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William R. Johnston

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William R. Johnston : The Walters Art Gallery before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Walters Art Gallery:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Go to The WaltersBy LouetteA nice history of the museum and its displays. I spent hours there as a student and loved the old building with its old entrance, marble staircases, and wonderful display of statuary around the main hall. Few people know it had the very first showing of Tutankhamen treasures, probably a trial affair, and while the book doesn't mention this, there are good descriptions and a good overview of some of the permanent holdings of the museum.

The Walters Art Gallery was opened to the public on 16 June 1934, a result of the combined efforts of the unique father-and-son collectors, William and Henry Walters. William, Henry's father, was founder of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, and began to collect art mainly from France, the Far East and contemporary New York. By the end of his life, at the end of the 19th century, he had amassed one of America's major collections of both European and Asian art. Henry Walters expanded his father's collection, and in 1902 founded a museum. In 1909, he ventured further and opened a new gallery. This housed his collection of Greek ceramics and Roman sculpture, early Byzantine art, Medieval art, manuscripts and incunabula, Renaissance paintings, 18th century porcelain, 18th and 19th century paintings, and Asian art.