

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

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The College of Fine Arts was organized in the year 1873. Its distinctive feature is to present courses of study in the various branches of the Fine Arts, similar in breadth and scope to the courses in the colleges of Liberal Arts in our country. As this college was a new experiment in American education, there were no models at hand that could be followed or referred to for guidance. The work of organizing and developing this department of the University was, therefore, necessarily subject to conditions which might be modified as new opportunities and circumstances might arise. At the outset the faculty of instruction was formed from such helpers as were found in the city of Syracuse. As the improved financial condition of the University gradually permitted, accessions to the faculty were made from Europe and America. The college has kept pace with the advance of public taste, and the great improvement in the teaching of drawing and other branches of artistic education in the public and private schools of our country within the last quarter of a century has rendered it possible to gradually elevate the standard of admission to the courses of this college, with a corresponding advance in the grade and quality of instruction and the standard for graduation, coördinate with the progress that has been made in the Colleges of Liberal Arts, and of Medicine and Law, in this and other universities during the last twenty-five years.

Since the College of Fine Arts was opened, in 1873, it has been attended, for longer or shorter periods, by 1395 students; of these 232 have completed courses of study and been graduated. In view of the short time that is usually given by the youth of America to the study of art, and the custom of confining the study to the practical or technical side of art, the proportion of graduates is larger than could have been anticipated or expected.

In the courses of study great prominence is given to the theory and the history of the respective branches of the fine arts, as well as to technical execution. A limited portion of time is given, also, to the most important related studies, especially in language, science and history, thus giving to the graduates a broad culture, in addition to critical knowledge and technical in their special lines of artistic study.

The magnificent building erected by the late Mr. John Crouse provides abundant accommodation for the work of this college. The Hiram Gee fellowship furnishes opportunity for the best graduate in the course in painting, in each year, to pursue advanced study in art in some country in Europe. The Leavenworth-Wolff collection of engravings of distinguished men of all countries and all ages is without a rival of its kind in America. The success of this college justifies the inauguration twenty-five years ago of this innovation in University education in America.