

**THE PRANG COURSE IN
ART EDUCATION FOR
PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE,
AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS**

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The Prang course in art education for primary, intermediate, and grammar schools by Various

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VARIOUS

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IN
ART EDUCATION

*FOR PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE, AND
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS*



BOSTON
THE PRANG EDUCATIONAL COMPANY
1893

1874
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"No, sir: we never learned anything in the navy when I was a youngster except a little rule-of-thumb mathematics. One picked up a sort of a smattering of a language or two, knocking about the world, but no grammatical knowledge,—nothing scientific. . . . If a boy doesn't get a method, he is beating to windward in a crank craft all his life. He hasn't got any regular place to stow away what he gets into his brain, and so it lies tumbling about in the hold and he loses it, or it gets damaged and is never ready for use."

CAPTAIN HARDY, in *"Tom Brown at Oxford."*

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE FRANG COURSE OF ART INSTRUCTION, as presented in the following pages, is believed to be the only course of Art Instruction yet devised for public schools which distinctly recognizes the aesthetic nature of the child, — his love of the beautiful, — as an important part of his mental endowment; and which aims to develop this aesthetic nature in harmony with his general educational development.

It will be seen that the educational method pursued in this Course is that of utilizing the pupil's own powers of observation, thought, and expression, through self-activity on his part, under wise guidance.

While the direct purpose of this Course is to bring a knowledge of the elementary principles of Art to the service of the people in common, every-day life, the Course is also presented as the strong ally of the Kindergarten, of Elementary Science or Nature Study, of Manual Training or Industrial Education, and of rational methods of teaching the common school branches. It is therefore not to be regarded as merely a series of Drawing lessons, but rather as a course of instruction in the principles and methods of Fine and Industrial Art, utilizing Drawing as one of its means of expression, and making Drawing more practically available in all lines of school work.

The Frang Course is a direct outgrowth of the introduction of Drawing into the schools of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1872, under the direction of Charles C. Perkins and Professor Walter Smith; and it represents the broad development that has taken place in Art Instruction in public schools during the past twenty years. Since the retirement of Professor Smith from the Boston schools in 1881 this Course has been developed under the direction of Mr. Louis Frang, assisted by a number of experts of ripe professional knowledge and wide experience in teaching in public schools.

What the pupil does, *revealing himself in his work*, is the main feature in the instruction. This feature cannot be fully evident to the eye on examining the Text-books and Manuals of the Course, unless the examiner is familiar with both subject and method. In order to present clearly the general work of the Course, photographs have been made of what may be called typical work of each grade. These photographs are not a reproduction of children's actual work; they simply show the sort of work which children are to do, and the manner in which the work unfolds through the different grades.

It is not expected that all the lines of work here given can be started at once in schools where there has been no previous preparation therefor; but all the work indicated can be carried out in the time allotted to Drawing, after the Course is properly introduced. In some places it may be necessary to modify some of the features of the Course to meet local educational conditions. This can easily be done if the work in the schools is under wise direction.

A careful examination of the Course will show that it is not rigidly prescriptive of details. It does present certain fundamental principles and methods to be observed, but ample opportunities are given for the display of individuality on the part of director or teacher in the choice of exercises to illustrate these principles and methods.

This Course of Art Instruction is not presented as a perfected course. Its authors believe that Art Education has but just begun its mission in the public school, and that its growth and development will be much greater during the next ten years than in any previous period in its history. They have, therefore, aimed to so present its fundamental principles as to amply provide for the further growth and development of the subject, arising from the broadening of all public education to meet modern social needs.

Mr. Louis Frang has for many years given special attention to the study of Color, in its relations both to education and to use in the arts and industries. Under his direction, and largely with his direct assistance, a Course of Color Instruction has been prepared, complementary to this Course in Form Study and Drawing. The work of the Color Course is here only incidentally touched upon. The photographic illustrations present, in the upper line and in the line of Decoration, some of the features of the Color Course, but, unfortunately, the photographic process does not bring out the character of the color work.

Particulars in regard to this Course in Color will be furnished on application to the publishers.

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THE PRANG COURSE IN ART EDUCATION
FOR
PRIMARY, INTERMEDIATE, AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

THE PRANG COURSE IN ART EDUCATION stands for certain well-defined ends in the education of children : — What the course stands for.

The recognition of the child's individuality, and of his æsthetic feelings, — his natural love of the beautiful.

The recognition of Nature as a part of the child's environment and the cultivation of his power of appreciating and expressing the spirit and the beauty of natural objects.

The recognition of Industry and Art as parts of the child's social environment, the cultivation of his power of appreciating the beauty and significance of Industrial and Art work, and the development of his creative powers along Industrial and Art lines.

The method employed to secure these ends is that of appealing to the interest of the child in beautiful objects, encouraging his self-activity, nourishing his mind with well-chosen mental food, and so developing his powers through intelligently guided exercise that he may be constantly growing in mind and in æsthetic feeling through his self-activity in observation, thought, and manual expression. Its method.

The work of the Prang Course can be most clearly seen under its two divisions : — Its two divisions.

The Course for Primary Grades.

The Course for Intermediate and Grammar Grades.