



Walking Sticks: The Ruth Gordon Collection

The Ruth Gordon Collection is one of the finest exhibits of walking sticks in the world. The 71 walking sticks in the collection include carved ivory handles and cloisonne from China, pinchbeck gold from London, Japanese cloisonne, mother of pearl, cinnabar canes, made from the sap of the cinnabar tree, porcelain handles from Germany, French enamel, two niello Russian canes and silver from England, Germany and France. The sticks date from as early as the 14th century.

Mrs. Gordon began her collection on a postwar visit to London. In 1970, she began a lengthy affiliation with Cartier. Among those who have purchased pieces from her collection are Katharine Hepburn, Brooke Astor and Barbra Streisand.

The donation of this collection was made in the memory of Mrs. Gordon's son, Martin Gordon, who edited the Martin Gordon Catalogue.