Louisiana Paintings
OF THE
Nineteenth Century

Lent By
MR. AND MRS. W. E. GROVES
NEW ORLEANS

AN EXHIBITION IN THE
Louisiana State University Library
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1959
BATON ROUGE
As a feature of the dedication of Louisiana State University's new library building, which inaugurates the celebration of the University's centennial year, this exhibition of Louisiana paintings of the nineteenth century shows an important aspect of the cultural milieu in which the University was founded and flourished in its early years. The fact that the paintings were collected by a native of Louisiana and an alumnus of Louisiana State University is significant.

In the nineteenth century Louisiana, specifically New Orleans, was an important art center in this country, though for the most part the artists were not natives of Louisiana. Throughout the century, artists from Europe as well as from other parts of the United States came to Louisiana for brief or prolonged visits, or for permanent residence. Many families settling in Louisiana, coming either from other places in America or from Europe, often brought works of art with them. Works of art were imported, exhibited, and auctioned, notably the collection of 350 paintings by important European masters which was brought to New Orleans in 1847 with the intention of forming a national art gallery. This plan failed to materialize, and the paintings were eventually sold at auction and dispersed throughout the country, in some cases forming the nuclei of now important art museum collections.

The history of art in Louisiana in the nineteenth century is by no means complete. Important contributions were made by Dr. Isaac Monroe Cline in the 1920's and by the Delgado Museum - WPA project in the 1930's, but much research remains to be done. Any smallest bit of information would be welcomed by future historians of art in the state. The Louisiana State University Library could well serve as the receiving point for such information, since it already has extensive materials in many other aspects of Louisiana history.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William E. Groves, who owns the collection of Louisiana paintings from which this exhibition has been selected, was born in Pollock, Grant Parish, Louisiana, in 1906, the son of Clyde Olan and Sally Walters Groves. He received the A. B. degree in 1928 and the M. S. degree in Business Administration in 1933 from Louisiana State University, and the M. A. degree in Actuarial Mathematics in 1937 from the University of Michigan. In 1928 he married Gladys Rhodes, also of Grant Parish. They have three children. Since 1938 he has been a consulting actuary in New Orleans. Mr. Groves has been vice-president of the Gallery Circle Theatre since 1954, was secretary-treasurer of the National Conference of State Employee Retirement Systems in 1957-58, and is a member of the Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice, of which he was a director in 1958.

Through a mutual interest in glass collecting, Mr. Groves became acquainted with the late Dr. Isaac Monroe Cline of New Orleans. In the early 1940's Dr. Cline persuaded him to collect paintings. At that time Dr. Cline had stored in the attic of the building where he conducted his antique shop the fruits of a lifetime of collecting old paintings. Through the years preceding Dr. Cline's death in 1955, a large part of this collection was gradually transferred to Mr. Groves, while at the same time the two friends continued to collect such paintings as became available. Mr. Groves has continued to add to his collection; but since the time when it reached a total of over 2,000 pictures, he has restricted his acquisitions largely to American paintings and particularly to early Louisiana paintings of the period before 1880. As a result of his avid collecting, he is also interested in the restoration and preservation of old canvases.

The pictures shown here are only a small part of the total collection owned by Mr. Groves, being a selection of the best of those which have been restored and can be exhibited. Mr. Groves's interest in early Louisiana paintings is shared by Mrs. Groves. Many of the paintings exhibited here normally hang in their home.
AMANS, JACQUES

Born 1801 in Belgium (?), Amans painted portraits in New Orleans from 1828 to 1856, though during that period he evidently went to France, for he exhibited several times in the Paris Salons from 1831 to 1837. He died in Paris in 1888.

