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*Rainbow over Perugia*

Gift of the Misses Case, 1920

*George Inness (1825-1894)*

### From the Forthcoming Annual Report of the Museum for 1919

THE number of visitors to the Museum during 1919 was 280,000. This figure cannot fairly be compared with that for 1918, which was 212,000, since during that year the Museum was partly or wholly closed for some weeks on account of the coal shortage and the epidemic of influenza. Compared with the admissions for 1917, the last year before the Museum was opened free, the admissions for 1919 show an increase of twenty-five per cent. The increase is gratifying evidence of the response of the public to the new opportunity.

The number of Annual Subscribers to the Museum in 1919 was 1,667, an increase of 60 over 1918, and the amount of their subscriptions \$37,484.50, an increase of \$2,264.50 over 1918. The current expenses of the Museum were \$196,233.93, an increase of but \$117.64 over last year. The income, including special gifts and appropriations applied to expenses, was \$161,606.05, leaving a net deficit for the year of \$34,627.88. In the words of the President's report: "Merely to meet its current expenses the Museum needs additional income of nearly \$40,000.00 annually."

The acquisitions of the year include gifts of a number of notable paintings by modern French artists from the Angell, Lyman, Cochrane and Emmons Collections. The acquisitions of prints have brought the total number of accessions during the past five years to 2,329, including one hundred and seventy important pieces from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Two important pieces of Gothic sculpture, a Madonna and Child of the fourteenth century, and a Pietà of the late fifteenth century, both from Eastern France, were purchased from the bequest of the late Hervey E. Wetzel. From the Harvard University-Museum of Fine Arts Egyptian

Expedition, word was received early in the year of the discovery at el-Kurruw in the Sudan of tombs of Egyptian kings of the XXV. dynasty (eighth and seventh centuries B. C.). The first shipment of material since 1913 left Egypt for the Museum in December.

The following special exhibitions were held during the year: paintings from the Luxembourg, in January; selections from the work of the late Frederic Crowninshield, in April; the Angell Collection, in September; paintings and drawings from the front by British artists, in November; the Lyman Collection, French Impressionist paintings, and memorial exhibition of paintings by Fred A. Demmler (U. S. A.), in December.

The close of the war brought out a large increase in the public demand for gallery instruction by docents of the Museum. In 1919 nearly 5,000 persons asked for guidance, more than twice as many as in 1918. During 1919 the Museum was made the subject of talks in the public schools to five thousand children and ten thousand others met at the Museum to listen to stories connected with the collections.

Publications by officers of the Museum during the year 1919 consisted of eleven articles and pamphlets by six authors; including several by Dr. Reisner recording his discoveries in Egypt.

Changes in the staff of the Museum include the resignation of Mr. Morris Carter as Assistant Director of the Museum and the appointment of Mr. Charles Henry Hawes, A. M., Cambridge, England (1902), to that office; the appointment of Mr. Henry Preston Rossiter, A. B., Toronto, Canada (1909), as Assistant Curator of Prints; the appointment of Edwin James Hipkiss as Keeper in the Department of Western Art; the resignation of Mrs. Charles Wendell Townsend (Sarah Gore Flint) as Assistant in Charge of Textiles, and her appointment as Adviser in the same department.