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FAIRMOUNT PARK

Art Association.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TREASURER.

ADDRESS
BY
HON'BLE BENJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER.

October 13th, 1872.

PRESS OF
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
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OFFICERS.

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ANTHONY J. DREXEL.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. CORBIT OGDEN.

TREASURER.

JAMES L. CLAGHORN.

SECRETARY.

JOHN BELLANGEE COX.

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FRED. MEADE BISSELL,
WALTER LIPPINCOTT,

CHARLES H. HOWELL.

Entrance Fee (paid only once)	\$1.00
Annual Contribution	5.00
Life Membership	50.00

The Charter may be signed at Bailey & Co.'s, Twelfth and Chestnut Streets;
J. E. Caldwell & Co.'s, 902 Chestnut Street; J. S. Earle & Sons', 816 Chestnut
Street; C. H. & H. P. Muirheid's, 205 South Sixth Street; and at the
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION, 528 LOCUST STREET.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
Fairmount Park Art Association,

HELD AT THE
ROOM OF THE BOARD OF TRADE,
MERCANTILE LIBRARY,

Tuesday, October 15, 1872, at 8 P.M.

JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., was called to the chair, and J. BELLANGEE COX, Esq., appointed Secretary.

The Report of the Board of Trustees and Treasurer was read by the Secretary, and on motion of Col. James Page, adopted and referred for publication.

The election of Trustees for the ensuing year was next in order. On motion of John Goforth, Esq., the present Board was elected by acclamation.

An address was then delivered by the Hon'ble BENJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER, on the conclusion of which it was moved by James L. Claghorn, Esq., that the thanks of the Association be expressed to Mr. Brewster for his able address, and that a copy be requested for publication. Carried.

On motion, adjourned.

JOSEPH PATTERSON,
Chairman.

J. BELLANGEE COX,
Secretary.

Fairmount Park Art Association.

REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO THE MEMBERS, 15th October, 1872

TO THE MEMBERS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK ART ASSOCIATION:

The Board of Trustees who have effected the temporary organization of your Association, and have conducted its affairs since its inception, in June, A.D. 1871, to the present time, respectfully report their transactions as follows:

Early in June, 1871, the gentlemen whose names appear in the charter, as the incorporators, associated themselves as a Board of Trustees for the purpose of effecting the temporary organization of the Association. On the 22d of that month the first subscriptions to the constitution were obtained, and the Association then fairly began its existence.

We have now 733 members, of whom 446 date their membership from 1871, and 287 have joined during the present year.

The charter was granted by special act of the Legislature, and was approved by the Governor on the 2d February, 1872. The certified copy thereof, however, was not received until some weeks later. On the 16th April, 1872, the Board of Trustees adopted the charter, and at the same meeting they directed their Committee on Works of Art to complete the purchase of the model of "Kemeys' Wolves," which work of art had been previously examined and favorably reported upon by that committee, and (informally) by a member of the Park Commission.

Prior to this time the efforts of the Board had been chiefly directed to the completing of the organization of the Association and the increasing of its membership, in order that they might be able to make a creditable purchase immediately after the permanent organization. Happily, they have been able to anticipate in this matter.

The Treasurer's report, hereto annexed, shows receipts, expenditures, and balance on hand.

The Association has already set up one bronze statue (Night), the gift of a liberal citizen, one of our members. It stands on George's Hill in the midst of the flowers.

We have purchased Kemeys' model of "Two Hudson Bay Gray Wolves Quarreling over the Carcass of a Deer." The casting in bronze from this has been made by Robert Wood & Co., of this city, and it is now receiving the finishing touches. It is hoped to have this remarkably fine and unique group set in place in the Park before the first of November. It would have been erected before now had not the bronze-founders been compelled to quit work during a portion of the very hot weather of last summer.

This group is to be mounted upon a rugged rock base, six feet high, the material for which has been contributed by the Conshohocken Stone-Quarry Company. The site is not yet determined upon; it is being considered by the Commissioners of the Park.

The Association mourns the loss by death of two of its most valued trustees, Edward H. Trotter, Esq., who died on the 3d of May, 1872, and William J. Horstmann, Esq., who departed this life on the 10th of the same month. They were both called away in the midst of their usefulness. They have left a blank that, to our sight, seems impossible to be filled.

The condition of your Association is very prosperous. The number of members is considerably larger than might reasonably have been expected, and the collections of money have been unexpectedly large, considering the brief time which has elapsed since the inception of the enterprise.

Nevertheless, we are not satisfied. No lively organization ever should be satisfied with its present condition. It should ever be pressing forward to greater prosperity and more extended usefulness. We hope, and with somewhat of confidence believe, that what has already been accomplished is but the beginning of that grander success which we so heartily desire. We look forward, confidently expecting in the near future such an increase of membership and such an abundance of funds as will enable us to contribute every year to the Park some work of real art, of which not only we, but also the city, may be justly proud.

