

**CATALOGUE OF MINIATURE
PORTRAITS, LANDSCAPES, AND OTHER
PIECES EXECUTED BY CHARLES
FRASER AND EXHIBITED IN "FRASER
GALLERY", AT CHARLESTON, 1857**

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Catalogue of Miniature Portraits, Landscapes, and Other Pieces Executed by Charles Fraser and exhibited in "Fraser Gallery", at Charleston, 1857 by Samuel Gilman

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SAMUEL GILMAN

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PORTRAITS, LANDSCAPES, AND OTHER
PIECES EXECUTED BY CHARLES
FRASER AND EXHIBITED IN "FRASER
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Harvard College Library

from

Robt. Hinckley

Boston.

13 April,

1857.

The Fraser Gallery.

PREFACE.

Not far from the close of the year 1856, several of the friends of CHARLES FRASER, Esq., impressed by a sense of the value and number of his paintings, conceived the design of collecting together as many of them as possible, for public exhibition. This object they cherished not only for their own gratification, but as an honor especially due to the Artist, a tribute to his art, and an entertainment likely to prove at once gratifying and instructive to the taste of the community. They saw great difficulties in the way, partly on account of the widely scattered localities in which the achievements of fifty or sixty years had been scattered, and partly from the reluctance of the proprietors of such treasures to surrender them to the contingencies of a general exhibition. Yet unwilling to relinquish their design, they proceeded, after having secured the hesitating permission and concurrence of Mr. Fraser himself in regard to the movement, to publish in the daily papers the following appeal:

"FRASER GALLERY.

TO THE PUBLIC.

It is well known that there are extant, in Charleston and its vicinity, a considerable number of miscellaneous Paintings, including several hundred exquisite miniature Portraits, executed by CHARLES FRASER, Esq. An extensive and increasing desire has for some time been entertained, that as many of these Paintings as possible should be collected at an early day, and exhibited to the public. By this method it is judged that an appropriate honor may be rendered to the revered Artist, and that his friends and other lovers of art may be indulged with the privilege, not otherwise to be procured, of beholding, at one favorable opportunity, the principal achievements of his long and industrious life. The undersigned, having volunteered to be a Committee to carry this

interesting design into effect, respectfully announce to the public, that they have appointed the month of February, 1857, for the exhibition of such of Mr. Fraser's pictures as can be procured. The South Carolina Society has generously granted them the use of their fine Hall for the purpose. They therefore request all persons who are in possession of any of Mr. Fraser's pieces, to communicate with either of the undersigned, specifying the pictures they may be willing to loan for the purpose, or forwarding them, if agreeable, to any of us by the earliest opportunity. The undersigned pledge themselves to the greatest care in preserving from injury every article that may be entrusted to them, and engage to return them safely to their owners immediately after the exhibition shall be closed.

It is believed that a similar exhibition of the Paintings of the late Washington Allston, himself a Carolinian, took place during his life time, and was attended by the most gratifying results to all parties concerned.

M. KING,
DANIEL HAVENEL,
SAMUEL GILMAN,
SAML. HENRY DICKSON,
GEO. S. BRYAN,
FREDERICK A. PORCHER,
GEO. W. FLAGG,
JOHN ASHE ALSTON,
JAMES H. TAYLOR."

The response made to this appeal surpassed the most sanguine expectations. All parties and all classes entered into the project with a cordial and zealous approval. More than three hundred miniature Portraits, and above one hundred and fifty various sketches, were, in the course of a few weeks, placed at the disposal of the Committee. Not only possessors in Columbia, Camden, and Savannah, but those residing at as great a distance as Connecticut and Massachusetts, paid to the summons an immediate, unconcerted, and respectful attention.

At home, the project met with every kind of success, and as soon as anything was found necessary to carry it into complete execution, the very friends required to effect it, were immediately forthcoming. The liberality of the So. Ca. Society is apparent from a statement in the

above circular. The preparatory meetings of the Committee at large, were frequent and efficient. A Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Gilman, John Ashb Alston and G. W. Flagg, Esquires, undertook the executive department of the project. The services of a skillful and experienced furnisher and decorator of halls were secured for the arrangement of the alcoves, and for the general exterior management of the exhibition. Contributions, of five dollars each, towards the necessary expenses, were in a few days procured from one hundred gentlemen, who were entitled to a certain number of season tickets. The entire expenditures of the occasion, which have since been found amounting to about one thousand dollars, were guaranteed in advance by several gentlemen offering to secure whatever deficit might occur, confident that they would be sustained by a generous community. As no accumulation of a surplus-fund was contemplated, the admission of ladies of all ages was gratuitous—a feature of the occurrence which was regarded as peculiarly characteristic, and worthy of a refined and liberal community. The compliment thus paid to their sex was generously reciprocated by a number of ladies offering and engaging to act as a Committee, in any direction that might effect the purposes of the exhibition. Their services were found peculiarly available in arranging the multitude of miniatures into appropriate groups and panels, and their constant presence throughout the occasion has increased its interest and order, and often facilitated the objects of visitors who wished for information in regard to particular paintings. The Artist himself, at an early period, accepted an invitation from the Committee to visit the Hall, and was subsequently found on the spot almost every day, surprised at the labors of his own life-time and at the extraordinary results of the enterprise, exchanging greetings with his numerous friends, and furnishing many valuable commentaries in reference to his works, which could not possibly have been procured from any other quarter. An exact and spirited likeness of Mr. Fraser had just been painted by Mr. G. W. Flagg, at the request of the Committee, for the special purpose of gracing this exhibition. Placed on a panel opposite the door, it seemed to invite every entering visitor to a free inspection of the numerous works of its gifted original. The services of the ladies in arranging the miniatures were much facilitated by the assistance of James H. Taylor and Robert Hume, Esquires. Mr. Carlisle, one of the editors of the Courier, contributed also much valuable aid, both of manipulation and intellect, beside the daily notices which he continued to publish of the progress of the exhibition. The columns of all the city papers were

