

Edgar Degas - A Few Facts and Dates (by Hilaire Germain)

Born: 19th July 1834 Rue Saint-George, Paris.

Died: 27th September 1917, Boulevard de Clichy, Paris.

Father: Auguste, half French, half Italian.

Mother: Celestine (nee Musson) native of Louisiana, Creole of French descent. Died 1846.

Educated: Lycee Louis-le-Grand (Rue Saint- Jacques, opp. The Sorbonne) from October 1845 to March 1853. Former pupils include Voltaire, Moliere, Robespierre, Delacroix, Gericault, Hugo and Baudelaire. Faculte de Droit (law school - one term only in 1853). Ecole des Beaux-Arts (from 1855 until 1856). Lived in 4 Rue Mondovi with his father and worked in Lamothe's studio (Lamothe had been a pupil of Ingres)

Influences: Daumier, Delacroix and Ingres

Exhibitions: Salons of 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869 and 1870 and all the Impressionist exhibitions bar one from the first (1874) where he showed 10 pictures to the eighth and last in 1886. He boycotted the seventh in 1882.

Foreign travel: Italy frequently but longest visit 1856-9; Naples again in 1860; Louisiana 1872-3; England (London) several times; Spain and Morocco in 1889 with Giovanni Boldini (1842-1931). He also toured much of France. Longchamps: opened in 1857 and became a regular haunt of Degas when he was in Paris.

Style: Changes from classic to modern around 1870. Franco- Prussian war: Participated first as an infantryman in the National Guard and then in the artillery.

The Commune: March to May 1871. Degas non- participating supporter.

Father's death: Degas' father died in 1874 leaving the family bankrupt.

New Studio: 1890, Degas moved in to a new studio at 37 Rue Victor Masse.

First one man show: 1892 in Durand-Ruel's gallery. Landscapes.

Final studio: three floors at 6 Boulevard de Clichy from 1912.

Estate: More than 8,000 works of art (his own plus his collection) were itemised on his death. Eight auctions (five of his own works and three of his collections) were held during 1918 and 19. Among the items he had collected were works by Ingres, Delacroix, Gauguin, Cezanne and Manet.

A-A Hebrard: foundry appointed by Degas' beneficiaries to cast bronzes. Contract signed 13th May 1818. First sets completed by 1921.

DEGAS IN THE BURRELL COLLECTION FURTHER READING

Roy McMullen Degas: His Life, Times, and Work Seeker & Warburg, London, 1985

Ed. Richard Kendall Degas by himself: Drawings, prints, paintings, writings Macdonald & Co (Publishers) Ltd, 1987

Richard Thomson Degas: The Nudes London, 1988

Henri Loyrette et al, Degas

Catalogue of major retrospective held in Paris, Ottawa and New York in 1988/9

Richard Kendall Degas, images of Women

London, 1989 (exhibition held in Liverpool and Glasgow)'

Jean Sutherland Boggs and Anne Maheux Degas Pastels New York, 1992

Richard Kendall Degas beyond Impressionism National Gallery Publications, London, 1996

Robert L. Herbert Impressionism: Art, Leisure and Parisian Society Yale University Press, 1988