And now we hand over to you, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Association, the trust which we have voluntarily assumed, and which we have endeavored faithfully to administer. We hope the new Board of Trustees that you will this evening elect may receive the same cordial support you have extended to us, and that their success may be far greater than that which we have enjoyed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,

JOHN BELLANGEE COX, *Secretary.*

A. J. DREXEL,
President.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Total amount received from subscriptions and entrance-fees (of which \$1000 was sub- scribed for the purchase of "Night")	\$7075.00
Paid for statue of "Night,"	\$1000.00
" on account of Group of Wolves, by Kemeys	800.00
Sundry expenses for the year	572.94
Cash invested	4300.00
" in bank	402.06
	\$7075.00

JAMES L. CLAGHORN,
Treasurer.

ADDRESS OF
HON'BLE BENJAMIN HARRIS BREWSTER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: Forty years ago the great public work of this city was the Fairmount Water Works. Travelers in their published books record their visits to that spot as one of the incidents not to be forgotten. To it the people went with their wives and children on holidays. The only theatre we had adorned its drop curtain with a fine view of the dam, the houses and the basin, so important and attractive were those works considered then. That time has gone. Now they are known to be of great public value, but they are no longer attractive. Works of a like character and of equal importance have been constructed in various quarters to supply the demands of our vast population, for from about one hundred and fifty thousand we have grown to be near a million. From a city of moderate dimensions, we have become a metropolis covering more territory than any other in the world, except the large Oriental towns in Japan and China. Out of this increase so unexampled there grew a necessity for the Park, and with a promptitude characteristic of our people the demand was at once supplied. Fortunately, the very spot best suited was unoccupied. By public authority it was taken and adapted to its purpose by a discreet and wise employment of all its utilities. Now the Fairmount Park, and not the Fairmount Water Works, is the object of our pride. Without exaggeration, may I not say that it is also the glory of our city? Since we have it, the wonder now is that we were willing to go so long without it.

For over forty long years hardly used for any necessary purpose

or applied to any practical use, the territory occupied by it has been, by the mere declaration of legislative will, converted into the most extensive and beautiful public park that supplies the wants of any people, or adorns any city in the world. The shores of the Schuylkill, near one hundred years ago, were lined on each side with the spacious and elegant seats of our wealthy provincial gentry and merchants; nearly all of them remain yet, testifying to the taste and refinement of life of our ancestors. After the construction of the Water Works they were abandoned, as they were plague-stricken by the miasma generated from the still water of the dam, and so they stood in all their beauty of structure and position for years and years unused, unoccupied, solitary, and sad. Now they adorn our Park and relieve its monotony and give to it an air of life and action. Of late years the river-bank is healthful. The boats that ply its waters, or some other unknown cause, have changed its atmosphere, and it is no longer dangerous. See how by a strange coincidence of events this spacious domain has been preserved for the public, while it is restored to its original use of innocent and healthful enjoyment, but in a more enlarged and general range. All who have visited this place, and gone over its various points of rural and rugged beauty, must testify that a finer tract of land, containing such varieties of landscape, cannot well be found; certainly there is no such place adjacent to any city, and there is no such place dedicated to such a public use in the world.

The public authorities who have charge of this place have been obliged and will be obliged to expend large sums of money to develop it and suit it for its purposes. That will exhaust their means at least for the present. In the mean time, it is essential that there should be artistic decorations scattered through its grounds, to adorn and relieve the wide-spread loveliness of the landscape. To that end this Association was created. "Statues, busts, fountains, and such other works of art as good taste shall dictate, and the Commissioners of the Park sanction," are the fit gifts of those whose means can help the authorities in this great act of public education, this great institution, needed as much

for the public health as for personal pleasure. In June, 1871, this thought was suggested to a few gentlemen.

Soon they gathered three hundred others. By the end of the year six hundred were collected, and then an act of incorporation was obtained, and the institution fairly established. At present there are over seven hundred members, all citizens of spirit, and some of distinction. The names of ladies adorn the list. By-and-by, as its purpose is known and merits are felt, and its works are seen, we hope that it will have thousands of our liberal citizens enrolled as members. It is not an association for the wealthy only. It is designed to enable the people of moderate means to join in this delightful work of public usefulness.

