

**MAJOR GIFT OF MASTER DRAWINGS MADE
TO THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM
BY EUGENE AND CLARE THAW**

New York, NY, September 12, 2006—The Morgan Library & Museum announced today that noted collector and trustee Eugene V. Thaw and his wife, Clare, have given the institution an extraordinary selection of fourteen master drawings, including works by Rembrandt, Turner, Delacroix, van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso, and Pollock.

The drawings are part of a larger collection of almost four hundred works on paper formed by the Thaws over the past five decades and promised to the Morgan. The group of fourteen drawings constitutes the largest and most significant gift from the Thaws to date and is also the largest gift of artwork in the Morgan’s history, after those of the founders, Pierpont Morgan and J.P. Morgan, Jr.

“This is an absolutely extraordinary gift from Gene and Clare Thaw and continues their remarkable philanthropic tradition at the Morgan,” said Charles E. Pierce, Jr., Director of the Morgan. “The drawings in this group are some of the greatest by old and modern masters. The Morgan is proud that they will now be part of our permanent collections and available to the public and scholars alike.”



Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, *The Bulwark De Rose and the Windmill De Smeerpot in Amsterdam*, Thaw Collection, The Pierpont Morgan Library; 2006.47.

Among the many exceptional works is Rembrandt’s *The Bulwark de Rose and the Windmill de Smeerpot*, a fresh and bold landscape drawing from the collection of the dukes of Devonshire, at Chatsworth. The sheet was acquired by Mr. Thaw in 2000 for more than \$3.7 million, a record price for a drawing by the artist.

Among major works by nineteenth-century artists is an exuberant Shoreham-period landscape by Samuel Palmer, *Oak Tree and Beech, Lullingstone Park*, which was acquired at auction in 2000 for \$1.5 million,

a record for a work on paper by the artist. Eugène Delacroix's watercolor of a royal tiger is the first of twelve drawings by the artist in the Thaw Collection to enter the Morgan. *Two Cottages at Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer*, a pen and ink drawing by Vincent van Gogh, is a key work in the development of the artist's draftsmanship and is a welcome addition to the Morgan's single sheet by the artist. The Morgan's holdings in works by postimpressionist artists are further enhanced by the lush watercolor of a young Tahitian girl by Paul Gauguin.



Pablo Picasso, *Portrait of Marie-Thérèse Walter*, Thaw Collection, The Pierpont Morgan Library; 2006.58.

The Morgan's growing collection of twentieth-century works on paper is greatly enriched by significant drawings by Matisse, Picasso, and Pollock. A study of a *chocolatière* related to Matisse's painting of the subject now in the Hermitage (1900) is the first of five drawings by the artist in the Thaw Collection to enter the Morgan. Picasso's 1936 portrait of his lover Marie-Thérèse Walter is likewise the first of five Thaw drawings by the artist to join the Morgan's holdings. A powerful early sheet by Jackson Pollock, made in 1943 for his patron Peggy Guggenheim, is the first drawing by this artist in the collection.

The Thaw gift also contains numerous noteworthy old master drawings that further augment the Morgan's renowned collection. A rare compositional study by fifteenth-century Venetian artist Vittore Carpaccio is a major addition to the Morgan's substantial holdings in early Italian drawings. An oil on paper head study by sixteenth-century German artist Lucas Cranach the Elder is the Morgan's first work on paper by the artist, as is a delicate pen and black and white ink sketch of lovers in a landscape by Albrecht Altdorfer. Adding to the Morgan's significant and substantial holdings of works by seventeenth-century Dutch artists are an exceptional watercolor and ink landscape view by Philips Koninck and a rare, luminous small study in brush and brown wash of a young boy by Gerbrand van den Eeckhout.

"The Morgan Library & Museum is one of the world's great repositories of the art and artifacts of Western culture," Eugene V. Thaw said, in making this gift to the Morgan. "My wife, Clare, and I are proud of our long association with the institution, and we are pleased to be able to enhance its collections with these enduring works of art."

Since 1968, the Thaws have given the Morgan more than seventy-seven old master and modern drawings and sketchbooks. Past gifts include works by Fra Bartolommeo, Andrea Mantegna, Jacques Callot, Rembrandt, Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Antoine Watteau, Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Francisco Goya, Caspar David Friedrich, John Constable, Edgar Degas, Georges Seurat, and Paul Cézanne.

Background of the Thaw Collection

Eugene Thaw's formidable knowledge of art history, keen sense of quality, and deep understanding of the goals of museums and private collectors are inextricable from his success as a dealer in paintings, drawings, and sculpture. It is inevitable, perhaps, that he and his wife should also have begun to collect for themselves. In the decades since the early 1950s, when they acquired their first drawing, a figure study by Giambattista Tiepolo (1696–1770), they have assembled the finest collection of drawings and watercolors in private hands in America. It was never their intention that it be comprehensive; instead they have focused upon the work of specific draftsmen and types of drawings that particularly appealed to them. They have emphasized incunabular works—sheets datable to the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries—on the one hand, and drawings from the eighteenth to the first half of the twentieth centuries on the other. In 1975 the Thaws announced their intention to present the collection to The Morgan Library & Museum, in stages, during their lifetime.

The Morgan Library & Museum

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical and performing arts venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirms its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

General Information: The Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-3405, (212) 685-0008, www.themorgan.org

Hours: Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over) and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission to the McKim rooms is without charge during the following times: Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

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