

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS.

Wayman Crow's Generous Gift to the City of St. Louis.

Description of the Building—Memorial Hall, Sculpture Galleries, Etc.

The opening of the St. Louis Museum of Fine Arts, Lucas Place and Nineteenth street, to be marked by a simple ceremonial dedication, followed by a reception in the art galleries on Tuesday evening next, will claim the attention of all who are interested in the development of art in St. Louis. Although the beautiful temple erected by Mr. Crow is set apart for the uses of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, an important arm of the Washington University under the direction of Professor Ives, the gift may be considered as one extended to the entire community and as such it will be generally regarded for the practical benefits which will ensue. The establishment of an art school has always been a part of the University plan and in 1875 a drawing department was opened and an evening school. This department was reorganized in 1879, and rules were adopted in an ordinance providing for donations to promote aesthetic education under the conditions of which Mr. Wayman Crow has erected the school and museum, affixing to the main portion of the structure the name "Museum of Fine Arts" and to the auditorium the title of "Memorial Hall." The officers of the school have secured a large number of art works, originals and reproductions, suitable to the uses of the institution. Some have been donated, but the greater portion represents the purchase of the Museum board, composed as follows:

Board of Control—James E. Yeatman, President; Edwin C. Cushman, Secretary; George E. Leighton, Wm. G. Eliot, John B. Henderson, Charles Parsons, Daniel Catlin, Ethan A. Hitchcock, John R. Shepley, Thos. E. Tutt, Halsey C. Ives, ex-officio.

Committee on Finance—Charles Parsons, Daniel Catlin, Thomas E. Tutt.

Committee on Museum Property—John R. Shepley, Ethan A. Hitchcock, Edwin C. Cushman, Halsey C. Ives, ex-officio.

Committee on Exhibition—John R. Shepley, Charles Parsons, Daniel Catlin, H. L. Dousman, Ben. W. Clark, Halsey C. Ives, ex-officio.

A memorial tablet to be placed in the grand vestibule will read as follows:

"As a memorial of Wayman Crow, Jr. born 1852, died 1878, this edifice dedicated to the uses of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, is erected by his father and mother and his sisters: Cornelia L. Carr, Emma C. Cushman, Mary I. Emmons, Isabel Kealhofer, A. D. 1880."

The museum fronts on Lucas Place 138 feet and extends 155 feet along Nineteenth street. The architecture is a combination of the Italian and Florentine order, with certain modifications adopted to modern use. The height of the building is 66 feet, and it is covered with an imposing double mansard roof of the Italian style of ornamentation. The front is constructed of rough and cut stone with trimmings of artistic design. Over the main entrance, which is approached by a broad stone flight with cut facings is a bust of Phidias, and over the windows, right and left, are busts of Michael Angelo and Raphael. The interior is fitted in oak and walnut and the decoration is simple Greek in warm neutral tints. The Pompeian red predominates in the coloring of the upper portion of the vestibules. The walnut finishing adds greatly to the rich effect of the interior. From the grand vestibule there are two doors leading to the Memorial Hall, which may be considered one of the finest art auditoriums in the country. It has a seating capacity for 700 and is designed for lectures, concerts, exhibitions, etc. The walls are finished in Pompeian red and the ceiling presents the Greek style of ornamentation. There are placed around the hall trophies of art, historic busts and reproductions of Hercules and Mercury. The seats slope towards the stage which is set in a niche at the north end, exquisitely finished. The acoustic properties of the hall are excellent, and it is admirably lighted and ventilated.

Seven rooms or galleries on the right and left of the vestibule are devoted to sculpture. The casts are arranged in chronological and ethnological order. Here may be found the figure of Amenophis III, the lid of the sarcophagus of Sebaski; the head of Babestos; a slab copy of the Harpy Tomb; a sarcophagus of the Muses; Hermes and the infant Bacchus; the Townley Venus; the Venus de Milo; the Apollo Belvedere, "Diana and the Stag," etc. The collection was selected by Prof. Ives from the art centers of Europe, and it embraces 340 pieces. The picture galleries are placed at the south end of the upper floor, approached by two handsome staircases. There are five of these apartments fitted with the latest improvements for light. Upon the walls are one hundred and fifty superb canvases, a loan collection from all the private galleries in the city. This is the finest display of art treasures ever recorded in the West. The arrangement of the choice works was entrusted to Messrs. Pettes & Leathe. Here may be seen a genuine Turner and a Carlo Maratti. The exhibition will open to the public on Wednesday morning and remain open for several weeks, at a small admission fee of twenty-five cents. The other portion of the upper floor of the Museum is set apart for studios for the advanced classes, male and female, with toilet rooms and all conveniences. The architects of the Museum, Messrs. Peabody & Stern, have presented a fine work in the Lucas Place structure, and much credit may be taken by Mr. August H. Becker for his efforts in frescoing the entire interior. Mr. Crow will formally convey the property on Tuesday evening to the St. Louis School and Museum of Fine Arts, and Chancellor Eliot will pass the deed over to the Board of Control named above. Mr. J. E. Yeatman, the President, will make a brief response, and acknowledgment on the part of the public will be made in turn by Carl Schurz, John B. Henderson and ex-Gov. Stanford. The cost of the building has been upwards of \$150,000, and the treasures now within its walls represent a value of \$40,000. Cards have been issued for the inaugural reception on Tuesday evening, but the doors will be open to the general public on Wednesday morning.

A Rare Chance.

Custom-made clothing for 50 cents on the dollar at Kent & Miller's closing sale, 305 North Fourth street.

C. A. COOPER, 209 North Fifth street, offers the largest stock of Diamonds of any house in the city.