The statue of "Night"—the bronze figure on George's Hill—was the gift of a member. And soon, early in November, a group representing two Hudson Bay wolves quarreling over the carcass of a deer, will come from Wood's bronze foundry, where it is now being finished. It is the work of E. Kemeys, and the gift of the Association. It is said to be spirited and striking in its effect. And so, from year to year, will we garnish this chosen spot of innocent delights with creations of genius exalting in their influences, and embellishing and ennobling our dear, dear Philadelphia. It is in such public objects of decoration and use that we are wanting. The luxuries, the pomps, and vanities of the Old World attract the idle and sumptuous from the New, the sudden rich, eager for notoriety and hungry for indulgence; but the thoughtful and trained men of our country journey and tarry there to see their people and the influence of ages of kingcraft upon them, and to behold with solemn joy the marvelous and majestic beauties of their architectural and artistic wonders. Many of you can recall the mysterious beauty of the universities, their halls and colleges, and the numberless cathedrals that glorify as well as adorn England, the home of our forefathers, "that little gem set in the silver sea," and that are spread over the continent, standing out like lofty mountains in the midst of the dwellings that surround them. And you can remember the striking effect

of the many fountains and columns and statues and pavilions that testify to the inspiration of genius, and are the evidences of regal splendor. In those countries such grand things are seen and felt and enjoyed by the rich and cultivated only. The poor and laborious and needy have no heart for them.

Gladly and eagerly they turn from these marvels of beauty and taste, and sometimes landmarks of history. They cross the waters of a stormy sea to find protection, and comfort, and prosperity here. Our rich and voluptuous sometimes banish themselves from their country to live a life of pleasure, surrounded with these attractions, and to affect an affinity with the titled and privileged ; but our poor and their poor come together, and our moderate and sober, whose souls are not dead, but who live for a purer and a higher life, by a purer and higher law of being, remain here and enjoy that which has been given us, and help, by wholesome and temperate example, to build up and strengthen a government that is made by all and for all—which is a temple not made with hands.

Should we not learn from this that such things can neither make nor save a people? Greece, Rome, Gothic and Arabic Europe, in all their sublimity and splendor of architecture and artistic decorations, are deserted by men suffering with want, and out of whom the hard necessities of life eat all consciousness of their influence. That which we do will remain to elevate and refine, as we have no laws perpetuating poverty and glorifying wealth. We do more than the founders of those races and people. We begin with public principles, that protect all equally in their rights, and bind all equally to their duties. We devise expedients of mechanical inventions almost magical, by which we cheapen the necessities of life, and shorten the hours of labor. We give education to all, so that the standard of moral and mental excellence may be advanced, and better citizens created. It is this policy that pervades the soul of our society, and purifies and refines the whole population. The possession of creations of art will not alone make us good and happy. The public moral sense that precedes their production and demands their creation

is the only true test of their usefulness and fitness; and even then, if we degenerate and become sensuous, and voluptuous, and ostentatious, and full of folly, without soul or conscious faith in the good and true, then their presence will only gratify a half animal, half intellectual passion; but it will not excite that joy which, like "the joy of the drawing of waters," exceeds all other joys—the joy of a serene moral nature—tranquil and content, because its aim is above self, and its object is the good of all, and its means natural and truthful.

Do not worship the beautiful and artistic alone, for the artistic is oftentimes only the artificial. Of beauty old Goff says in his quaint way:

"What is it?—a poor, weak thing assaulted every hour by creeping minutes of defacing time—a superficies which each breath of care blasts off, and every humorous stream of grief that floweth from out the fountains of our eyes washeth away as rain doth winter snow."

No, cultivate the good. As we have cultivated the good so have we prospered. But I, too, must be cautious and speak of these things naturally and simply. I must not dilate on the varieties of landscape or the points of scenic attraction, or enlarge on the influence of art on the imagination. I, too, must be practical, or I may become sentimental and rhetorical, and therefore vulgar.

As you enter the West Park you behold an object that to the eye of the thoughtful mind is at once a subject of admiration and surprise. I allude to the railway bridge that spans the river. What more fitting and striking monument could be conceived, to illustrate and adorn the genius and vocation of our people?

Itself is a work of high art, as it is the creation of pure science. Majestic in its elevation, graceful in its lightness and symmetry, it is marvelous in its strength and fitness. It is beautiful and it is grand, for it is the creation of intellect in its highest walks of scientific truth, adapted to public necessities. May such things as these cover our land, and they will, like the great aqueducts and canals and public works of antiquity, remain to testify our civili-

zation when other and more fanciful productions of art shall have crumbled into dust. Works of a kindred nature, as well as works of beauty and embellishment, will spring up all over our country. Let us hope that no warlike trophies—no relics of savage arts—will disgrace the history of our development. But triumphs of engineering skill, with forms of purity—beautiful because pure—emblems of moral excellence and public good, such as this Park and its embellishments, should adorn our country to remain as perpetual witnesses of our tone.

We must cultivate the useful, the natural, and we will thus keep alive a sense of simplicity and truth, which is the life of the beautiful; and we must be thankful, as that is the life of righteousness, for in a thankful heart dwells righteousness.

“ As righteousness it is alone that can
Exalt a nation or promote a man.”

