Collector's Choice: J. Paul Getty and His Antiquities
November 18, 2009 to February 8, 2010
The J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa

Few human activities provide an individual with a greater sense of personal gratification than the assembling of a collection of art objects that . . . he feels have true and lasting beauty.

-J. Paul Getty, The Joys of Collecting, 1965

J. Paul Getty (American, 1892-1976) acquired his first work of art, a painting, in 1931. He was then thirty-eight years old and firmly established as a successful oilman, well on his way to becoming known as the world's richest man. While most thought that the golden age of collecting was over, Getty realized the opportunities of the Great Depression and began to fulfill his "long-dormant urge to collect things of beauty." His interest was threefold: decorative arts, old master paintings, and classical antiquities. In 1939 he embarked on a lifelong venture with his first purchase of antiquities, which resulted in one of the most important collections of Greek and Roman art in the United States. His personality and taste deeply marked its formation and gave it a distinct old-world profile. Periods of extensive acquisitions alternated with more meditative phases, during which Getty reflected and published on collecting. His last active stage as a collector culminated in the most striking expression of his passion for the classical world: the creation of a museum modeled on an ancient Roman villa.

1. Venus (The Mazarin Venus)
   Roman, 2nd century A.D.
   Marble
   Object: H: 184 cm (H: 72 7/16 in.)
   The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   54.AA.11

2. Venus Crouching at Her Bath
   Roman, A.D. 100 - 150
   Gray Marble
   Object: H: 115 cm (H: 45 1/4 in.)
   The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   55.AA.10

3. Head of a Young Woman
   Greek (Attic), about 320 B.C.
   Marble
   Object: H: 34.3 x W: 15.6 x D: 22.2 cm (H: 13 1/2 x W: 6 1/8 x D: 8 3/4 in.)
   The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   56.AA.19

4. Statuette of Aphrodite Chastising Eros
   Greek (Hellenistic), 2nd - 1st century B.C.
   Bronze
   Object (with base): H: 28.7 cm (H: 11 5/16 in.)
   The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   57.AB.7

Additional information about some of these works of art can be found by searching getty.edu at http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/

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5. Statuette of Phrixos or Jason
   Roman, 1st century B.C.
   Bronze
   Object: H: 17.5 cm (H: 6 7/8 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   58.AB.6

6. Mosaic Floor with Orpheus and Animals
   Gallo-Roman, A.D. 200 - 225
   Stone and glass
   Object: H: 385.9 x W: 457 cm (H: 151 15/16 x W: 179 15/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   62.AH.2

7. Gerald L. Brockhurst
   English, 1890 - 1978
   Portrait of J. Paul Getty, 1938
   Oil on canvas
   Unframed: 73.7 x 61 cm (29 x 24 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
   © Richard Woodward
   67.PA.2

8. Bust of a Woman
   Roman, about A.D. 130
   Marble
   Object: H: 43 x W: 42.1 x D (head): 24 cm (16 15/16 x 16 9/16 x D: 9 7/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   70.AA.100

9. Mummy Portrait of a Young Man
   Romano-Egyptian, A.D. 100 - 125
   Encaustic on wood
   Object: H: 47.5 x W: 24.1 x D: 0.4 cm (H: 18 11/16 x W: 9 1/2 x D: 3/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
   71.AP.72

10. Statuette of Hercules
    Roman, 1st century A.D.
    Bronze
    Object: H: 12.7 cm (H: 5 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
    71.AB.170
11. Wall Fragment with a Garland Shop
Roman, third quarter of 1st century A.D.
Fresco
Object: H: 38 x W: 46 x D: 4.4 cm (14 15/16 x 18 1/8 x 1 3/4 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
72.AG.82

12. Wall Fragment with Hercules Rescuing Hesione
Roman, about A.D. 70
Fresco
Object: H: 37 x W: 37 cm (14 9/16 x 14 9/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
72.AG.83

13. Bust of Menander
Roman, A.D. 1 - 25
Bronze
Object: H: 17 x D (of base): 8 - 8.1 cm (6 11/16 x 3 1/8 - 3 3/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
72.AB.108

14. Wine Jug with Kallisto Turning into a Bear
Greek (Apulian), about 360 B.C.
Attributed to near the Black Fury Group
Greek (Apulian), active Early 300s B.C.
Terracotta
Object: H: 16.8 x Diam. [rim]: 8.4 cm (6 5/8 x 3 5/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
72.AE.128

15. Relief with a Seated Man (The Lansdowne Homer)
East Greek, about 75 B.C.
Marble
Object: H: 143.5 x W: 100 x D: 26.8 cm (56 1/2 x 39 3/8 x 10 9/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
72.AA.160

16. Head of a Young Man
Roman, about A.D. 220
Marble
Object: H: 24.5 x W: 19 x D: 14.5 cm (9 5/8 x 7 1/2 x 5 11/16 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
76.AA.14
17. Fragment of a Letter
Roman, second half of 2nd century A.D.
Papyrus
Object: H: 11 x W: 8.5 cm (4 5/16 x 3 3/8 in.)
Gift of Lenore Barozzi. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
76.AI.57

18. Statuette of a Woman Reclining on a Couch with Erotes
("Tanagra Group")
1875 - 1890
Terracotta, pigment, and gold
Object: H: 18.5 x L: 27 cm (7 5/16 x 10 5/8 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
78.AK.38

19. Relief Fragment with a Horse and Rider (The Cottenham Relief)
Greek (Attic), about 500 B.C.
Blue-gray marble
Object: H: 27.6 x W: 30.5 cm (10 7/8 x 12 in.)
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu, California
78.AA.59

