

October 22, 1919.

The Board of Directors of The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., have accepted the painting by Denman Fink which he executed for the American Library Association during the United War Work Campaign. On Monday it was hung in the northwest room on the second floor of the Gallery where it will remain until Wednesday November 26th.

Mr. Fink's painting is on a huge canvas 9 x 17 feet. It depicts a wounded but smiling soldier with bandaged eyes listening to another soldier who is reading to him from a book. Entering the doorway is another doughboy with a cigarette and an armful of books to add to the collection already in evidence. The scene is the porch of an army hospital, and nothing could more accurately depict the eagerness and enthusiasm with which wounded men in hospitals welcome and rejoice in the supply of good reading matter provided by the Library War Service of the American Library Association. So marvellously human are the figures in the painting, so clearly and fully has the artist caught the spirit of the hospital book service, that almost every critic who has seen the picture thinks that the painter must have made sketches from life at an army hospital. On the contrary, Mr. Fink developed his theme entirely without personal hospital contacts. In a letter written in response to a request for an explanation of the genesis of his idea for this painting, Mr. Fink says:

"The request for me to paint this picture came so much at the eleventh hour that at first I did not see how, in justice to myself, I could consent to undertake to paint before the public, in such a conspicuous place, a picture toward which so little time was allowed for the development of its idea, if needed I should be so fortunate as to find a suitable idea at all. I saw that the thing had to be done by somebody and that there would be just as much time for me to do it as anybody else, so I consented, with, - I must confess, - a heart full of misgivings as to the outcome Much to my surprise and comfort, and seemingly without rhyme or reason, the picture flashed across my mind just as you see it today on the canvas. The idea came to me with such little effort and so abruptly and with such a completeness of composition and color arrangement that to go ahead and realize it was one of the most intensely interesting pieces of work that I have attempted."

Mr. Fink is better known as an illustrator in black-and-white than as a painter in color. In addition to his illustrations which have become familiar through their appearance in various magazines, especially Harper's, Scribner's, The Century and Collier's Weekly, Mr. Fink was represented at the Panama-Pacific Exposition and has contributed works to exhibitions at the City Art Museum of St. Louis, the Art Institute of Chicago, The National Academy of Design, and the New York Water Color Shows. He was born at Springdale, Pa. and begun his study at Pittsburg, after which he spent a period at the Museum School in Boston under Frank Benson and Philip Hale, followed by a year in the Art Students' League in New York.

After exhibiting the painting in the various large galleries and public libraries throughout the country, it will find its final resting-place in the headquarters of the American Library Association at Chicago.