



PERCY MOORE TURNER

Connoisseur, Impresario & Art Dealer

Sarah A.M. Turner

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Grudgingly acknowledged as the main mentor for the Courtaulds in building their art collections, the London and Paris art dealer, Percy Moore Turner, is now largely forgotten in this country. Yet, in France, he was honoured by the French Government with the award of Officer and then Commander of the Legion d'Honneur and feted by the Museums of France with specially struck medals.

In this, the first biography of Percy Moore Turner, his granddaughter, who has access to his few remaining business papers and unpublished autobiography, has researched his life and career.

Born in Halifax in 1877 into a family of hosiers and haberdashers, Turner's life and career spanned two World Wars and periods of economic volatility. He tirelessly promoted modern French art internationally and built up a client base which included Dr Albert Barnes, Samuel Courtauld, Russell Colman and Frank Hindley Smith. A longstanding friend of Kenneth Clark, Turner strove to ensure that his own art collection was placed appropriately in museums and galleries throughout Britain and France, considering himself merely the custodian of the pictures he owned.

Sarah A. M. Turner is the granddaughter of Percy Moore Turner and has researched his life since 2012. She spent her career working for the NHS, and having retired she splits her time between beekeeping, gardening, walking, Chinese brush painting and fundraising with the other committee members of Buckinghamshire Art Fund Committee.

'When the history of picture dealing in 20th-century Britain is written, Percy Moore Turner will occupy a large and well-deserved place. Few did more to promote interest in Post-Impressionist French art than he did. Yet while those whose taste he formed and those whose taste he shared...are now well known names, Turner has been forgotten.'

Sarah Turner is to be congratulated for bringing to light one of the most important taste-makers in Britain in the first half of the 20th century. Anyone with an interest in the history of collecting and museums in the 20th century will find her book, drawn extensively from unpublished sources, a mine of new information'

— Dr Jon Whiteley, Curator Emeritus,
Dept of Western Art, Ashmolean Museum



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