

**A SOUVENIR OF THE ART
MUSEUM OF THE CITY
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS., 1895**

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Various

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Springfield, Mass. City Library Assoc. Art n



PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

It is intended that the historical and descriptive data and illustrations herein presented shall give information to the citizens of Springfield in reference to the Art Museum and interest them in the great work of education which is sought to be accomplished through its agency.

The attention of the reader is respectfully called as well to the advertisers, through whose kind cooperation this publication has been made possible.

Springfield, Mass., April, 1895.

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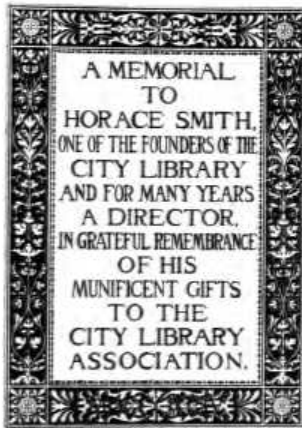
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TERRA COTTA FRIEZE OF MAIN BUILDING.

THE SPRINGFIELD ART MUSEUM.



Bronze Tablet to be placed in memory of the late Horace Smith.

The Springfield Art Museum which is now thrown open for public inspection is the finished result of a movement which dates back to 1889. The subject of increased facilities for the work of the Library and relief from the overcrowded conditions in the old building had been several times brought before the Directors of the Library Association by the Librarian, Rev. Dr. William Rice.

But when at a meeting of the board in 1889, Mr. G. W. V. Smith offered by letter to bequeath to the association his valuable collection

and to endow it on condition that it should be provided with suitable rooms for its display and preservation intact and apart from the gifts of others, which magnificent offer was supplemented by that of Mrs. Smith to bequeath her rare and valuable collection of laces, a new building became a more imperative necessity and active means were taken to procure it.

Through the courtesy of Noyes W. Fisk, who, acting for the Winthrop Club, held the refusal of the property adjoining the

Library on the east, the Directors were enabled to purchase it for \$35,000. This lot has a frontage on State street of 115 feet and is 400 feet deep. The frame residence was moved to the rear of the lot, and being somewhat altered and enlarged, now serves as a residence for the janitor, as also a home for the Women's Club. This property was paid for from the bequest of \$50,000 made by Mr. Horace Smith.

The task of procuring funds for the erection of the new building was generously assumed by Mr. John Olmsted, he himself heading the subscription with the handsome sum of \$10,000. By his earnest and persistent efforts, the amount necessary to warrant the erection of the building was speedily secured.

Fifty thousand dollars was at first thought sufficient, but this sum was soon found inadequate and more was obtained. The total amount expended on the building now amounts to over ninety thousand dollars.

Miss Harriet B. Hitchcock was a subscriber to the building fund to the amount of \$1,000. Afterwards she gave \$5,000 towards the purchase of suitable cabinets in which to display Mr. Smith's curios. As the building was nearing completion she gave Mr. Smith a piece of real estate on Chestnut street with authority to sell and devote the proceeds to the embellishment of the building. Miss Hitchcock's total subscription amounts to about thirteen thousand dollars. The names of some fifty painters, sculptors and artisans adorn the exterior walls of the building as a result of her munificence.

James A. Rumrill, James Kirkham, Amelia Chapin Haile, P. P. Kellogg, Mrs. C. L. Covill and daughters, and Mrs. Horatio N. Case were subscribers to the amount of \$5,000 each. Other generous subscriptions in lesser sums were secured, and the names of all donors appear on another page.

Plans were submitted by several architects and those of Renwick, Aspinwall & Renwick and Walter T. Owen of New York, were accepted. The Italian Renaissance style of architecture was chosen as being the most appropriate.

In this, as in fact in all matters concerning the erection of the building and its furnishing, Mr. Smith's judgment has taken precedence, on account of the many years' study and observation of such museums at home and abroad, always with a possible and even probable intention of erecting such a building to contain his