



Herman Haag, *Sketch of Notre Dame*. Pencil on paper, from sketchbook, 4" x 6", 1891. Courtesy Museum of Church History and Art.

Harwood and Haag Paint Paris

Doris R. Dant and Linda Jones Gibbs

Among the thousands of American artists who journeyed to Paris in the late 1800s were two Utah men, James Taylor Harwood (1860-1940) and Herman Haag (1871-1895). Paris offered many advantages not available in the relatively young and predominantly rural Utah—superior training, honors regularly given to artists, art galleries, cosmopolitan attitudes, and artistic experimentation. And the scenery itself was inspiring. Harwood described its potential in an 1888 letter: “We passed through some very lovely sketching country here. The harvest fields were very interesting in color and composition pictures [are] everywhere. This is truly a great city.”¹

Harwood’s desire for training took him first from his hometown of Lehi, Utah, to the California School of Design in San Francisco. The gold medal for drawing that he won for his work there encouraged in him a desire to study in Europe. He obtained funds for his first journey to Paris by teaching art in Salt Lake City for two years, auctioning over one hundred paintings and drawings, and, for his second year, borrowing money from Dr. Heber J. Richards, his future father-in-law. On September 8, 1888, he arrived in Paris and enrolled in the Julian Academy. He was eventually joined by nine other Utahns.² In 1890, Harwood left Paris for Utah, where he again taught art, this time to earn money to get married. A year later, he returned to Paris, married Harriett Richards, and continued his studies. In 1892, he had two paintings accepted by the French Salon, the first Utahn to receive this prestigious honor. The painting reproduced on the front cover of this issue was painted during Harwood’s third (1903) trip to Paris.

When Harwood made his second trip to Paris, he was accompanied by his student Herman Haag, a German emigrant whom he had convinced to study in Europe. Haag’s study was financed by

the LDS Church, which had already sent four other “art missionaries” from Utah to Paris to develop their talents in preparation for decorating the Salt Lake Temple and otherwise serving their church. Haag, too, reveled in Paris:

I don’t know of any other city which loves the beautiful and admires art more than Paris does. . . . It is a great contrast to come from such a quiet place as Utah into such a city as Paris is to-day [sic]. . . . I am glad to have the privilege of thus getting acquainted with the world, it enlarges your mind and you see and learn more than you ever thought of, of course only my spare moments I spent for this kind of observation, I know what I have come here for, and have it on my mind continually to make the best use of my time.³

When Haag was twelve, he had suffered from a serious illness and never fully recovered. Nevertheless, he kept up with the rigorous Julian Academy routine of studio drawing and classes from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. He also found time to sketch scenery, including the view of Notre Dame preceding this article. His fellow art missionary, John B. Fairbanks, noted that, in spite of being a cripple, Haag was progressing. That improvement eventually garnered Haag an award from the Julian Academy for his drawing *John the Baptist Presents Christ before the People*. Three years later, he died. He was only twenty-four.

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NOTES

¹William Robert South, “The Life and Art of James Taylor Harwood, 1860-1940” (master’s thesis, University of Utah, 1986), cited in Linda Jones Gibbs, *Harvesting the Light: The Paris Art Mission and Beginnings of Utah Impressionism* (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1987), 11.

²The others were Cyrus Dallin; John Willard Clawson; Harwood’s wife, Harriett Richards; and the art missionaries John Hafen, Lorus Pratt, John B. Fairbanks, Edwin Evans, and Herman Haag.

³Letter from Herman Haag to his sister Louise, June 15, 1891, cited in Gibbs, 28.