





Ex Libris

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# The world's Famous Pictures

IN TWO  
DELIGHTFUL  
VOLUMES

288

Mezzogravures  
24 Colourplates  
with critical notes  
on the Pictures



SELECTED BY

Sir Martin Conway · Sir Claude Phillips

Sir Charles Holmes  
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Old  
and  
Modern  
MASTERPIECES

THE charming picture on the cover is by Madame Lebrun and portrays the artist herself with her daughter. To see the original you would need to journey to Paris where it is one of the treasures of the vast galleries of the Louvre, on the walls of which there hang so many masterpieces whose value is beyond estimate.

Yet as you look at this small reproduction, which is much smaller than the actual reproduction in Volume 2 of "The World's Famous Pictures," you can enjoy its beauty, so faithfully are the composition and toné values of the original painting rendered. Yours is not the hurried glance of the eye jaded by sight-seeing and a plethora of pictures; it may well be the lingering study in which every line reveals its charm to you and you approach the heart of the painter through your appreciation of this example of her genius.

### More than Three Hundred Beautiful Plates

AND if in this way you enjoy a single picture, how great will be your pleasure as you take one after another of more than three hundred mezzogravure and colour plates which constitute the two magnificent volumes of "The World's Famous Pictures."

For here you have a gallery of which you may be proud indeed. Not the wealthiest art lover alive could gather the originals of all these into his collection. Even to view the actual paintings reproduced in the first dozen plates or so of this work, you would need to visit the great galleries of Paris, Munich, Berlin, Florence, Venice, Glasgow and London.

This fact may well prompt you to ask how, if these pictures have been selected from so many sources, has the choice been made? The

answer is that this collection is not the arbitrary selection of any single critic. Some years ago the late Sir Claude Phillips, Art Critic of "The Daily Telegraph," compiled a list of One Hundred of the best Pictures, representing all the great schools of painting, old and new. But for "The World's Famous Pictures" this list has been supplemented by two other selections, made expressly by Sir Charles J. Holmes, Director of the National Gallery, London, and Sir Martin Conway, formerly Slade Professor of Fine Arts, Cambridge.

The collection offered in these beautiful volumes also includes a number of famous pictures for which, though they are universally admired, no room had been found in any of the three lists mentioned.

### An Authoritative Collection

THE majority of the chosen pictures are reproduced in rich mezzogravure, but twenty-four examples are printed in full colours. The reproductions are made from the extensive Copyright Collection brought together over a long period of years by Mr. C. Hubert Letts, Fine Art Publisher to H.M. the King, and Director of The Fine Arts Publishing Co., Ltd., in arrangement with whom this work is published.

From all this you will see that the collection may justly claim to be one of authority and excellence. The General Index which is included in this prospectus gives you a complete list of the works selected, and shows, by means of initials in brackets after the name of the painting, which of the above mentioned critics is responsible for the inclusion of each subject.

The Critical Notes printed at the end of each

volume add greatly to the interest of the work. Comment is made upon every painting reproduced, and in many cases a biographical remark upon the life of the artist throws new light upon the examples of his genius. These notes are well written and informative, often drawing your attention to just those points that a connoisseur would mention if he were with you, as you gazed admiringly at the chef d'oeuvre of some great master.

The work of nearly two hundred different artists is represented in these two magnificent volumes. Although no attempt has been made to classify the paintings or to arrange them in any arbitrary or chronological order, "The World's Famous Pictures" provides a gallery of masterpieces that can hardly fail to broaden the artistic vision of all who are charmed by the beauty of its contents.



































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































