Rodin Museum

Administered by the Philadelphia Museum of Art

Rodin Museum

Philadelphia

Admission:

A contribution of \$3.00 per person is suggested.

Hours:

Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Mondays and holidays. (Hours subject to change.)

Museum Store and Visitors' Center:

The Store and Visitors' Center offers opportunities to view informative videos about Rodin's life and work.

Tours:

Inform audio tours are available at the Visitors' Center for \$3.00 and allow for random-access information about the Museum and selected sculptures.

Free guided tours are available. For days and times, call 215-763-8100. Groups of 15 or more may arrange private tours by calling 215-684-7863. School groups, call 215-684-7582. College groups, call 215-684-7598.

Transportation:

SEPTA buses numbers 7, 32, 38, 43, 48, and the Phlash Downtown Visitor Shuttle.

Rodin Museum

Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 22nd Street P.O. Box 7646, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7646 www.rodinmuseum.org

For information about the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Rodin Museum, call 215-763-8100.

Recording for daily events: 215-684-7500 Philadelphia visitor information: 1-800-537-7676

There is limited parking around the Museum.

Photography:

Visitors are welcome to use hand-held cameras. Tripods are not permitted.

Friends of the

Rodin Museum: Membership in the *Friends of the Rodin Museum* helps support the maintenance of the Museum, its collections, and gardens through annual dues and volunteer efforts. Annual membership starts at \$100. For information, contact the *Friends of the Rodin Museum*, c/o Development Department, Philadelphia Museum of Art, P.O. Box 7646, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7646. 215-684-7750.

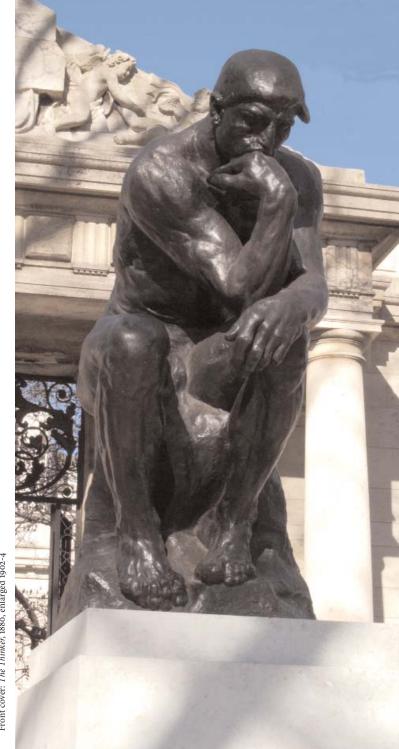
Publications:

A fully-illustrated scholarly catalogue and a handbook of the collection are available.

Accessibility:

Parking and barrier-free access available. Listening systems, touch tours, Braille and largeprint materials are available by calling in advance, 215-684-7601. TTY 215-684-7600.

Front cover: The Thinker, 1880, enlarged 1902-4





Auguste Rodin

The great French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) brought monumental public sculpture into the twentieth century and established a new sculptural freedom which continues to haunt our imaginations. His stated aim was to be absolutely faithful to nature; he steadfastly refused to idealize his subjects, creating instead an unprecedented combination of

> outer realism and psychological insight. Rodin's uncanny ability to penetrate the masks of the men and women he portrayed, the bravura of his rough, light-catching modeling, and his extraordinary use and reuse of the same similar figures, and even parts of them (torsos, limbs, and hands), have established his place among the greatest sculptors of all time.

Right: *Adam*, 1880 Left: *Mignon*, 1867-68

The Museum

Jules E. Mastbaum, Philadelphia's great movie theater magnate and one of its best-known philanthropists, began collecting works by Rodin in 1923 with the expressed intent of founding a museum to enrich the lives of his fellow citizens. He set about assembling a complete view of Rodin's work, acquiring not only finished bronzes but also plaster studies as well as drawings, prints, letters, and books.

By the time of his death in 1926, Mastbaum had brought together the greatest Rodin collection outside of Paris. He had also commissioned the two great French neoclassical architects working in Philadelphia, Paul Cret and Jacques Gréber, to collaborate on a museum and garden, but did not live to see it completed.

The museum, which opened to the public in 1929, houses 127 sculptures, including bronze casts of the artist's greatest works: The Thinker, perhaps the most famous sculpture in the world; *The* Burghers of Calais, his most heroic and moving historical tribute; Eternal Springtime, one of the most lyrical works dealing with human love; powerful monuments to leading French intellectuals such as Apotheosis of Victor Hugo; and the culminating creation of his career, The Gates of Hell, on which the artist worked from 1880 until his death in 1917.