1. Portrait of a Man
2. Portrait of a Woman
3. Portrait of a Woman
4. Portrait of a Woman in a Bonnet
5. Portrait of Achille Murat

Charles Louis Napoleon Achille Murat was a nephew of Napoleon I. He was born in Paris in 1801, the eldest son of Joachim Murat, successful Napoleonic general, and Caroline Bonaparte, youngest sister of Napoleon, who were to rule as King and Queen of Naples from 1808 to 1815. After an exile in Austria, the former crown prince came to the United States in 1823, by this time a convert to nineteenth century liberalism. He settled on a plantation in Florida in 1824, married a great grandniece of George Washington in 1825, became an American citizen and was admitted to the bar in 1828. He and his wife went to Europe in 1830, where, during the next three years, Murat tried to encourage the democratic movement by writing about the United States.

Achille Murat first visited New Orleans in 1827. In 1835, in an attempt to recoup his fortune by speculation in Texas land, he moved to New Orleans. He bought a fine house there and almost simultaneously a plantation at Baton Rouge. The plantation house, "Magnolia Mound," built before 1800, still stands at 2161 Nicholson Drive. Twenty acres of the plantation form the northwest corner of the Louisiana State University campus. Murat’s Baton Rouge home drew him more and more away from New Orleans. The financial panic of 1837 brought an end to his Louisiana sojourn since he was unable to pay for either of the homes. He and his wife returned to their Florida plantation
near Tallahassee. Except for two trips to Europe in an unsuccessful effort to regain some of the Murat fortune which had been confiscated by Bourbon France, Achille Murat remained in Florida until his death in 1847. His widow was granted a generous pension by Napoleon III.

ARNOLD, EDWARD, after William Tylee Ranney

Arnold was born in Heilbronn, Wuertemberg, Germany, between 1824 and 1826. He appeared in New Orleans about 1853, living there until his death in 1866. His *Battle of Port Hudson*, portraying the battle of 1862 about 135 miles above New Orleans on the Mississippi River, is in the collection of the United States National Museum.

Ranney (1813-1857) was a noted genre and historical painter.

6. Marion Crossing the Pedee

The original by Ranney was painted in 1851. The subject is an episode in the American War of Independence. After disheartening American reverses in the South, Francis Marion organized a brigade of guerrilla fighters in South Carolina in August, 1780. On August 12 he crossed the Pedee River at Port’s Ferry to disperse a large British force under Major Gainey. This was Marion’s first maneuver of the kind that helped to earn him the name of “Swamp Fox” and to lead to eventual American success in the South. The popular demand for this representation of Marion’s feat is evidenced by both Charles Burt’s engraving and the Currier and Ives print after the Ranney painting, as well as by Arnold’s copy.

BAKER, WILLIAM H.

Born in 1825, Baker worked in New Orleans as a portrait painter during the 1850’s. In the late 1860’s he was in New York City or Brooklyn, and from 1869 to his death in 1875 he served as principal of the Brooklyn Art Association.

7. The Scout
BERNARD, FRANCISCO
Bernard was a French artist who painted portraits and landscapes in and around New Orleans, possibly as early as 1848 but certainly from 1856 to 1860. He returned to New Orleans in 1867. Examples of his work have been found in New Jersey.

8. Indian Encampment

BUCK, WILLIAM H.
Buck was born in Norway in 1840. He worked in a cotton office in New Orleans before he became a professional painter in 1880. He had studied under Richard Clague in New Orleans and had also studied in Boston. He was associated with Molinary in founding the Southern Art Union in New Orleans. Buck's specialty was landscape painting. He died in New Orleans in 1888.

9. Back Bay, Biloxi (illustrated)
10. The Cotton Centennial Exposition

This painting commemorates the World’s Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, which opened in New Orleans on December 16, 1884, and closed on June 1, 1885. Two of the main buildings are represented in the painting.

11. House and Garden

12. Landscape with Oak Tree

CHALLONER, WILLIAM L.


18. RICHARD CLAGUE: Trapper’s Cabin, Louisiana
The Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans has four paintings by Challoner, all portraying ships, either at sea or in harbor.

