

# Style Snapshot

by Marty Horowitz



*A look at a frame, its characteristics, and history*

**What style frame is this?** This is an American Art Nouveau-style frame produced on the East Coast in the early part of the twentieth century.

**What time period is it from?** This frame is from 1906, because the date was carved into the verso of the frame.

**Where is it from?** This is an original frame produced by the Carrig-Rohane frame shop in Boston, MA, originally the Frame Shop of Herman Dudley Murphy. Murphy named his frame shop Carrig-Rohane after a small village in Ireland, where his father lived.

**Who was instrumental in developing this style of frame?** Hermann Dudley Murphy was greatly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. He was an associate of the esteemed frame makers Charles Prendergast and James McNeill Whistler. Like many frame makers of this period, Murphy treated his hand-crafted frames as pieces of art and carved the back with the company name and the year the frame was produced. Carrig-Rohane also employed Walfred Thulin, who was a master carver and artist. Thulin later opened his own frame shop in Boston and created frames in this style years after working with Murphy.

**What are the defining characteristics of this style?** The linear design with cross-strap centers is a definitive characteristic of early American frames. Characteristics of American Art Nouveau style are illustrated in this frame by the curved flowing lines and asymmetrical design. Rococo-influenced accents like the subtle leaf ornamentation on the corners also exemplify styles of this period.



*This original Carrig-Rohane frame from 1906 was done in the Art Nouveau style.*

*The original signature and date were carved into the back of the frame.*



*This close up of the frame shows the asymmetrical corner design.*



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**What design departures might be seen on some frames of this style?** The whole Art Nouveau movement was a complete departure from everything before it. It inspired artists and fine craftsmen to incorporate art and design into everyday objects and architecture. Large floral accents, gothic-inspired design motifs, curved corners, and incorporation of figures and faces are found on frames of this period.

**Marty Horowitz** has worked in the framing industry for over 40 years. Beginning with Kulike Picture Frames as the showroom and traffic manager, he held high level positions at various frame manufacturers in New York City such as Vice President of Sales and General Manager of Frames Unlimited. He was also a sales representative for Abe Munn Picture Frames in New York City. In 1980, he formed Rothman and Horowitz with his mentor, Henry Rothman. Later he founded Goldleaf Framemakers of Santa Fe. Marty was introduced to gilding in 1967, while attending The School of Visual Arts in New York City, by Rothman. His artwork has been exhibited in numerous solo shows, museums and art fairs across the country including the Seattle Art Fair, the Chicago Navy Pier Show, The Palm Springs Art Fair, Art South Hampton, and Art Miami. His art has been represented by Peyton Wright Gallery and Linda Durham Contemporary Art. He is currently represented by Yares Art Projects in Santa Fe, NM.

**What type of artwork would this frame most likely house?** Certainly portraiture of the period and all other Nouveau artwork, such as that of Alphonse Mucha, who was at the top of the Art-Nouveau movement.

**Additional comments and/or anecdotes.** Goldleaf Framemakers of Santa Fe is currently replicating this very frame. More details about how it was carved, gilded, and patinaed will be covered in an article in an upcoming issue of PFM. ■



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**ABC SCHOOL OF PICTURE FRAMING** (West Islip, NY) offers a hands-on, 4-day course. One-on-one and advanced classes offered. Visit [www.abc-schoolofpictureframing.com](http://www.abc-schoolofpictureframing.com) or call 800-810-8849.

**AMERICAN PICTURE FRAMING ACADEMY** 2- and 4-day Basic and Advanced classes feature technical, business and design training. Call 888-840-9605 or visit [www.pictureframingschool.com](http://www.pictureframingschool.com).

**ART TO BE FRAMED** (Mt. Shasta, CA) is an instructional and educational custom picture framing retreat. One-on-one instruction, beginners through advanced. Visit [www.arttobeframed.com](http://www.arttobeframed.com) or call 530-926-3609.

**B.L. HAYMOND SUPPLY** (Ukiah, CA) offers hands-on, one-on-one, two-day (weekdays or weekends). Oil Painting Restoration Workshops with experienced senior conservator. E-mail: [blhaymondsupply@pacific.net](mailto:blhaymondsupply@pacific.net) or visit [www.blhaymondsupply.com](http://www.blhaymondsupply.com) or call 707-462-4221.

**COLORADO MOULDING CO.** (Englewood, CO) offers basic classes. Advanced classes held on Mondays. Visit [www.cmc moulding.com](http://www.cmc moulding.com) or call 800-332-9013.

**COMPLETE FRAMER'S SUPPLY, INC.** (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Call 800-330-3263 or 954-581-2444 to register and for class schedule or visit [www.completeframers.com](http://www.completeframers.com).

**FRAME TUTOR SCHOOL** (Alberta, Canada) offers a 3-week course (90 hours) hands-on professional training. Weeks 1 & 2 Basic; Week 3: Advanced (Design & Specialties) Call 800-268-0897, e-mail: [penny@frametutorschool.com](mailto:penny@frametutorschool.com) or visit [www.frametutorschool.com](http://www.frametutorschool.com).

**INTERNATIONAL PICTURE FRAMERS SCHOOL** (ON) offers 5-day courses. Visit [www.framingschool.com](http://www.framingschool.com) or call 800-294-0098.

**MURILLO SCHOOL OF RESTORATION** (AB) offers Basic, Advanced, and Specialty classes. Call 780-457-0538.

**PRESTIGE FRAMING ACADEMY** offers classes. Call 617-285-0855 or visit the website, [www.framingacademy.com](http://www.framingacademy.com).

**REED'S GOLD LEAF** (Nashville, TN) offers 2-3 days Gold Leafing/ Gilding classes by appointment only. One-on-one or max. 2 students. Call Micki Cavanah at 615-294-6113 or send e-mail to [rglstudios@bell-south.net](mailto:rglstudios@bell-south.net).

**SARASOTA GOLDFEAF** (Sarasota, FL) offers 5-day classes for 4 weeks. One-on-one only. Call 941-504-5165 or send e-mail to: [jodie@beautifulpictureframes.com](mailto:jodie@beautifulpictureframes.com).

**TC MOULDING** (Roseville, MN) offers a 5-day hands-on B.A.S.I.C. Framing Class. Class size limited to 5. Additional 1-day specialty workshops offered. Call Susan at 800-735-3025 or visit [www.tcmoulding.com](http://www.tcmoulding.com).

**VALLEY MOULDING & FRAME** (N. Hollywood, San Diego, Anaheim, CA) offers 5-day Basic classes and One-day advanced class. Visit [www.valleymoulding.com](http://www.valleymoulding.com) or call 818-769-5656.

**WEST ART FRAMING** (Sagle, ID) 5-Day Basic and Advanced classes and beginners one-on-one instruction. By appointment. Visit [www.westart-framing.com](http://www.westart-framing.com) or call 208-263-8307.

**WEST COAST ART & FRAME EXPO** sponsored by Picture Framing Magazine, Jan. 20-22, 2014, at Paris Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. Held in conjunction with **THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE** seminars and workshops Jan. 19-22, 2014. Call 800-969-7176 or visit [www.wcafexpo.com](http://www.wcafexpo.com). ■