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THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM RECEIVES MAJOR BEQUEST FROM THE ESTATE OF FORMER DIRECTOR CHARLES RYSKAMP

New York, NY, January 14, 2011—The Morgan Library & Museum announced today that it has received a bequest of more than one hundred drawings and prints from the estate of former director Charles Ryskamp, who died on March 26, 2010. Also included were several literary and historical manuscripts collected by Mr. Ryskamp, who directed the Morgan from 1969 to 1986.

Among the drawings are works by British, French, Italian, Danish, Dutch, and German artists ranging in date from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. The bequest establishes the Danish school at the Morgan with notable works by almost every artist of stature of the Danish Golden Age (1800–1850), including Christoffer Wilhelm Eckersberg (1783–1853) and Christen Købke (1810–1848). It also greatly extends the holdings of nineteenth-century German artists with sheets by Caspar David Friedrich (1774–1840), Adolph Menzel (1815–1905), and others.

The bequest adds to the more than two hundred drawings given to the Morgan by Mr. Ryskamp during his lifetime. It includes sheets by many artists who were not previously represented in the Morgan's collections, as well as significant works by masters such as John Constable (1776–1837) and Charles-François Daubigny (1817–1878). The majority of subjects belong to the genres of landscape and portraiture, but there are noteworthy exceptions that reveal Mr. Ryskamp's penchant for natural history, including drawings by Dutch artists Roches van Veen (active 1660–1709), Willem de Heer (1638(?)–1681), and Pieter Holsteyn the Elder (ca. 1614–1687).

The literary and historical manuscripts include an autograph poem and letter by Ted Hughes (1930–1998) as well as an autograph letter by the eighteenth-century British poet William Cowper (1731–1800) and the original copper plate for Cowper's bookplate. Ryskamp was an authority on Cowper, William Blake (1757–1827), and other English poets. Among the printed books in the bequest is a copy of John Chalkhill's



Johan Thomas Lundbye, *Self Portrait*, graphite.
Charles Ryskamp Collection, The Morgan
Library & Museum.



John Constable, *Stoke Poges Church*, brush and brown wash. Charles Ryskamp Collection, The Morgan Library & Museum.

(ca. 1595–1642) pastoral romance *Thealma and Clearchus* (1683), which Ryskamp used to prepare a scholarly edition of Chalkhill’s works published in 1999.

“Charles Ryskamp was a true connoisseur and his gifts to the Morgan have greatly enriched our collection over the years,” said Morgan director

William M. Griswold. “These new works vividly reflect his taste and erudition, while adding a whole new dimension to our holdings, particularly of drawings by Danish artists. All of us who care so deeply about this institution are moved by Charles’s deep commitment and great generosity.”

The Morgan Library & Museum

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, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan’s private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, 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. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

Admission

\$15 for adults; \$10 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 is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.