G. P. A. HEALY
CENTENARY
EXHIBITION

ART INSTITUTE
OF CHICAGO, 1913
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, no 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)
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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

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The Newberry Library

31

LÉON GAMBETTA

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The Newberry Library

32

MISS ROMAIN GODDARD (Madame von Overbeck)

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The Newberry Library

33

GENERAL GRANT

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34

COL. CHARLES G. HAMMOND

Lent by
Mrs. William Hubbard

35

JOEL T. HART

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The Newberry Library
ARThur HEALy AS A CHILD
Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

G. P. A. HEALy
Lent by
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Lent by
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Madame de Mare
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Lent by
Mr. G. O'Shaughnessy

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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
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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FRANZ LISZT
Lent by
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55
LISZT HOLDING A CANDLE
Lent by
Miss Longfellow

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STEPHEN TRIGG LOGAN
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The Chicago Historical Society

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HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
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Mrs. A. V. S. Anthony

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LORD LYONS
Lent by
The Newberry Library

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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
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MADAME DE PIERRE and HER DAUGHTER
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MARTIN RYERSON
Lent by
Old People’s Home
72

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Old People's Home

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GENERAL SHERMAN
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Mr. M. S. Willing

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Lent by
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THE MISSES THORN
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JOHN ROSS VALENTINE
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Mr Valentine

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MRS. JOHN ROSS VALENTINE
Lent by
Mr Valentine

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SAMUEL WARD
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ELIHU B. WASHBURNE
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Mrs. H. Washburne

DANIEL WEBSTER
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Mrs. F. T. West

JEFFE WHITEHEAD
Lent by
Mrs. E. P. Whitehead

MRS. JEFFE WHITEHEAD
Lent by
Mrs. E. P. Whitehead

MRS. WILLING
Lent by
Mr. M. S. Willing
REV. DR. WOODBRIDGE
Lent by
Mrs. Dickinson

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
Lent by
Miss Jennie B. Bryan

DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES
Lent by
The family of the artist

SKETCHES
Lent by
Mrs. Charles H. Besly

GIRL WITH PITCHER
Competition study painted at one sitting at
Baron Gros' studio in 1835
Lent by
Mrs. Lysander Hill

GEN. JAMES A. MULLIGAN
Lent by
Miss Mulligan
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