13. Marine

CLAGUE, RICHARD

Clague is one of the few painters of Louisiana in the nineteenth century who was a native of the state. He was born in New Orleans in 1816, the son of Richard Clague, born on the Isle of Man, and of Justine de Laroche, born in New Orleans. The father was an important citizen of New Orleans, engaged in shipping, trading, banking, finance, and insurance. The son received his youthful education in Switzerland and his training as an artist at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. His style, however, seems to have been influenced more by contact with the next-to-nature paintings of the Barbizon School than by academic training in Paris. Though he returned to France at least twice, he lived mainly in Louisiana, painting its scenery in a realistic yet intimate way that was to influence its pupils William H. Buck and Marshall J. Smith, Jr., and others. Clague has been called the "father of Louisiana landscape painting." He also occasionally painted portraits. Clague died in New Orleans in 1878.

14. Louisiana Scene
15. Louisiana Scene
16. Louisiana Scene
17. Portrait of the Artist
18. Trapper's Cabin, Louisiana (illustrated)

COULON, EMMA

19. Flowers
20. The Sailboat
21. Still Life
28. G. P. A. HEALY: Portrait of a Woman
to paint innumerable portraits of statesmen, royalty, and leaders of business and society. He worked in New Orleans in 1852 and 1861. His extremely successful career was brought to an end by his death in Chicago in 1894.

27. Portrait of a Woman

28. Portrait of a Woman (illustrated)

JARVIS, JOHN WESLEY

Portrait and miniature painter, engraver, and sculptor, Jarvis, a nephew of John Wesley, was born in England in 1780, but at the age of five came with his family to Philadelphia. After an apprenticeship with the engraver Edward Savage, he moved to New York City, where he painted portraits from 1801 to 1810. After three years in Baltimore he returned to New York City to paint a series of full-length portraits for the New York City Hall. In the years from 1821 to 1834 he maintained his residence in New York City but with few exceptions spent the winters in New Orleans. Paralyzed in 1834, he spent his last years in New York City, where he died in 1840.

29. Portrait of a Woman

JULIO, E. B. D. FABRINO

Born in 1843 on the island of St. Helena of an Italian father and a Scotch mother, Julio came to the United States in 1861. After three years of schooling in Boston, he went to St. Louis as an artist in 1864. Around 1870 he came to New Orleans, where he lived the greater part of the remainder of his life, except for the year of 1872, which he spent in Paris studying under Leon Bonnat. Several of his paintings were exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. He painted portraits, genre pictures, and landscapes. Suffering from tuberculosis and seeking a more healthful climate, he went to Georgia, where he died at Kingston in 1879. In 1871 he had painted two versions of The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson.
One of these hangs in the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans, and the other in Hill Memorial Building, the former home of the Louisiana State University Library on the present campus. The latter painting was given to the University by David French Boyd, President of the University 1865-1880 and 1884-1886.

30. Landscape

LION, JULES

Born in France about 1816, Lion came to New Orleans as early as 1837 and worked there until 1865 as a portrait and miniature painter, lithographer, and daguerreotypist. He painted a portrait of John James Audubon.

31. Portrait of a Woman

MOLINARY, ANDRES

Molinary was born 1847 in Gibraltar. Before coming to America, he studied painting in Seville and Rome, and traveled in Morocco, Egypt, and East Africa, sketching street scenes. He settled in New Orleans in 1876 and died there in 1915. Though he painted landscapes and fanciful heads, he specialized in portraits, painting so many Louisiana Supreme Court justices that he came to be called the “court painter.” Paintings exhibited at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 brought him national recognition. Through his painting, his teaching, and his pioneer work in art organizations (the Southern Art Union, the Art Association of New Orleans, the Isaac Delgado Museum of Art), he was a key figure in the cultural life of New Orleans in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

32. Landscape with House

33. The Old Gentilly Road

34. The Sailboat
RINCK, A. D.

Rinck was a portrait and miniature painter who exhibited in the Paris Salons from 1835 to 1840. He worked in New Orleans from 1840 to 1871.

