

# Lock Haven University

## Official Release

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LHU to exhibit works of John French Sloan  
Artist was born in Lock Haven, famous for images of New York

The town of Lock Haven is the birthplace of John French Sloan, an artist who is inextricably associated with the life, neighborhoods and history of early twentieth-century New York City. In an interesting twist, Lock Haven University is now home to a fine collection of Sloan's artwork.



Sloan, who was born in Lock Haven in 1877, was the preeminent artist of what came to be known as the Ashcan School. His work documented the everyday lives and experiences of ordinary people in the neighborhoods of New York. Today, the Lock Haven University Foundation has a collection of 43 of Sloan's works, many of which will be on exhibit in the Durrwachter Alumni Conference Center on December 8, 9 and 10.

The exhibit opens on December 8 at 1 p.m., with an opening reception from 4 until 6 p.m. The exhibit will be open December 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on December 10 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The public is warmly invited to the exhibit and reception.

Upon his death in 1951, over 20 of Sloan's works were donated to the Lock Haven University Foundation by his widow, Helen Farr Sloan, and Dr. Hollon Farr. In April 2011, when the university established the John Sloan Arts Society to recognize donors who have made gifts supporting the arts, Trustee Thomas "Doc" Sweitzer donated additional Sloan artwork, more than doubling the size of the LHU Foundation collection. The entire collection includes etchings, paintings and several pen-and-ink drawings spanning Sloan's entire career.

The most significant works in the collection are two oils on canvas. An early work, *Self Portrait with Pipe and Clock* (1916), is on permanent display in the university's Sloan Fine Arts Gallery, in the building which also bears his name. *The Cabin on the River Tweed* (1951), on display in Sullivan Hall near the office of the president, is the last work Sloan created. The collection also includes an etching of *Dedham Castle* (1888), Sloan's earliest etching.

Jason Bronner, associate professor of art and curator of the collection, plans for the upcoming exhibit to include about 20 works, including some from the recent donation by Doc Sweitzer.

Aside from the two paintings on permanent display, the Sloans are not normally available for public viewing.

The John Sloan exhibit is co-sponsored by the Lock Haven University Art department and Susquehanna Life magazine, in cooperation with the John Sloan Fine Arts Society. The winter issue of Susquehanna Life magazine includes a feature article on the LHU Sloan collection and the upcoming exhibit.

Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth. Its 14 universities offer more than 250 degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study. Nearly 375,000 system alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.

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