



Bust of Laura Musser
George Grey Barnard
Marble, metal, 1882
Gift of the McWhirter family

Bust of Laura Musser



George Grey Barnard (1863-1938)

A world renowned sculptor and collector, George Grey Barnard was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Muscatine where his father served as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church. While in Muscatine, he was commissioned to sculpt Laura Musser who was just a young girl at the time. At the age of 17, Barnard went to Chicago and eventually enrolled at the Art Institute. The following year, he left for Paris and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. In 1900, he received a gold medal at the Exposition Universelle (Paris) and a similar award at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in 1901.

Barnard supported his family by dealing in medieval and Gothic antiquities. He dreamed of establishing a museum to display his collection. In 1914, he opened a private museum near his studio in upper New York City. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., purchased the collection which now belongs to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Collection Connection

In 1895, S.G. Stein II, brother of the deceased Barbara “Lottie” Angeline Stein Barnhart, commissioned Barnard to create a sculpture for the family mausoleum in Greenwood Cemetery. The finished work, *Maiden with Roses*, is on view at the Muscatine Art Center. The marble column base incorporates a poem written by Lottie just a few weeks before her death. Lottie and George Grey Barnard knew each other from childhood.

The Muscatine Art Center also houses a collection of letters written by Barnard. Some of the letters pertain to his local commissions while others contain inquiries about Muscatine residents with a connection to Barnard.



George Grey Barnard
Maiden with Roses
Marble and metal, 1895-1898
On loan from the Stein Family