French Drawings

The exhibition of French drawings in American collections, which has recently enjoyed such notable successes in Europe and which was briefly heralded in last month’s Bulletin, is now on display in our paintings galleries at the southwest corner of the Museum. As earlier reported, the exhibition was organized for its European tour by the Committee for the Exhibition of French Drawings from American Collections under the auspices of the International Council at the Museum of Modern Art. The unselfish generosity of many lenders has made it possible to keep this assemblage of precious papers virtually intact for an additional six weeks, so that it may be enjoyed by an American audience before it is finally dispersed. It will remain on view until March 15.

For a number of reasons, both good and regrettable, drawings are more generally kept in cabinets than shown on museum walls. As one consequence, only a small fraction of the public familiar with the exhibits in the galleries of the Metropolitan is aware of the complementary resources among our drawings. The study for a figure in the Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo and several examples by Leonardo are perhaps the most prominent indications of the wealth in this “hidden treasure.”

The Museum’s collection of drawings by French artists is not very large and as yet not evenly balanced, but it is studded with brilliant examples. Some, those by Fouquet, Watteau, and Redon, for instance, are among the most famous French drawings in this country and have often been seen in exhibitions and in reproductions. Others are still relatively unknown to scholars as well as to the general public.

A token selection of these masterworks is illustrated on the following pages as a reminder of the store in our cabinets and as a form of addendum to the catalogue of the loan exhibition. All the subjects shown here are drawn on paper.
**Above:** The Garden at Nancy, by Jacques Callot (1592-1635). Pen and ink. Height 9 3/16 inches
Anne Stern Fund, 1955

**Left:** Portrait of an Ecclesiastic, by Jean Fouquet (1415/20-1481). Drawn about 1460. Silverpoint. Height 7 15/16 inches
Rogers Fund, 1949

**Right:** Cardinal Clement Dolera, by Pierre Dumoustier (about 1540 [?]-about 1600). Inscribed: Le Cardinal Dollar. Black and red chalk and water color. Height 15 3/4 inches
Gift of Edith Sachs, 1951
ABOVE: Head of the Mezzetin, by Jean Antoine Watteau (1684-1721). Red and black chalk. Height 5 3/8 inches
Rogers Fund, 1937

LEFT: Seated Lady with a Fan, by Watteau. Red, white, and black chalk. Height 8 3/8 inches
Bequest of George W. Blumenthal, 1941

BELOW: Head of a Girl, by Jean Baptiste Greuze (1725-1805). Red chalk. Height 14 inches
Rogers Fund, 1949

Bequest of Grace Rainey Rogers, 1943
Rogers Fund, 1927

RIGHT: A study for a portrait of Émile Duranty, by Edgar Degas (1834-1917). Stamped in red: Degas. Charcoal and white chalk on bluish gray paper. Height 12 1/8 inches
Rogers Fund, 1918
Nightmare, by Rodolphe Bresdin (1825-1885). Pen and brush. Height 7 inches

Gift of F. H. Hirschland, the J. B. Neumann Collection, 1952
Dick Fund, 1948

LEFT: A Lady Fishing, by Georges Seurat (1859-1891). Conté crayon. Height 12 1/6 inches
Joseph Pulitzer Bequest Fund, 1951

Bequest of Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, 1929. The Havemeyer Collection