20. Sotheby's (London)
French Drawing Room - continued, 1939
from Cam House: important contents of Cam House
Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California
84-P13589.p18-19

21. Bartolomeo Cavaceppi
Italian, 1716/1717 - 1799
Venere, 1769
Engraving
Plate: 30.3 x 19.8 cm (11 15/16 x 7 13/16 in.)
Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California
93-B5285.v2.pl60

22. J. Paul Getty
American, 1892 - 1976
Letter from J. Paul Getty to Paul Wescher, 1955
Ink and paper
Sheet: 18.4 x 13.3 cm (7 1/4 x 5 1/4 in.)
Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California
1986.IA.55.1
23. J. Paul Getty  
*American, 1892 - 1976*  
Letter from J. Paul Getty to Dr. Birkmeyer, 1958  
*Ink and paper*  
Sheet: 26.7 x 21 cm (10 1/2 x 8 1/4 in.)  
Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, California  
1986.IA.55.2

24. Unknown  
*Black and white photograph of the Orpheus Mosaic at the Ranch House, 1958*  
*Gelatin silver*  
Image: 16 x 22 cm (6 5/16 x 8 11/16 in.)  
T.2009.77

25. Hermine Speier  
*German, 1898 - 1989*  
Letter from Hermine Speier to J. Paul Getty, August 25, 1939  
*Ink and paper*  
Unframed: 19.5 x 30 cm (7 11/16 x 11 13/16 in.)  
T.2009.78

26. J. Paul Getty  
*American, 1892 - 1976*  
*The Joys of Collecting, 1965*  
*Ink and paper*  
Closed: 23.8 x 22 x 2 cm (9 3/8 x 8 11/16 x 13/16 in.)  
T.2009.79

27. J. Paul Getty  
*American, 1892 - 1976*  
and Ethel Le Vane  
*Collector's Choice: The Chronicle of an Artistic Odyssey through Europe, 1955*  
*Ink and paper*  
Closed: 22.2 x 15 x 3.8 cm (8 3/4 x 5 7/8 x 1 1/2 in.)  
T.2009.136
Statuette of Aphrodite  
Greek, 250 - 200 B.C.  
Terracotta with polychromy  
Object: H: 27.1 cm (H: 10 11/16 in.)  
55.AD.7

Portrait of a Woman as Cybele  
Roman, about A.D. 50  
Marble  
Object: H: 161.9 x W: 70 x D: 64.5 cm (H: 63 3/4 x W: 27 9/16 x D: 25 3/8 in.)  
57.AA.19

Storage Jar with Boxers  
Greek (Attic), about 520 B.C.  
Attributed to Painter N  
Terracotta  
Object: H: 31 x Diam.(body): 18.5 cm (H: 12 3/16 x Diam. (body): 7 5/16 in.)  
Object (rim): Diam.: 12.7 cm (Diam.: 5 in.)  
Object (foot): Diam.: 11.3 cm (Diam.: 4 7/16 in.)  
68.AE.19

Statue of a Crouching Lion  
Greek (Attic), about 380 B.C.  
Marble  
Object: H: 37.5 x W: 22.2 x L: 89.9 cm (H: 14 3/4 x W: 8 3/4 x L: 35 3/8 in.)  
57.AA.12

Wall Fragment with a Peacock  
Roman, about A.D. 70  
Fresco  
Object (mounted within a backing and frame): H: 40 x W: 24.8 x D: 3.2 cm (H: 15 3/4 x W: 9 3/4 x D: 1 1/4 in.)  
68.AG.13

Head of Agrippina the Younger  
Roman, about A.D. 50  
Marble  
Object: H: 32 x W: 27 x D: 28 cm (H: 12 5/8 x W: 10 5/8 x D: 11 in.)  
Gift of J. Paul Getty  
70.AA.101

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The Lansdowne Herakles
Roman, about A.D. 125
Marble
Object: H: 193.5 cm; Weight: 385.6 Kg. (76 3/16 in.; 850 lbs.)
Gift of J. Paul Getty
70.AA.109

Faustina the Elder
Roman, A.D. 140 - 160
Marble
Object: H: 209 cm (H: 82 5/16 in.)
Gift of J. Paul Getty
70.AA.113

Young Woman (The Elgin Kore)
Greek, about 475 B.C.
Gray marble
Object: H: 71 x W: 28 x D: 19 cm (H: 27 15/16 x W: 11 x D: 7 1/2 in.)
Gift of J. Paul Getty
70.AA.114

Mosaic Floor with a Boxing Scene
Gallo-Roman, about A.D. 175
Stone and glass tesserae
71.AH.106

The Marbury Hall Zeus
Roman, 1st century A.D.
Marble
Object: H: 207 cm (81 1/2 in.)
73.AA.32

Ceremonial Chair (The Elgin Throne)
Greek, 4th century B.C.
Marble
Object: H: 81.5 x W (across front): 70 cm (32 1/16 x 27 9/16 in.)
74.AA.12

Wine Cup with Cupids Holding Garlands
Roman, 50 - 25 B.C.
Silver
Object: H: 13 x W: 19.4 x Diam.: 11.6 cm (5 1/8 x 7 5/8 x 4 9/16 in.)
75.AM.55

Poet as Orpheus with Two Sirens
South Italian (Tarantine), 350 - 300 B.C.
Terracotta with Polychromy
Various, see extensions
76.AD.11

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Gravestone of Mytton
Greek (Attic), about 400 B.C.
Marble with polychromy
Object: H: 71.1 x W: 24.1 x D: 8.9 cm (28 x 9 1/2 x 3 1/2 in.)
78 AA.57