A Guide to the
Charles Calverley Portfolio
for Robert Burns Statue

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:


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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # unidentified
Accession Source/Date: unidentified

Processing Information


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.

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.

Contents List

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

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<td>Prints of Statues of Burns (cut from magazines and newspapers, most pasted to a single sheet)</td>
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<td>Sir Walter Scott (Images and Information); “A Second Shelf of Old Books,” <em>Scribner’s Magazine</em>, Volume V, Jan.-June, 1889;</td>
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<td>Images of Busts of Scott and other Headshots</td>
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<td>Facsimiles of Illustrated Burns poems Photo of workmen planning the base of the statue</td>
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<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>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);</td>
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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