HERBERT DUPUY
(Born May 10, 1856; Died January 10, 1930)
OBITUARY

HERBERT DU PUY

The Carnegie Museum has lost the presence of one of its most faithful friends and benefactors through the death of Mr. Herbert DuPuy which occurred on January 10th, 1930. It is with a sense of deep personal bereavement that the Editor of the Annals records this sad event.

It was my privilege to form the acquaintance of Mr. DuPuy shortly after his arrival in Pittsburgh. For more than half a century we knew each other, and our acquaintance ripened into a close and intimate friendship. Shortly after his arrival in Pittsburgh he became a member of the Shakespeare Club, of the membership of which there survive today, so far as I can recall, but three persons, one of whom is Mrs. Herbert DuPuy, the others Mrs. William R. Thompson and the writer. On November 6th, 1879, he married Miss Amy Hostetter, daughter of the late Dr. David M. Hostetter, a well known physician and capitalist of Pittsburgh. Through long and happy years she was his faithful companion and actively cooperated with him in his works of benevolence. They possessed kindred tastes and a common purpose to do good. One of their crowning acts of kindness was the presentation to the Carnegie Museum of their large and valuable collection of works of art, in amassing which they had expended over half a million of dollars.

Mr. DuPuy was of Huguenot ancestry, belonging to a family of *émigrés*, who ultimately made their home in Philadelphia in the latter part of the Eighteenth Century. He was born in Chicago, on May 10, 1856. His father, the late Charles M. DuPuy, was at that time temporarily resident in Chicago, acting as General Manager of the road, which has since come to be known as the Illinois Central Railway. In 1864 the family returned to Philadelphia, their ancestral home.

Herbert DuPuy received his early education in Philadelphia and graduated in 1878 at Lehigh University as a metallurgical chemist. He at once came to Pittsburgh, finding employment as the chemist at the Lucy Furnace. Here he succeeded, where others had failed, in utilizing to great advantage "roll scale," which manufacturers of
iron and steel before that time had regarded as intractable material, therefore consigned to the dump, although richer in iron than the ores which they were using. DuPuy’s success won the applause of Andrew Carnegie, who alludes to the matter in his *Autobiography*, and always claimed DuPuy as one of his “boys.”

Shortly after his marriage Mr. DuPuy embarked with David Shaw and Robert J. Anderson in the construction at McKees Rocks of a plant for manufacturing crucible steel, which they operated until 1900, when it was absorbed by the Crucible Steel Company of America. Meanwhile he secured control of large tracts of coal-lands which he successfully developed and subsequently sold. He served as a Director of the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad, of the Farmers Deposit National Bank, of the Monongahela Bridge Company, of which he was Vice-President and General Manager. It was under his supervision that the present steel bridge at Smithfield Street was substituted for the suspension bridge which spanned the Monongahela River at that point. He took up operations in real estate and built in the year 1890 more than one hundred and thirty houses in the City of Allegheny, which he successfully sold. He gradually acquired large holdings of real estate both in Pittsburgh and in New York City, where he was reputed to be one of the largest holders of frontage on Broadway. When the Crucible Steel Company of America was organized he took an active part in its development, becoming President, and, on the death of Mr. William G. Park, the Chairman of the Board. The Company at that time was laboring under financial difficulties, from which Mr. DuPuy succeeded triumphantly in extricating it, placing the Company upon a sure foundation. Later he established the Pennsylvania Rubber Company at Jeannette, Pa., placing two of his sons in charge of the same. The death of the sons after the World War compelled him to resume the general oversight of the latter enterprise. Mr. DuPuy was far-seeing, energetic, and possessed until nearly the end of his life of a magnificent physique and indomitable energy. In whatsoever he undertook he prospered.

Mr. DuPuy was public-spirited and generous in his contributions to good causes. For seventeen years he served as a Trustee of the Carnegie Institute, during all that period being a member of the Committee in charge of the Museum and during a few of the later years being also a member of the Committee in charge of the Department of Fine Arts. Many years ago he began gradually to transfer to the
Museum collections which he had been making both in this country and in Europe, representing those branches of art in which he had become a connoisseur. Finally in the year 1927 he announced his intention of giving his entire collection to the people of Pittsburgh, placing it in the custody of the Department of the Museum. One of the most important and historically interesting parts of this great and varied assemblage of works of art is that which is composed of miniatures, in which the leading miniature painters of the last four centuries are represented, in many cases by portraits of historically famous personages, among them Oliver Cromwell and Napoleon Bonaparte. This is said to be, with one exception, the largest and most perfect collection of miniatures in existence in the New World. The arts of the silversmith and the jeweler, the carver in wood, the modeler in wax, and the maker of illuminations on vellum, are splendidly illustrated.

Mr. DuPuy took a deep interest in the affairs of the Episcopal Church of which he was a member, many of the annual conventions of which he attended as a delegate from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He contributed generously to all appeals for assistance on behalf of the various hospitals and charities of the city in which he made his home. In 1927 he gave to Yale University two funds in memory of Wilfred and Charles M. DuPuy, his sons, to aid self-supporting students who are struggling to make their way through that institution.

Mr. DuPuy had many friends on the other side of the Atlantic. An aunt was the wife of the late Sir Richard C. Jebb, the famous Professor of Greek at Cambridge University in England, one of the most famous scholars of his time. Lady Jebb still survives, and is at present residing in this country. His sister, Miss Maud DuPuy, was the wife of Sir George P. Darwin, the second son of Charles R. Darwin. For many years he was Professor of Astronomy and higher mathematics at Cambridge University. She survives her husband, who passed away loaded with honors, Dec. 12, 1912. Mr. DuPuy also had friends in France, the land of his paternal ancestors, among them the late Baron d'Estournelles de Constant. For years Mr. DuPuy was the Vice-President of the Huguenot Society of America.

We who knew him best will ever mourn his absence from the Museum, which he loved and which, as his good wife said to me recently, "absorbed his thought more than anything else, except his business affairs."

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