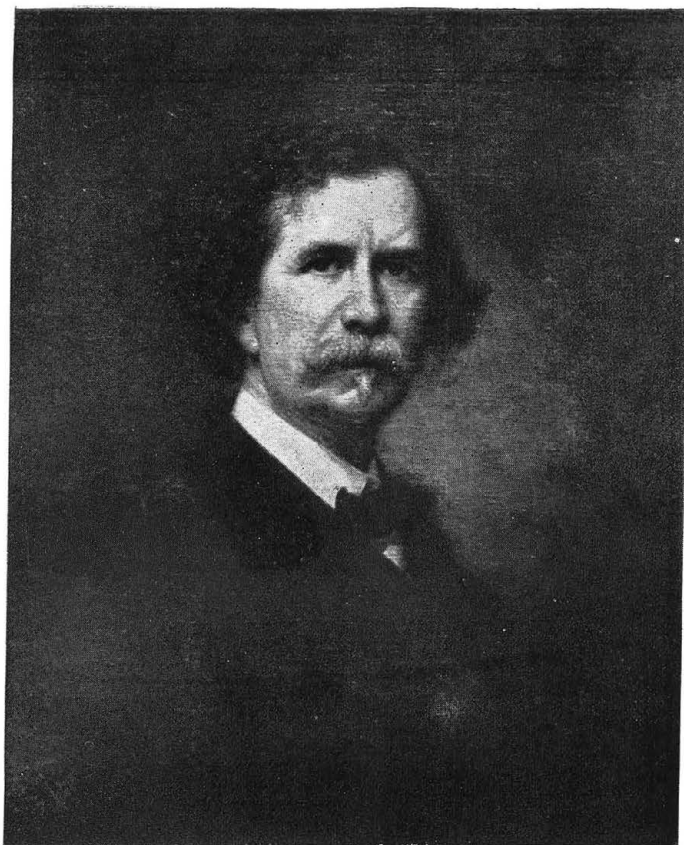


G. P. A. HEALY
CENTENARY
EXHIBITION

ART INSTITUTE
OF CHICAGO, 1913



G. P. A. HEALY
Painted by himself, 1874

EXHIBITION OF
PAINTINGS BY
GEORGE PETER
ALEXANDER HEALY
1813-1894 UPON
THE CENTENARY
OF HIS BIRTH

THE ART INSTITUTE OF
CHICAGO FROM JANUARY
2 TO JANUARY 19, 1913

GEORGE P. A. HEALY

GEORGE P. A. HEALY was born in Boston, July 15, 1813. His father was a naturalized American citizen of Irish birth, and his mother an American. Nothing in his early years seemed to indicate his future vocation. His father had been captain in the merchant service, and although the family was acquainted with Stuart, who painted the captain's portrait, the surroundings of the growing children were by no means artistic. A mere accident revealed to the boy that he had a knack for "taking likenesses," as the good people said; so, to the great sorrow of his parents he resolved to be a painter.

The beginnings were hard. Young Healy had no teachers. In those days there were no art schools, on public museums, and very few pictures were exhibited. But nothing daunted, the Yankee boy, gifted with extraordinary facility, with a true and vivid sense of color, and above all with an energy and a perseverance that no difficulties could overcome, went his way cheerfully and unswervingly. He drew everything that he saw and painted the portrait of any one who would sit for him, from the family

butcher to his brothers and little sister. Soon "little Healy," as he was generally called, met with some encouragement. He boldly took a studio and had a few sitters. But these sitters were all men and he longed greatly to paint a woman. In the early thirties, the queen of society was Mrs. Harrison Gray Otis. A kind friend gave the boy-painter a word of introduction to her. Mrs. Otis asked her shy visitor what she could do for him and he blurted out: "Sit to me, Madam. I so want to paint a beautiful woman!" Healy was then nineteen years of age. The portrait of Mrs. Otis at once made his reputation.

But he was intelligent enough to understand that he had yet much to learn, and in 1834 he went to Paris and entered the studio of Baron Gros. There he formed a life-long friendship with the great painter, Thomas Couture.

Through the influence of the American minister, General Cass, the young painter obtained sittings from the French King, Louis Philippe, who was so pleased with his portrait that he sent Healy to London to copy some of the pictures in Windsor Castle, and later to America with an order to paint the American statesmen of the day for the Versailles gallery. But the revolution of 1848 put an end to this royal patronage.