generously thrown open for notices and publications incident to the objects of the Committee. The labor of the Ladies' Committee in preparing a catalogue of the miniatures, was much assisted by the separate revision of Mr. Fraser himself, and of several other gentlemen, who aimed to give it as entire a completeness and correctness as possible. The task of completing a catalogue of the oil paintings and other sketches, and of illustrating them by occasional annotations, was executed at the instance of the Committee. The sketch of the accompanying Life and Career of Mr. Fraser was furnished by Dr. R. W. Gibbes, of Columbia, and G. S. Bryan, Esq., of Charleston.

In the course of the exhibition, a careful photograph was taken from Mr. Flagg's painting of Mr. Fraser, a copy of which will serve as a choice memorial to every one desirous of possessing it. The period of one month, originally proposed, was extended to the middle of the succeeding. The arrangement of the Hall was in every respect appropriate and attractive; the lights were subdued, but fine; the long ranges of alcoves covered with various pieces led the spectator forward from pleasure to pleasure; one side of the apartment was literally crowded over with miniature-portraits, arranged, as far as possible, in family groups; and the whole scene, thronged daily with refined and delighted visitors, proved at once a study of deep historical interest and a source of enchantment and surprise, long to be remembered by the citizens of Charleston.

S. G.

Charleston, March 10th, 1857. Samuel Silman

MINIATURE PAINTINGS.

----- "Tis done ;
The pictures breathe ; the paint will speak anon."
ANACREON.

*.† The dates of the different years refer to the times of executing the portraits.

1. Charles Fraser, by himself, executed in 1800.
2. Charles Fraser, by himself, 1823.
3. Master States Rutledge ; first portrait, sketched at the age of ten years, 1792.
4. Gen. Christopher Gadsden, distinguished in the Revolution, reduced from a portrait by Peale.
5. Philip Gadsden, son of Gen. C. Gadsden.
6. Philip Gadsden (duplicate).
7. Rt. Rev. C. E. Gadsden, Bishop of Diocese of South-Carolina, eldest son of Philip.
8. John Gadsden, second son of Philip, U. S. District Attorney.
9. John Gadsden (duplicate).
10. Gen. James Gadsden, Envoy to Mexico, U. S. Army, third son of Philip.
11. Gen. James Gadsden (duplicate).
12. Mrs. James Gadsden, wife of the preceding, maiden name Hort.
13. James Fisher, of the commercial house of John Edwards & Co., who thus became connected with the Edwards family.
14. James F. Edwards.
15. James F. Edwards (duplicate).

16. Mrs. James F. Edwards, maiden name Gadsden, daughter of Philip Gadsden.
17. Mrs. Barksdale, sister of James F. Edwards.
18. George Barksdale, infant son of Mrs. Barksdale.
19. Elias Horry, the Huguenot, emigrated about 1680.
20. Col. Elias Horry, son of the above.
21. Thomas Horry, grandson of the Huguenot.
22. Col. Peter Horry, distinguished officer in the revolutionary war, grandson of the Huguenot, and cousin of Thomas Horry.
23. Elias Horry, son of Thomas, and great grandson of the Huguenot.
24. Mrs. Elias Horry, daughter of Col. Shubrick.
25. William Branford, maternal grandfather of the late Mr. Elias Horry.
26. Mrs. Branford, wife of the above, a heroine of the revolution.
27. Capt. Shubrick, brother of the ancestor of the present family.
28. Mr. Shubrick, son of the ancestor of the present family.
29. Col. Thomas Shubrick, son of the above, and father of Mrs. E. Horry.
30. Mrs. Shubrick, wife of the above.
31. Gen. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, officer American revolution and Minister Plenipotentiary to France (drawing in India ink).
32. Chief Justice Rutledge, M. C., copy from Turnbull, 1818.
33. Gen. C. C. Pinckney, 1823.
34. Mrs. M. Horry Laurens, 1830.
35. Gen. John Rutledge.
36. Mrs. Henry Laurens, daughter of Chief Justice Rutledge.