

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue

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### Summary Information

**Repository**

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

**Creator**

unidentified

**Title**

Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue

**Identifier**

MG 240

**Date**

1873-1889

**Physical Description**

1 box

**Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

**Language of the Material**

English

**Abstract**

Contains prints, photographs, and texts related to the planning of the Robert Burns statue in Washington Park Historic District (Albany, New York). Calverley researched Robert Burns' true appearance, previous depictions, statues of Burns, statues of the intended style, and illustrated interpretations of Burns' most famous poems. Information concerning the St. Andrew's Society, who commissioned the statue, is included.

## **Preferred Citation**

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue, 1873-1889, MG 240. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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## **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Copyright**

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the Albany Institute of History & Art Library will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Archivist/Librarian.

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession: # unidentified

Accession Source/Date: unidentified

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## **Processing Information**

Processed by D. Hart, March 2014; finding aid updated by H, Cox, June 2021.

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## **Biographical/Historical**

Charles Calverley was commissioned by Peter Kinnear to create a Robert Burns monument, fulfilling the will of the late Mary McPherson. Mrs. McPherson left part of her personal fortune to fund the project. The statue would be presented as a gift to the City of Albany in 1888, taking its place in Washington Park. Kinnear was the St. Andrew's Society secretary for fifteen years and a pillar of the local Scottish community. Charles Calverley was Albany-born and a widely renowned sculptor, making him the ideal artist to employ. George H. Boughton, who grew up in Albany and had an

international reputation as a painter, was enlisted to design the bas relief panels encircling the monument's base. Robert Burns is widely regarded as one of Scotland's greatest poets and thinkers. He is a symbol of pride for Scottish people and well regarded by non-Scots, so his likeness was an appropriate subject for a public monument.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains prints, photographs, and texts related to the planning of the Robert Burns statue in Washington Park (Albany, New York). Calverley researched Robert Burns' true appearance, previous depictions, statues of Burns, statues of the intended style, and illustrated interpretations of Burns' most famous poems. The texts are included most likely for the images they hold, or to study Burns' handwriting, rather than the information they provide. Several texts of excerpts from magazines and some of the images were cut from magazines or newspapers. Photographs of all thirteen St. Andrew's society officers of 1873 are assembled into a wreath. Two pamphlets published by the society, one describing the society's history, the other commemorating the installation of the monument.

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## Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

Description	Box	Folder
Famous Headshots and Portraits of Robert Burns "The Authentic Portraits of Robert Burns," excerpt from the <i>Magazine of Art</i> , by J.M. Gray, F.S.A. Scot	1	1
Facsimiles of Robert Burns' Manuscripts (samples of his handwriting and signature)		2
Prints of Statues of Burns (cut from magazines and newspapers, most pasted to a single sheet)		3
Sir Walter Scott (Images and Information); "A Second Shelf of Old Books," <i>Scribner's Magazine</i> , Volume V, Jan.-June, 1889;		4
Images of Busts of Scott and other Headshots		
Facsimiles of Illustrated Burns poems Photo of workmen planning the base of the statue		5
Photographs used for Statue Research (8 photos in 2 envelopes); 3 large photos in envelope #1, 5 medium in envelope #2 Mostly busts of Burns and Scott, some sculpted by Calverley, others as examples		6
St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany;		7
Historical Sketch - Act of incorporation, Constitution of the Society and list of Members (Pamphlet in envelope);		

A Tribute to the memory of Robert Burns (Pamphlet in envelope);  
Photographs of St. Andrew's Society officers of 1873, thirteen photos  
assembled into a wreath  
Original folder holding the collection, kept by the St. Andrew's Society  
Library, includes a description of the collection by Charles Calverley

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