It was while engaged on this series of portraits that Healy conceived the project of painting his great historical picture of Webster replying to Hayne, now in Faneuil Hall in Boston. The picture was executed in Paris. A little later was painted another historical picture representing Franklin before Louis XVI, which at the exhibition of 1855 won a gold medal for its author, the highest honor yet awarded an American artist. It was at this time that Healy made the acquaintance of William B. Ogden, who has been called the "father of Chicago." Mr. Ogden warmly urged Healy to visit him in Chicago, at that time an overgrown village, and this visit proved so successful, and socially so agreeable, that the artist soon determined to make Chicago his home. The number of portraits executed during that first year is fabulous. Among the very best is that of his host. During the War of Secession, he painted many of the most celebrated generals, and Lincoln also sat to him.

Incessant work was beginning to tell upon his health, and in 1867 Healy returned to Europe and remained there many years, making, however, frequent trips to America, to Chicago especially. The family home was first in Rome, then in Paris. It was during his sojourn in

Italy that Healy was asked to paint a portrait of himself for the Uffizzi gallery of Florence, where it may still be seen. He also executed a large portrait of the reigning Princess of Roumania. This was so well liked by the Prince that on two occasions he asked the artist to visit his palace so as to paint other portraits. Healy happened to be in Bucharest when his kind patrons were proclaimed king and queen.

The years spent in Paris were pleasant and prosperous, and during that time the American artist painted many historical personages, among them Thiers, Gambetta, Jules Simon. He went to Berlin to paint Bismarck. Lord Lyons also sat to him, as did also many Americans, among them Whitelaw Reid.

In 1892 the artist suddenly determined to return to Chicago and to make it his permanent home. He died in the city of his choice, June 24, 1894.

CATALOGUE

1

ARMENIAN BISHOPS

Lent by
The Art Institute of Chicago

2

PORTRAIT OF A CHILD (Miss Armstrong)

Lent by
The Newberry Library

3

ISAAC N. ARNOLD

Lent by
Miss Arnold

4

REV. DR. BARRY

Lent by
The Chicago Historical Society

5

MRS. BESLY AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mrs. Charles H. Besly

6

BISMARCK

Lent by
The Newberry Library

7

WILLIAM BLAIR

Lent by
Mrs. William Blair

8

MRS. WILLIAM BLAIR

Lent by
Mrs. William Blair

9

E. W. BLATCHFORD

Lent by
Mr. E. W. Blatchford

10

MRS. E. W. BLATCHFORD

Lent by
Mr. E. W. Blatchford

11

MISS BLATCHFORD AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mr. E. W. Blatchford

12

MRS. J. T. BOWEN AS A CHILD

Lent by

Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen

13

DR. O. A. BROWNSON

Lent by

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

14

MISS BRYAN AS A CHILD

Lent by

Miss Jennie B. Bryan

15

MRS. T. B. BRYAN

Lent by

Miss Jennie B. Bryan

16

JOHN C. CALHOUN

Lent by

Miss Jennie B. Bryan

17

MISS H. L. CARTER

Lent by

Miss Carter

18

JAMES CARTER

Lent by
Miss Carter

19

KING CHARLES I OF ROUMANIA

Lent by
The Newberry Library

20

HENRY CLAY

Lent by
Miss Jennie B. Bryan

21

MISS CRAWFORD (Mrs. Fraser)

Lent by
The Newberry Library

22

RICHARD H. DANA

Lent by
Mr. J. O. Lyman

23

JUDGE THOMAS DRUMMOND

Lent by
Miss Drummond

24

S. E. DUBOURJAL

Lent by
Madame de Mare

25

BISHOP DUGGAN

Lent by
The Newberry Library

26

QUEEN ELIZABETH OF ROUMANIA (Head)

Lent by
The Newberry Library

27

WILLIAM EVERETT

Lent by
The Newberry Library

28

PORTRAIT OF BABY FARLIN

Lent by
Mrs. J. H. Farlin

29

GENERAL FOX

Lent by
Madame de Mare

30

GENERAL FOX

Lent by
The Newberry Library

31

LÉON GAMBETTA

Lent by
The Newberry Library

32

MISS ROMAINE GODDARD (Madame von Overbeck)

Lent by
The Newberry Library

33

GENERAL GRANT

Lent by
The Newberry Library

34

COL. CHARLES G. HAMMOND

Lent by
Mrs. William Hubbard

35

JOEL T. HART

Lent by
The Newberry Library

36

ARTHUR HEALY AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

37

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Mrs. Charles H. Besly

38

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Miss Jennie B. Bryan

39

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

40

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
The Chicago Historical Society

