

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the
Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue

Call Number: MG 240

Creator:

Inclusive Dates: 1873-1889

Bulk Dates: 1873, 1883, 1886-1889

Abstract: Contains prints, photographs, and texts related to the planning of the Robert Burns statue in Washington Park Historical District (Albany, NY). Calverley researched Robert Burns' true appearance, how he was previously depicted, 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.

Quantity: 1 medium oversized box (8 folders)

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Charles Calverley, St. Andrew's Society (of the City of Albany) Library

Preferred Citation: Charles Calverley Portfolio for Robert Burns Statue, MG 240. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #:

Accession Date:

Processing Information:

Processed by Daniel M. Hart; completed on 3/10/2014.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: *None.*

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons

Boughton, George Henry, 1833-1905
 Burns, Robert, 1759-1796
 Calverley, Charles, 1833-1914
 Kinnear, Peter
 McPherson, Mary, -1886
 Scott, Walter, Sir, 1771-1832

Organizations

St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany

Subjects

Bas-relief	Scottish American fraternal organizations
Bronze Sculpture, American	Scottish Americans
Figure Sculpture, American	--Societies
Public Sculpture, American	

Places

Albany (N.Y.)
 Washington Park Historic District (Albany, N.Y.)

Document Types

Magazine illustration--19th century	Pamphlets
Manuscripts	Photographs
--Facsimiles	Prints
Newspaper clippings	

Titles

"The Authentic Portraits of Robert Burns", excerpt from the Magazine of Art, by J.M. Gray, F.S.A. Scot.

"A Second Shelf of Old Books", excerpt from Scribner's Magazine Volume V, Jan.-June, 1889

Biography/History of

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 15 years and a pillar of the local Scottish community. Charles Calverley was Albany-born and a widely renowned sculpture, 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.

Scope and Contents of the Records/Papers/Collection

The collection contains prints, photographs, and texts related to the planning of the Robert Burns statue in Washington Park (Albany, NY). Calverley researched Robert Burns' true appearance, how he was previously depicted, 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 of 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 instillation of the monument.

Organization of the Records/Papers/Collection

A single series, all materials were collected by Charles Calverley to assist him in his work on the Robert Burns statue. These materials have been subdivided by subject and format.

Related Material

Call Number	Title
C 500	Mary Palmer Calverley Ivy-Byrne papers
SpC 974.743 KIN	Historical sketch of the Burns statue: the McPherson legacy to the City of Albany. Erected in Washington Park September 30, 1888.
ms-182	Miscellaneous Collection
730.92 CAL ALL 1996 C4	From stonecutter to sculptor: Charles Calverley, 1833-1914
SpC 974.743 KIN PRO	McPherson's legacy : programs, Albany, 1888 & 1988.
974.743 KIN BIC 2004	The bicentennial history of the St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany.

Separated Materials*None.***Other Finding Aids***None.***Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection**

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Famous Headshots and Portraits of Robert Burns "The Authentic Portraits of Robert Burns", excerpt from the Magazine of Art, by J.M. Gray, F.S.A. Scot.
1	2	Facsimiles of Robert Burns' Manuscripts (samples of his handwriting and signature)
1	3	Prints of Statues of Burns (cut from magazines and newspapers, most pasted to a single sheet)
1	4	Sir Walter Scott (Images and Information) -"A Second Shelf of Old Books", Scribner's Magazine Volume V, Jan.-June, 1889 -Images of Busts of Scott and other Headshots
1	5	Facsimiles of Illustrated Burns poems Photo of workmen planning the base of the statue
1	6	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 purely as examples
1	7	St. Andrew's Society of the City of Albany -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
1	8	Original folder holding the collection, kept by the St. Andrew's Society Library, includes a description of the collection by Charles Calverley