

HISTORY OF THE ALUMNI ROOM – LINCOLN ART LIBRARY



Verna Sorlie Rossevelt ('66), LLAA Historian/Archivist, picked up some memorabilia from **Judy Gray Smith ('56)**. Judy asked Verna if she remembered the Lincoln Art Library. She said it was a beautiful room at the south end of the first floor, which would now be considered the second floor. Then she gave Verna a pamphlet with the history of the Lincoln Art Library. Lincoln was chosen to receive art from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Because of this, the school architect worked with skilled carpenters of the school district to add all the beautiful wood to the room to display the art.

Following is the information provided in the pamphlet:

The Carnegie Corporation of New York yearly presents various schools throughout the country with an art collection. The collection includes books on art subjects, reproductions of famous paintings, photographs of architecture, sculpture and hand crafts. In 1939 a group of Lincoln teachers and students applied for the grant and, after furnishing proof of their ability to house and care for the collection, received as a gift a Carnegie art study unit.

Under the supervision of Mr. A. M. Allen, the school architect, room 114 (now 265/6) was refurnished in paneled beechwood, with shelves, drawers and furniture fashioned by skilled carpenters of the school district. The architecture is Jacobean, resembling English rooms of the period following Queen Elizabeth. The room's value has been estimated at \$3,000 (in 1956), but since World War II much of the material is unobtainable at any price.

Contents of the Library

The Art Library offers reproductions of all the masterpieces for you to look at again and again. You will find these pictures at the south end of the room. You may learn to recognize the richness of Italian paintings, the clear and careful detail of Dutch painters, or the quick, fleeting glimpses of the nineteenth century French Impressionists. You may find such diverse things in this serene room as stained-glass windows, oriental temples and rules for monks. The Art Library committee frequently adds to the original Carnegie collection, colored reproductions and books on timely art topics.

Books in the collection include biographies of famous artists, books on art appreciation, and information concerning various crafts such as tapestry, pottery-making and photography. There are books on costumes, on modes and manners of earlier days, on the theater, on garden art and even puppets.

Procedure

A faculty member has charge of the Art Library. She is aided by a service organization, the Art Library committee. Members of the committee act as guides in the library and are happy to help visitors find materials or become acquainted with the collection.

Because so many are irreplaceable, books may not be checked out. Pictures may be taken if there is faculty permission. Teachers may check out any material for an indefinite period.

Students may sign in on a green slip in any study period or before school. Classes are cordially invited to visit the room during class periods.

It is the earnest wish of the committee that the Art Library be of service to all.

So, our burning question is, what happened to all this wonderful art? Verna has made an inquiry with the Seattle Public Schools Archives to see if they either have the art or know what happened to it. We'll let you know if and when we get a response. If any alumni have the answer to this mystery, please contact Verna Sorlie Rossevelt at joeandverna@mac.com.