41

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Madame de Mare

42

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
The Newberry Library

43

G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Mr. G. O'Shaughnessy

44

MRS. G. P. A. HEALY

Lent by
Mrs. Charles H. Besly

45

DUDLEY HIGGINSON AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mrs. Dudley Higginson

46

GEORGE HIGGINSON

Lent by
Mrs. V. K. Spicer

47

MRS. GEORGE HIGGINSON

Lent by
Mrs. V. K. Spicer

48

MRS. HILL AS A BABY

Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

49

MRS. GEORGE ISHAM AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mr. George F. Porter

50

HENRY W. KING

Lent by
Mrs. Cyrus Bentley

51

MRS. TUTHILL KING

Lent by
Mrs. J. H. Farlin

52

FERDINAND DE LESSEPS

Lent by
The Newberry Library

53

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lent by
The Newberry Library

54

FRANZ LISZT

Lent by
The Newberry Library

55

LISZT HOLDING A CANDLE

Lent by
Miss Longfellow

56

STEPHEN TRIGG LOGAN

Lent by
The Chicago Historical Society

57

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Lent by
Mrs. A. V. S. Anthony

58

LORD LYONS

Lent by
The Newberry Library

59

MADAME DE MARE AS A GIRL

Lent by
Miss C. Jones

60

MARIE DE MARE AS A CHILD

Lent by
Madame de Mare

61

E. B. McCAGG

Lent by
The Chicago Historical Society

62

MRS. E. B. McCAGG

Lent by
Mr. Louis B. McCagg

63

LOUIS B. McCAGG AS A CHILD

Lent by
Mr. Louis B. McCagg

64

KATHLEEN McCARTHY

Lent by
Madame de Mare

65

MRS. CYRUS H. McCORMICK, SR.

Lent by
Mrs. Cyrus H. McCormick

66

JOHN LOTHROP MOTLEY

Lent by
The Newberry Library

67

MRS. MAHLON OGDEN

Lent by
Mrs. F. T. West

68

WILLIAM B. OGDEN, first mayor of Chicago

Lent by
City of Chicago

69

PRINCESS OF OLDENBURG

Lent by
The Newberry Library

70

MADAME DE PIERRE and HER DAUGHTER

Lent by
The Newberry Library

71

MARTIN RYERSON

Lent by
Old People's Home

72

MRS. MARTIN RYERSON

Lent by
Old People's Home

73

JOHN Y. SCAMMON

Lent by
The Chicago Historical Society

74

GENERAL SHERMAN

Lent by
The Newberry Library

75

JUDGE MARK SKINNER

Lent by
Mr. M. S. Willing

76

HENRY M. STANLEY

Lent by
The Newberry Library

77

MISS STEVENSON

Lent by
Mrs. L. R. Rutter

78

EDWARD B. STICKNEY

Lent by

The Chicago Historical Society

79

LOUIS ADOLPHE THIERS

Lent by

The Newberry Library

80

THE MISSES THORN

Lent by

The Newberry Library

81

JOHN ROSS VALENTINE

Lent by

Mr Valentine

82

MRS. JOHN ROSS VALENTINE

Lent by

Mr. Valentine

83

SAMUEL WARD

Lent by

The Newberry Library

84

ELIHU B. WASHBURNE

Lent

Mrs. H. Washburne

85

DANIEL WEBSTER

Lent by

The Newberry Library

86

MRS. WEST AS A CHILD

Lent by

Mrs. F. T. West

87

JEFFE WHITEHEAD

Lent by

Mrs. E. P. Whitehead

88

MRS. JEFFE WHITEHEAD

Lent by

Mrs. E. P. Whitehead

89

MRS. WILLING

Lent by

Mr. M. S. Willing

90

REV. DR. WOODBRIDGE

Lent by
Mrs. Dickinson

91

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Lent by
Miss Jennie B. Bryan

92

DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES

Lent by
The family of the artist

93

SKETCHES

Lent by
Mrs. Charles H. Besly

94

GIRL WITH PITCHER

Competition study painted at one sitting at
Baron Gros' studio in 1835

Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

95

GEN. JAMES A. MULLIGAN

Lent by
Miss Mulligan

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Miss Arnold	3
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Bentley, Mrs. Cyrus	50
Besly, Mrs. Charles H.	5, 37, 44, 93
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