



## Smithsonian Libraries

Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library  
Victor Building, Suite 2100  
MRC 975  
750 9th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
<http://library.si.edu/libraries/american-art-portrait-gallery>

### **Art & Artist Files at the Smithsonian Libraries:**

#### General copyright notice:

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse a patron the right to make photocopies if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

#### Citation and publication:

The Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library's Art & Artist Files are an exceptionally valuable resource for art historical research on artists, art institutions, collectors, and art-related subjects and often are the only obtainable sources of information on emerging regional and local artists.

When citing materials found in the AA/PG Art & Artist Files, please include:

[Specific File/Artist/Institution name, i.e. Gilbert Stuart] Art & Artist Files, Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library, Smithsonian Libraries, Washington D.C. [date consulted]

If you intend to use images or materials from the Art & Artist Files for publication, permission from the Smithsonian Libraries is required. Please contact [SILimages@si.edu](mailto:SILimages@si.edu).

Note that if work is protected by copyright, permission from copyright holder may also be required.

Phad. Star 4/12/63

## Frank Imrey, 77, Dies; Artist and Linguist

Frank J. Imrey, retired artist, professor, linguist, author and world traveler, died of a heart attack Thursday, six days after sailing on board the *Saturnia* for a planned visit with his brother in Italy. He was 77.

Born in Pecs, Baranya County, Hungary, Mr. Imrey was graduated from the Royal Hungarian University of Art Teachers. He also studied at the School of Master Artists in Budapest and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

While in Paris, he received the 1912 International Stage Design Award for his work on the production of the play, "The Blue Bird."

When World War I broke out, Mr. Imrey became a first lieutenant in the Royal Hungarian Mounted Artillery. He received the Iron Cross and the Hungarian Distinguished Service Medal, the Life Saving Medal from Italy, the Chrysanthemum Order from Japan and the Austrian Military Cross.

He was fighting on the eastern front in 1915 when he was captured by the Russians and sent to Siberia. During the following four years he escaped three times.

On the last escape attempt, he reached Vladivostok and finally Japan, after which came months of travel through Manchuria, Korea, Tibet and China.

As he traveled, Mr. Imrey applied his artistic skill by painting and sketching many of the scenes he saw — turning out about 2,000 in all.

Mr. Imrey came to the United States in 1921 and served as art director for First National Pictures of Hollywood until 1923, at which time he became a mural artist for New York City. He became a citizen in 1925.

Over the years, Mr. Imrey served as professor of arts and the history of art in Russia and professor of architecture at Shanghai University and at Howard University here.

Before his retirement in July, 1961, he worked more than nine years as draftsman for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

During World War II, Mr. Imrey served as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Quartermaster Corps.

Mr. Imrey had traveled in every country of Europe and many in the Middle and Far East. He spoke seven languages — English, French, Russian,



FRANK J. IMREY

Slovak, Hungarian, Italian and Japanese.

He was a member of Artists and Sculptors of Los Angeles, the International Artists of New York and Manzan Gyoksa in Tokyo.

Mr. Imrey leaves his wife, Helen, of 2408 Colston drive, Silver Spring, Md., the home address, who was traveling with him to Italy; two daughters, Mrs. W. G. Elcke, of 10212 Parkwood drive, Kensington, Md., and Mrs. Peter Santucci, of 8515 Ogden court, Springfield, Md.; the brother he was planning to visit—Stephen, of Ancona, Italy—and 10 grandchildren.

Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. Thursday in Christ the King Church, 2300 East-West highway, Silver Spring. Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

*Sunday - Jan 23, 1938*

Public - 1234

WASHINGTON HERALD-TIMES—Washington's Ho

## Life Class at National Art School



**FERENC IMREY**, noted painter and muralist, is shown instructing students at the National Art School in the fine points of portraiture.

*Sunday Post*  
*Jan 23, 1938*

13

## Hungarian Painter Joins Staff Of National School for Artists

Ferenc Imrey, Hungarian artist who believes there is as much art in the teaching of painting as there is in the creating of great masterpieces, has joined the staff of the National School of Fine and Applied Art, Connecticut avenue and M streets northwest.

