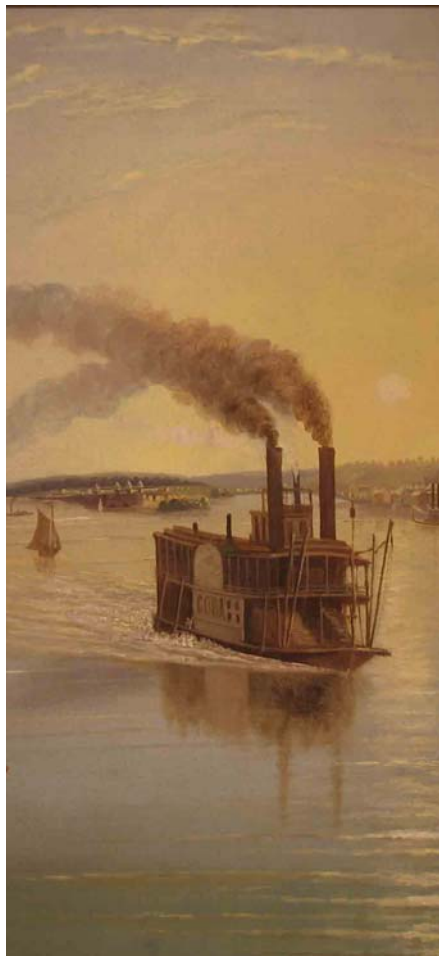




*Davenport and Rock Island City*  
**Henry Lewis**  
Oil on canvas, 1855

## Davenport and Rock Island



### Henry Lewis (1819-1904)

Born in England, Henry Lewis's family first settled in Boston before moving to St. Louis where he was employed as a scene painter. Between 1846 and 1848, he traveled up and down the Mississippi making sketches which he later developed into a panorama – 12 feet high and 1,300 feet long. The panorama was rolled onto an enormous cylinder and exhibited around the United States where it was praised by reviewers for being “well-executed and faultless as to accuracy and detail.”

After a period of touring the panorama, Lewis feared the market was overstocked with panoramas so began touring the panorama in Europe in 1850. European viewers were reported to be “seized with a desire to emigrate to America.” The attraction did not yield a profit. Lewis settled in Dusseldorf where he contracted a company to publish a book featuring 78 scenes after his own sketches

### Collection Connection

While working to document the river, Henry Lewis encountered Captain Seth Eastman (first in 1847 and again in 1848), who was serving as commander of the frontier military post at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Eastman was also an artist who had made over 150 watercolors of the upper Mississippi. Lewis asked Eastman to become a partner in his panorama project. Instead, Eastman sold his sketches to Lewis who then used them as the basis for many of his own drawings and paintings. The Muscatine Art Center cares for approximately 30 prints and paintings by Henry Lewis and approximately 30 prints and drawings by Seth Eastman.



Seth Eastman

*Indian Shooting Fish*

Hand-colored steel engraving, 1851-57

Gift of the Muscatine County Museum and Fine Arts Association