled and jeweled snuff boxes, bracelets, necklaces, laces, Bilgins, caskets, bowls and urns and ewers, and no end of artistic and lovely specimens of good workmanship.

It must be confessed that not all of the collections in Portland are selected with perfect discrimination. There are some very bad paintings, for example, for which big prices were paid to itinerant dealers; but this is true of every such collection as that in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and would naturally be true in any city where the best expert advice is not always obtainable.

The Portland Library is another center for art work in Portland. Its collection of rare and valuable illustrated books, and its very excellent and comprehensive department, containing books most wanted for consultation by the student of art, is supplemented by the liberality shown by the management in allowing the use of its rooms, and facilities for classes and lectures. A permanent exhibit of artistic printing and rare and choice examples of the publishers' and book-binders' art is also maintained.

Some of the best amateur photographic work exhibited of recent years has been done right here in Portland. Portland amateurs have frequently taken the prizes at National exhibitions. Displays at home of the art of the camera have generally been excellent and well attended by an appreciative public. The same may be said of the exhibition given a year ago by the Architects' Society, which was most interesting and instructive.

Many thousands of which have been planted by the Federal Government. I have spoken to many experienced anglers, some of whom have fished in the best streams of Europe and America, and they are almost unanimous in their loud praises of the excellence of sport in Oregon streams, especially those in the southern portion of the state.

The numerous coast streams also afford most excellent trout and salmon fishing. And at Yaquina Bay, one of the most beautiful sheets of water on the entire coast, you can in season have royal sport in fishing for that finest of large game fishes, the salmon. The sportsman who has all his life fished in the quiet, limpid waters of our Eastern and Middle Western States cannot realize the exciting sport that salmon fishing affords until he himself has attempted it. Your spoonhook is whirling in the swift current. Suddenly you feel a tremendous jerk, and the next instant a steel-gray object leaps high out of the water and flashes it into foam. You have hooked a salmon, but wait, he is not yet your own. Hooking a salmon and landing one are very different feats, as you will fully realize after a little experience. Many times before you land him, if indeed you are fortunate enough to do so at all, you will be wondering who will be the captor.

But how inadequate words seem to depict all this grandeur and Middle Western wealth. How useless to attempt to describe it. To see will alone satisfy and convince. In Oregon nature seems to worship at her own shrine, for—  
The cedar and the mountain pine,  
The willow on the fountain's brim,  
The tulip and the eglantine  
In reverence bend to Him.  
The songbirds pour their sweetest lays  
From tower and tree and middle air;  
The rushing rivers murmur praise—  
All Nature worships there."

But it is to the angler that Oregon presents special attractions; for its numerous mountain streams, wild torrents hurrying down from their elevated sources, and now and then resting in still pools, with waters cold and clear, are the haunts of the lusty trout, the grayling and other species of game fish; while the great rivers, at certain seasons of the year, contain an abundance of salmon, smelt, shad, bass and other varieties of fish.

The "cut-throat," one of the hardest and gamiest of trout, is a native of this state and may be found in nearly all of our streams. But if you are particular as to the species you want, nature has here lavishly provided a good variety for you. In the upper Clackamas, the Deschutes, Williamson and Mackenzie Rivers you will find the Dolly Varden trout whose size, beauty and gamey qualities are well known to all sportsmen. In these and various other streams of the state may also be found the Eastern brook trout, and the Rainbow trout.

lath ranges and vast forests of fir and pine and spruce and hemlock, through which mighty rivers wind their courses to the sea.  
If you are a hunter and take delight in the search for large game, come with me to the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon or to the beautiful valleys of the Rogue and Umpqua rivers in the southeastern portion of the state. There, in forests as dense and wild as any on the continent, you will find the bear, the deer and the elk in numbers.  
If you prefer smaller game, you can have sport to your heart's content in pursuit of that most beautiful of game birds, the Chinese pheasant, which is found in abundance in the great Valley of the Willamette, stretching for nearly 400 miles from north to south in the western portion of the state. All hunters agree that there are few birds that will try one's patience more or deceive one oftener than this pheasant. But when you have bagged him you have not only a bird of graceful outline and of most gorgeous and beautiful plumage, but one whose flesh will satisfy the most epicurean taste.  
In nearly all the valleys and foothills of the state you will find the native pheasant or grouse, the partridge and the quail; and in Eastern Oregon, espe-

# OREGON GREAT GAME STATE

Sportsmen Find Many Kinds of Wild Animals and Fowls Here, as Well as Streams Teeming With Fish

By A. E. Gebhardt, Secretary Oregon Fish and Game Association.

It is a fact worthy of note, and one that augurs well for our Nation, that in America the number of sportsmen and of those who take an interest in outdoor life and for whom the "Call of the Wild" seems to have perennial charm, is constantly increasing. And it seems to me that this is particularly true of our great Western country, whose natural beauties and attractions are so alluring to the lover of nature, and there are few sportsmen who are indifferent to the glories of natural scenery. What sportsman can forget the joy that filled his very soul with rapture when in the excitement of the chase, he was brought suddenly face to face with some awe-inspiring, soul-shifting scene. Here, at his feet is, perhaps, a great canyon with a roaring stream in its depths. Yonder a magnificent waterfall, a glittering sheet thundering over a precipice hundreds of feet high, boiling in white foam at its base, while far in the distance there are great stretches of snow-capped mountains.

PORTLAND'S REALTY TRANSFERS.

Portland may well be proud of the showing made in the transfer of real property during the past year. Although the total money involved in the transactions was not so large as during 1907, the loss was very small considering financial conditions throughout the country at the beginning of the year. The transfers by months for 1907 and 1908 follow:

	1907	1908
January	\$ 2,241,885	\$ 879,025
February	2,252,804	1,206,820
March	4,238,154	1,830,984
April	2,771,785	3,112,921
May	2,334,867	1,259,902
June	1,411,884	1,107,829
July	1,711,461	1,798,801
August	1,722,234	1,826,806
September	2,218,900	1,572,838
October	1,454,787	2,448,123
November	679,219	1,418,256
December	792,535	1,145,000
Totals	\$23,450,110	\$20,298,506

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VISIT THE IRVINGTON ADDITION, and a fair example of one of the principal benefits derived from asphalt pavements can be seen by investigating and noting the increase in property values of this district. Up to within six months ago lots in the newer part of this addition could be bought for \$900.00, but since asphalt pavement has been laid on these streets, these lots are selling at from \$1100.00 to \$2000.00, exclusive of the cost of the improvement. This is true not only in this district but in all sections of the city where hard-surface improvements have been made. GENASCO ROOFING: This company is the largest manufacturer of roofing material in the world and have the facilities for making the best. The Central Door & Lumber Co. of this city are local agents for this product

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