Engravings

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**NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGRAVINGS COLLECTION**

**Call Number:** Special Collections Graphic Collection 20

*John Chester Buttre*

Most of the 173 engravings in the collection were done by John Chester Buttre, who was born in Auburn, New York on June 30, 1821, and died in Ridgewood, New Jersey.
on December 2, 1893. He studied drawing with an artist named Hulaniski in Auburn and tried his hand at portrait-painting, with little success. He then focused on wood-engraving and founded a successful business in Auburn. After moving to New York in 1841, he became well-known as a line-engraver, with much of his work during this time appearing in magazines. Later, Buttre established his own engraving business in New York where he continued engraving until his death, supposedly having completed almost 3000 plates with his name.

George B. Ellis

George B. Ellis studied under Francis Kearny of Philadelphia in 1821 and founded an engraving business there in 1825, which lasted until 1837. He is best known for his small “Annual” plates, portraits, as well as copies of English engravings, which he did for an edition of Ivanhoe. Nothing is known about his life after 1837, as his name vanishes from the Philadelphia directories in 1838.

Joseph Napoleon Gimbrede

Joseph Napoleon Gimbrede was born at West Point, New York, in 1820. The son of Thomas Gimbrede, an engraver and drawing-master at West Point Military Academy, he actually learned the art of engraving from his uncle, J. F. E. Prud’homme. In 1841-1845, he went into business in New York, engraving portraits and subject plates. He then became a stationer for the Metropolitan hotel.

Henry Bryan Hall

Henry Bryan Hall was born in London in 1808 and died at Morrisania, N.Y. in 1884. He studied engraving in London, under Benjamin Smith and Henry Meyer. He then worked for H.T. Ryall, Historical Engraver to the Queen, to do portrait work on the plate of “The Coronation of Victoria,” from a painting by Sir George Hayter. In 1850, he moved to New York, where he went into business as an engraver, as well as a publisher of portraits. Hall was also a very good portrait-painter and painted a portrait of Napoleon III in London and, while in the United States, of Thomas Sully and C.L. Elliot. He etched many portraits of men of historical prominence during the Colonial and Revolutionary period of the United States. These were done for a group of private collectors of New York and Philadelphia. Hall also painted miniatures on ivory.

W. G. Jackman

W. G. Jackman was originally from England, but came to the United States in 1841, where he established a business in New York. He did most of his work for the Harpers, Putnams and Appletons, all New York publishers. He excelled as an engraver of portraits and subject plates, using the stipple and the line methods. Jackman also did a few portraits using the mezzotint technique for Harper & Brothers.

George Edward Perine

George Edward Perine was born in South Orange, Essex Co. in 1837 and died in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1885. In 1852, he began engraving for Thomas Doney in New York and in 1856-1858 for W.W. Rice, a line and bank-note engraver. He engraved in
engravers in 1858-1860 and in 1860 began engraving on his own and soon established a successful business in New York City. He mainly did portrait engraving and though he had many engravers in his employ, it is said that he finished every plate himself.

Alexander Hay Ritchie

Alexander Hay Ritchie was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1822. He was a pupil of Sir William Allan, with whom he studied drawing in Edinburgh. He came to New York in 1841, he learned engraving and established a sizable business. He was a skilled portrait engraver in mezzotint and also painted in oils. He began exhibiting his work at the Academy in 1848, became an Associate in 1863 and an Academician of the National Academy of Design in 1871.

Augustus Robin

Augustus Robin was born in New York to French parents and was a skilled portrait engraver, who worked for John Chester Buttre for almost forty years.

Hezekiah Wright Smith

Hezekiah Wright Smith was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1828, and came to New York when he was five years old. He studied under Thomas Doney and was a very skilled engraver of portraits in line and stipple. He was an associate of Joseph Andrews in Boston in 1850 and in 1870-1877 found employment in New York. In 1877, Smith situated himself in Philadelphia, doing much of his work there. However, he left the city very suddenly in April of 1879 and was never heard from again. His noted plates are those of Daniel Webster, Edward Everett and a head of Washington from the Athenaeum head by Stuart. The head of Washington is reportedly the best engraving ever done from this portrait.

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WORKS OF ENGRAVERS


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