

**EXHIBITION OF ENGRAVED  
PORTRAITS OF WASHINGTON  
COMMEMORATIVE OF THE  
CENTENARY OF HIS DEATH**

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Exhibition of Engraved Portraits of Washington Commemorative of the Centenary of His Death  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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ENGRAVED PORTRAITS OF  
WASHINGTON.

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Exhibition of



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of Washington  
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Centenary of his Death



On view at

The Grolier Club

Twenty-nine East Thirty-second St., New-York

Dec. 14th, 1899, to Jan. 6th, 1900

## INTRODUCTION

George Washington died at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799. Numerous portraits of him, painted and engraved, existed at the time of his death. When, in 1880, the late W. S. Baker published in Philadelphia his useful compendium, "The Engraved Portraits of Washington," he was able to catalogue and describe four hundred and thirty-four different portraits. His efforts deserved, and have received the gratitude of all collectors of Washingtoniana. He was the pioneer in his province, and to his sagacious industry all other investigators are bound to acknowledge their indebtedness. But Mr. Baker could not escape the pressure of those limitations under which all makers of catalogues are destined to work when they break new ground. Since 1880 many portraits of Washington, unknown to or undescribed by Baker, have been brought to light, and collectors have come to realize more and more that the iconography of

Washington, like that of Napoleon, Franklin, and Lincoln, offers an extraordinarily fruitful field for research.

The Grolier Club commemorates in the present exhibition the centenary of the death of Washington. Such a tribute is, however, necessarily restricted in scope, and perhaps of transitory effect. It has been decided, therefore, that the interest of the Club in that side of Washington's history which is more particularly significant to its members, shall take permanent form in a new catalogue of the engraved portraits of our first President, a catalogue which shall include all the portraits discovered since the publication of Mr. Baker's book, or which have been omitted in that work, and which shall correct such errors as it contains. Mr. Charles Henry Hart has consented to undertake the task, and the result of his labors will presently appear as one of the regular publications of the Club. It is expected that this will be the standard work for which collectors have been waiting. The brief handbook to which these remarks are prefixed, it may be added, is issued merely



for the purpose of providing a convenient guide to the exhibition. It is not in any sense based on the work prepared by Mr. Hart.

The space in the gallery of the Club does not admit of an attempt to exhibit a complete collection of the mass of engraved portraits which have risen around the personality of Washington. The aim of the committee has been rather to place on view a number of the rarer prints, with a selection of others sufficient to give the spectator a broad conception of the manner in which the illustrious subject has been treated by successive generations of engravers.

The Committee of Arrangements begs to thank Judge Mitchell and Hampton L. Carson, Esq., of Phila., G. R. Barrett, Esq., of Boston, and Mrs. C. C. Worthington and W. C. Crane, Esq., of New York (who are not members of the Club), for rare prints loaned.



## CATALOGUE.

\*  
*The "B" numbers refer to those of  
W. S. Baker's Catalogue.*  
\*

1. **His Excell: G. Washington Esq<sup>r</sup>.**  
Bust, in oval.  
Mezzotint. By C. W. Peale. First state, before any letters.  
Very rare. B. 1.  
A. The same, second state, with letters.  
B. Third state, the lettering altered.
  
2. **Gen. Washington.** Full bust, in uniform.  
Circle, with border, upon a pyramidal base, in a rectangle.  
Line. By William Angus, after C. W. Peale.  
Proof before all letters. B. 3.  
A. The same, with letters.