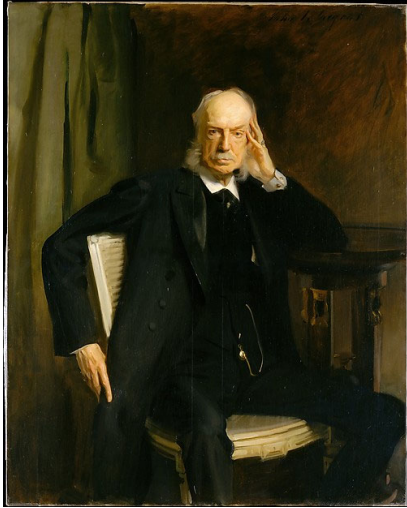


## Henry Gurdon Marquand

### 1819–1902

#### Financier and Art Collector



Henry G. Marquand was the youngest of eleven children. His family owned a successful jewelry business, Marquand and Company, in New York City, where he started working at the age of fifteen. Marquand's older brother sold the company after the death of their father and used the proceeds to invest in real estate and financial ventures. Starting as his brother's assistant, Marquand established himself as a Wall Street banker and later became a railroad executive. Largely retired from business by 1880, Marquand set out to become an art collector.

Marquand had started collecting art in his twenties when he made the acquaintance of painters Henry Kirke Brown (1814–1866) and George Henry Boughton (1833–1905). In November 1869, Marquand became a member of the provisional committee formed to establish a museum of art in New York City. The resulting Metropolitan Museum of Art was incorporated in 1870 and opened to the public two years later. Marquand initially served as a trustee and treasurer and later became the museum's second president. Under his direction, the Metropolitan acquired a world-class collection of art. Many of the museum's earliest acquisitions of Old Master, French, and Italian paintings were gifts of Marquand.

His homes in Newport, Rhode Island, and New York City were built by architect Richard Morris Hunt (1827–1895) and were well documented in the leading design publications of the day. Known for his discerning taste in not just European paintings but also the arts of the Japan, ancient Greece, and the Near East, Marquand collected passionately "like an Italian Prince of the Renaissance." A year after Marquand's death in 1902, his family, struggling with financial difficulties, auctioned off a significant portion of his collection through the American Association of Art.

#### Literature

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