35. Portrait of a Man

SMITH, MARSHALL J., JR.

Though named more than once as a native of New Orleans, Marshall J. Smith, J.r., was actually born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1854, and was brought to New Orleans in his infancy. He studied painting under Richard Clague in New Orleans and continued his art studies in Europe, mainly in Rome and Munich. He returned to New Orleans in 1876, and in 1880, with Molinary, Buck, and Livingstone, was one of the original founders of the Southern Art Union. Though Smith painted portraits, he specialized in landscape and was a worthy successor to Richard Clague in this field.

36. Bayou Farm, Louisiana
37. Landscape
38. Landscape
39. Landscape
40. Landscape

SULLY, THOMAS

Born in England in 1783, Sully was brought by his parents to Charleston, S. C., in 1792, and grew up there. He spent the early years of his painting career from 1801 to 1808 in Norfolk, Richmond, New York City, Hartford, and Boston, then settled in Philadelphia, where he lived as the city’s leading portrait painter until his death in 1872. He spent a year (1809-1810) in England under the tutelage of Benjamin West and made a second trip to England in 1838 to paint Queen Victoria. Sully visited in the South several times.
So numerous are the portraits by Sully of Louisiana and Mississippi people that it has been inferred that he must have paid a visit or visits to the lower Mississippi Valley. No indisputable evidence that he did has yet been brought forward, though Sully’s life is well documented. Nevertheless, the evidence of the numerous Louisiana and Mississippi portraits is still weighty, and Sully is included in this exhibition of Louisiana paintings on the same basis on which he has been included in other exhibitions in Louisiana of artists associated with the state. Further study of the possibility that Sully visited Louisiana remains to be made.

41. Portrait of Jane Sully Darley

Jane Cooper Sully, daughter of Thomas Sully, was born in 1807, married Henry Westray Darley in 1833, and died in 1877. She herself painted portraits.

42. Portrait of Miss Frances Minor

In 1816 Sully made entries in his Register of Portraits for "Miss Catharine Minor" and "Miss Fanny Minor." After each name he added, "of Natchez." Documents in the Department of Archives at the Louisiana State University Library show that in May, 1816 Miss Catharine Minor and Miss Frances Minor and their mother sailed from New Orleans for New York, leaving a mailing address in Philadelphia, and that on July 29th, 1816, a cash payment of $343.00 was made to Thomas Sully for portraits of "Misses F. & C. Minor" with frames and packing cases.

Frances Minor, daughter of Stephen Minor by his third wife Catharine Lintot, married Major Henry Chotard in 1819. The Minor family has been prominent in Mississippi and Louisiana since the eighteenth century.

UNKNOWN ARTIST

43. The Churchyard
VAUDECHAMP, JEAN JOSEPH

Vaudechamp was born in France in 1790 and died there in 1866. He exhibited frequently in the Paris Salons from 1817 to 1848. He spent the winters of 1832 to 1836 in New Orleans, painting many portraits. William Dunlap (1766-1839) reported in his Diary that Vaudechamp had made $30,000 in three winters in New Orleans.

49. Portrait of a Man
WALKER, WILLIAM AIKEN

Walker, genre and portrait painter, was born about 1838 in Charleston, where he first exhibited at the age of 12 in 1850. Later he studied at Duesseldorf in Germany. He spent most of his life in Charleston, but he also did extensive work in Florida and Louisiana. Currier and Ives published lithographs of two of his paintings in the 1880's, including *The Levee - New Orleans*. Walker was seemingly the only nineteenth century painter who recorded the life of the Negro on the cotton plantations of the lower Mississippi Valley. The popularity of this type of painting waned long before his death in 1921 in a state of poverty.

50. Cotton Pickers
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