

## **Recall of 100-year-old donation to Watertown Public Library coincides with National Library Week.**

During my compiling of the set of 100-year-ago "Glimpses from the Past" articles for May for the *Watertown Daily Times* I came across the following item:

*Watertown Gazette*, 05 04 1911

The [Saturday Club](#) held a special business meeting in the magazine room of the public library Tuesday afternoon, May 2. Reports were received from the committee having the card party in charge and it was found that \$25.00 could be turned over to the library board. From the club treasury the sum of \$10 was given to the fund being raised for Mr. Gibson, the blind man whom some of our charitably disposed people are trying to start in business [this would be Tom Gibson, "Blind Tom, who in 1903 was the first patient of [Watertown's first hospital](#)]. It was also possible for the club to purchase one of the Elson pictures which were on exhibition in the library last week, Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace. They expect to have the picture framed and later hung in the club room of the library.

Upon checking with the library this long forgotten picture was found in storage and with the above mention we now know a little bit about this previously undocumented item. This picture is being cleaned and reframed at this time.

I took a picture of the picture and it follows, along with a portion of a pdf file that I found on the web detailing the Elson Co and their series of Shakespeare Series of prints.

The 1911 article will appear in the May 3, 2011 edition of the *Watertown Daily Times*.

Ken Riedl / April 11, 2011

### **Cross Reference:**

## **Fine Art Exhibit to be Presented by Schools**

*Watertown Gazette*, 04 13 1911

Proceeds to be used for the purchase of Elson pictures for the schools.

Two beautiful prizes awarded to grades selling the highest number of tickets.

The teachers of the public schools of our city have arranged for an exhibit of over two hundred pictures loaned by the A. W. Elson Co. of Boston. The collection comprises carbon photographs and photogravures of the best in art the world over and they will be arranged in chronological order beginning with Egyptian art and extending down to modern American art.

The pictures are beautiful and will be displayed upon the walls so that they will be easily seen and studied. Our citizens will no doubt take advantage of this opportunity for picture study and also to select pictures for their own homes, if they should so desire.

Picture study is one of the regular branches now taught in our schools, ten works of art being assigned to each school year, thus giving pupils an insight into the world of art and a love for good pictures.

Many of our citizens who saw the Elson pictures several years ago stated that they were the best reproductions they had ever seen.

The purpose of the exhibit is to increase the interest in our city in the study of art and to purchase pictures for the decoration of the class rooms in our city schools. All who attend will be fully repaid for time and expense, besides helping to place before the children pictures that may have a wholesome and refining influence upon their lives.

The exhibit will be open to the public on April 27, 28 and 29. A small admission fee of ten cents will be charged. Tickets may be purchased from the school children who will be allowed to canvass the city between the hours of four o'clock, Thursday, April 20, and nine o'clock, Monday, April 24.

Printed lists containing name and number of all pictures will be presented at the door. Catalogs will be sold at 15 cents each.



Image of the of the \$10 Elson Co print,  
21x32" mounted on 30x40" granite board,  
donated to the Watertown Public Library



*Illustrated catalogue of carbon prints  
on the rise and progress of Greek ...*

Elson, A. W., & company, Boston, Frank Bigelow Tarbell

THE  
Rise and Progress  
OF  
Greek and Roman  
Art.



PUBLISHED BY  
A. W. Elson & Co.,  
146 OLIVER STREET, BOSTON, U. S. A.  
1899.

Price 15 Cents.

*Elson, A. W. & company, Boston,*  
Illustrated Catalogue of Carbon Prints

ON

The Rise and Progress of  
Greek and Roman  
Art.

WITH DESCRIPTIONS BY

PROF. F. B. TARBELL, of the University of Chicago,

AND AN INTRODUCTION BY

T. W. HEERMANCE, of Yale University.

*THIRD EDITION.*

BOSTON, U. S. A.

A. W. ELSON & CO., PUBLISHERS,

146 OLIVER STREET,

1899.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

## ART IN THE SCHOOLS.

It has become a settled fact that the walls of schools throughout the United States are to be used for art educational purposes. It is the earnest wish of every one to see that in this, as in all other educational work, the end sought shall be reached, and that vast sums of money shall not be uselessly expended. If we stop to consider what we are really aiming to do, it certainly will be more likely that we shall be satisfied with our results than if we are uncertain and indefinite in our plans.

It has seemed to us that the end in view is to raise the public appreciation of the best in art, so that there may be wise judges of the work of those who are following art as a profession, encouraging the best, and discriminating between the products of the genius and the tyro.

The existence of such a fine, discriminating general judgment made possible and stimulated the art life of Athens in the age of Pericles, and of Florence in the days of Michael Angelo.

If we are to have a finer architecture, finer public statues, better interior decoration, it can only be brought about by creating a general public demand for it and appreciation of it. This can be done largely by reaching those who are in a formative condition — the school children.

The aim being settled, how is the end to be brought about?

In the study of art the historical method is the natural one. Appreciation of art cannot be cultivated by an indiscriminate hanging side by side of all sorts of pictures of different periods and schools of art, having no connection with each other. No idea is conveyed in this way and nothing can be taught. Pictures of a single period showing its rise and development should be hung together.

With these principles as our foundation, we have worked to produce a series of pictures for Art in Schools, illustrating the greatest period in art the world has ever known. The series is entitled "The Rise and Progress of Greek and Roman Art," and is fully illustrated in this catalogue. Series covering other periods of art will be published from time to time. The subjects which follow have been carefully selected, and the descriptions written by Professor Tarbell, of the University of Chicago. The introduction is by T. W. Heermance of Yale University.

## SHAKESPEARE SERIES.



STRATFORD FROM THE THEATRE.

**T**HE following views in the town of the Avon bard have been published. They are all exceedingly interesting from their artistic merits, and, coupled with the association with Shakespeare, they attain a value that should place them in every school and household.

**Bust of Shakespeare in Chancel of Trinity Church, showing the stone of his grave beneath. This was executed in 1623, and is the only authenticated likeness of Shakespeare except the print in the first folio edition.**

**House where Shakespeare was born.**

**Room in which Shakespeare was born.**

**Anne Hathaway's Cottage.**

**View of Stratford from the Memorial Theatre.**

**View of Memorial Theatre from Clopton Bridge.**

Size A, about 20 x 34 inches work, mounted on special granite board, 30 x 44. Price, \$10 each.

Size B, about 17 x 23 inches work, mounted on board 27½ x 34. Price, \$5 each.

PUBLISHED BY

A. W. ELSON & CO., 146 OLIVER STREET, BOSTON.