

Brukenthal Collection

Samuel von Brukenthal (1721 – 1803) and his collections

1721- Born in Hermannstadt-Sibiu, capital of Transylvania, descendant of German Saxon colonists of the medieval period. In the 18th century Transylvania passes from Ottoman to Austrian suzerainty and is incorporated into the Hapsburg Empire. Studies in Berlin, Halle and Jena absorbing the ideas of the Enlightenment in Masonic circles.

1745-70 - Brukenthal has a brilliant career in the Austrian administration in his role as councillor and provincial chancellor of Transylvania and is rewarded by being made a baron by empress Maria Theresa. Marries Sophia Katharina von Clockhern daughter of Sibiu patrician. In Vienna lives in palace of chancellery of Transylvania. Begins collecting coins and minerals.

1772 – Painter Johann Martin Stock (1742-1800) begins advising Brukenthal on his art purchases.

1777 – Brukenthal is named governor of Transylvania.

1778 – Begins construction of his palace on main square of Sibiu.

1784 – Collections are installed and the palace is open to visitors.

1787 – Following administrative reforms instituted by the new Emperor Joseph II, the position of governor is abolished. Brukenthal retires from his official duties. He concentrates on his acquisitions – paintings, books, coins, minerals, porcelain, silver, jewelry - and the project of creating a great center of culture and learning in Sibiu.

1789 – End of construction of new wings of palace for enlarged collections. The new “Temple of Wisdom and the Muses” houses a great library, cabinets for antiquities, coins and minerals and a great gallery with 800 pictures: 4 rooms of Italian paintings, 6 for the Flemish and Dutch masters, 3 for the Germans.

1802 – In his will Brukenthal creates a foundation in his name to be administered by his grandson Johan Michael Joseph von Brukenthal (1781-1859) and a board of elected members.

1803 – Brukenthal dies. His will is contested by his disinherited son Michael. The financial crisis of 1811 also greatly diminishes the capital of the foundation.

1817 – Official opening, at last, of the Baron Brukenthal Institute, first of its kind in Transylvania and south-eastern Europe.

1872 – In the absence of direct heirs, the institute and museum become the property of the Evangelical College of Hermannstadt as originally stipulated in the Baron’s will.

1918 – Transylvania is absorbed by Romania. The museum continues to be administered by the Evangelical Church.

1948 – The collections are nationalized by the new Communist state.

2005 – Beginning of the process of restitution of collections to the Romanian Evangelical Church.

Flemish, Dutch and German paintings on exhibition at the Musée Jacquemart-André:

Jan van Eyck (Masseik c. 1400 – Bruges 1441) – Man with Blue Headdress c. 1430

Hans Memling (Memmingen 1430 – Bruges 1494) – Donors with Deceased Son and Little Dog c. 1480

Hans Schwab von Wertigengen (Landshut c. 1465/70 – 1533) Wilhem IV Duke of Bavaria and Jacoba Duchess of Baden 1526

Master of the Legend of Saint Augustine – Vanity Portrait with Man Holding Scull c. 1500

Adriaen Thomas Key (Antwerp c.1540/45 – 1589) – Portrait of Young Man with Ruff 1569

Marinus van Reyerswaele (Reymerswael 1490 – Goes 1546) – Saint Jerome in his Study c. 1545

Pieter I Brueghel (Brueghel c. 1525 – Brussels 1569) and Pieter II Brueghel (Brussels c. 1564 – Antwerp 1637/38) – Massacre of the Innocents in Bethlehem c. 1586-90

Pieter II Brueghel – Landscape with Bird Trap 1631

Pieter II Stevens (Maines c. 1567 – Prague after 1624) – Mountainous Landscape with Peasant Inn c. 1610 – 20

Andries van Eertvelt (Antwerp 1590 – 1652) – Ships Moored in Inlet after a Storm c. 1625

Roelandt Savery (Courtrai 1576 – Utrecht 1639) and Hans II Savery (Courtrai 1597 – Utrecht 1654) – Hunting of the Stag 1619

Jacob von Rottenhammer (Munich 1564 – Augsburg 1625) Diana and Callisto c.1606

Frans II Francken (Antwerp 1581 – 1642) – Neptune and Amphitrite c. 1616-20

Jan I Brueghel (Brussels 1568 – Antwerp 1625) and Hendrik van Balen (Antwerp 1575 – 1632) – The Judgment of Paris 1608

Abraham Janssen (Antwerp c. 1576 – 1632) – Sine Cerere et Libero, Bacchus Friget Venus c. 1605-15

Jan Thomas van Ieperen (Ypres 1610 – Vienna1673) – Alexander the Great and Diogenes 1672

Jacob Jordaens – The Holy Family c. 1625-30

Jacob Jordaens (Antwerp 1593 – 1678) – Three Women and a Child (studies for Summer and The Ferry) c. 1623

Jacob Jordaens – The Rest after the Hunt c. 1635 – 40

Leonard Bremer (Delft 1596 – 1674) Pontius Pilate c. 1640

Frans I van Mieris (Leiden 1635 -1681) – Soldier at a Window, Smoking a Pipe 1658

David II Teniers (Antwerp 1610 – Brussels 1690) – Visit to the Village Doctor c. 1660

Jeremias van Winghe (Brussels 1578 – Frankfort 1645) and Georg Flegel (Olmütz 1566 – Frankfort 1638) –

The Flemish Cook c. 1610-20

Jan Philips van Thielen (Rigouts) (Malines 1618 –Booischoot 1667) – Flower Garland on Architectural Relief 1661

Joris van Son (Antwerp 1623 – 1667) Still Life with Column c. 1662

Jan Davidsz de Heem (Antwerp -1606 – 1683/84) and Erasmus II Quellin (Antwerp 1607 – 1678) – Fruit garland on antique relief with Holy Family c. 1660

Johann Georg Hinz (Altona 1630 – Hamburg 1688) Cabinet of Curiosities c. 1666