"I do not believe in the theory that painters who can paint, while those who cannot paint, teach," said the artist, whose portraits and other paintings are known throughout the world.

Imrey's achievements attest to his versatility, but yesterday he said he knows no joy greater than that of watching a student progress at an easel.

"Not all great artists are born," he said, "I have watched students work hard for two or three years, showing during that time little or no headway. Then all at once they seem to 'see a light.' They find their medium, and all grows easier."

Mr. Imrey, who was born in Hungary, had a notable career as an artist, soldier and author before coming to Washington several years ago to execute some of the murals for new Government buildings here. He was graduated from the Royal Hungarian Academy in Budapest. After serving as art professor in the Tokyo Imperial Art Academy, he came to California and became affiliated with the University of California.



Post Staff Photo.

FERENC IMREY.

### STAMMERING

TREATED BY FORMER STAMMERER

Other Speech Defects Corrected

HORSLEY-SMITH SCHOOL

2007 O St. N.W. DEC. 3321, Office 3-7

## Giant San Francisco Fair Mural Grows in Reservoir Engine Room

Frank Emery, Once Officer in Hungarian Army,  
Aided by Kenneth Stubbs, of D.C., Doing 3,648  
Square-Foot Painting of Army's Evolution.

An abandoned engine room in the McMillan Filter Plant on Michigan avenue has taken on new life during the last few weeks—not as an engine room but as an artist's studio.

The artist is Frank Imrey, Hungarian painter connected with the exhibit division of the War Department. He is working on a gigantic mural painting which, when finished, will cover 3,648 square feet of wall space.

To be hung in the Government exhibit at the San Francisco World's Fair next year, the painting depicts the development of the United States Army from Revolutionary days to the present. Assisting Imrey is Kenneth Stubbs, young Washington artist.

Because of limited space in his "studio," Imrey explained, he works on one 30-foot panel at a time. His subject at present is the Civil War, which marks the midway point of the composition and the end of the first 152-foot section. When he finally puts down his brush he will have covered an area 304 feet long and 12 feet high.

"This is the first time the Army has been depicted this way," he said. "Because people aren't much interested in war these days, I'm dramatizing the subject. It won't be just men in uniforms but will have landscapes and villages. Then those who don't like uniforms can look at the landscape."

The scene on which he worked yesterday could be any Civil War battle in generalized form, he went on. Full of action, it includes an

exploding shell, frightened horses, two stretcher carriers bearing away a wounded man, a bugler, a young flag-bearer and two mounted officers. He has included Lincoln in the group, but merely for symbolical purposes, he said.

After Imrey was notified his sketches had been selected for the mural, he took two weeks off to study up on the uniforms and strategy used during the different periods. He didn't have to brush up on mural technique, however, for he has had plenty of experience in the medium.

He is responsible for one of the world's largest murals, that in Convention Hall in Atlantic City. More recently he completed 48 decorative panels for the Hotel New Yorker in New York City. Among his most ambitious works is "Little America," the largest cyclorama ever constructed. It was displayed at the Chicago World's Fair and later circulated among theaters.

Imrey's work has taken him far from his native Hungary. After studies at the Royal Hungarian University of Art Teachers and the School of Master Artists in Budapest, he went to Paris for a year. A lieutenant in the Hungarian Army during the World War, he once was captured by the Russians but managed to escape. After the Armistice he did portrait work in China, India and Japan, then came to Hollywood as art director of First National Pictures.

The author of several books, he also contributes to Hungarian and American periodicals.



WASHINGTON: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1938

## Art—3,648 Square Feet of It—Comes to Filter Plant



Frank Imrey (center) puts the finishing touches on the Civil War episode of a 304-foot mural he is painting for the San Francisco World's Fair. His subject is the development of the United States Army and will require plenty of paint and more canvas before he finishes it next December. Working at the right is his assistant, Kenneth Stubbins. By virtue of his connection with the exhibits division of the War Department, Imrey was able to find space enough for the task in an abandoned engine room at the McMillan Filter Plant on Michigan avenue.

Post Staff Photo