

participate in an expedition to Persepolis to cast reliefs from the Great Staircase and other sites. Robinson also worked on the design of the installation, which was located in what is now the Medieval Hall and its two adjacent wings, dedicated primarily to European period rooms. In 1908 a catalogue of the cast collection — with 2,607 works — was published. By 1902, the Museum was finally in a position to purchase original works of the highest quality. Interest in the cast collection subsided. Nevertheless, for close to forty years the installation remained, essentially unchanged, delighting school groups, artists, teachers and the public at large. By the early 1950s nearly all the casts had been moved to a storage area in upper Manhattan. In 1985 the collection was transferred to a warehouse in the Bronx. Since then, thanks to a long-term loan program, and more recently through gifts, these casts have been lent or given to universities, art schools and museums, where they are being restored and once again offer the opportunity to study and enjoy great works of art in full-scale replica.

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