

Fisher, Alvan (SC-33)

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33)

1822-1852

Title Statement

Fisher, Alvan (SC-33) Finding Aids to Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Alvan Fisher Personal Papers SC-33

Subtitle: Special Collection 33 (SC-33)

Author: Courtney Yevich Tkacz, VMFA Archivist

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-33

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/200

Unit Date

1822-1852

Mixed Materials

SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection documents the relationship between the equestrian artist Alvan Fisher and one of his patrons, New York lawyer and horse breeder Charles Henry Hall. The letters discuss the likenesses of the horses Fisher painted, as well as upcoming races, and the noted 19th century racehorse American Eclipse.

Creator

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Creator

Porter, William Trotter, 1809-1858

Creator

Spirit of the times (New York, N.Y. : 1837)

Extent

0.1 Linear Feet 1 box; 2 folders (10 items)

Repository

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research. The digital collection can be accessed through the VMFA Collections Search website.

Conditions Governing Use

The collection is in the public domain.

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Keywords

Horses in art

American Eclipse (Race horse), 1814-1847

Painting, American. 19th century

Engraving, American. 19th century

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Dedham (Mass.)

Charleston (S.C.)

Boston (Mass.)

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Custodial History

The collection was donated by Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis in 1976 when he gifted six paintings by Alvan Fisher to the museum.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series, and items are generally arranged chronologically within each series. Items with no date are generally placed at the end at each series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Correspondence

Unit ID SC-33-01

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41382

Unit Date 1822-1823, undated

Extent 8 items1 folder

Box 1, Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41384

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41386

Unit Date Oct. 1, 1822

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.001 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

No Copyright - United States: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-US/1.0/?language=en>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Dedham Ms Oct 2d 18/ Charles Henry Hall, Esqre New York Care of Thos H. Smith
Dedham Alvan Fisher October 1st 1822 Recd 5th [?] Charles H. Hall Esqre, Dedham 1st October 1822
Dear Sir The paintings which you employ'd me to execute are finished, indeed they have been for
some time, but the sickness in New York has delayed my sending them, as I thot It would be uncertain
(owing to the confusion in NY) If they found you. I have now written to desire that you inform me where
to address them. As I am about to leave this part of the country for the South and therefore to break up
my establishment here, It is necessary for to send them somewhere. I have the four pictures in one
box. I presume that you will be able to select yours. You will oblige me by answering this as soon as
convenient. Please make my compliments acceptable to Mrs. Hall and also to your brother. I am sir
yours respectfully, Alvan Fisher

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Horses in art

Painting, American. 19th century

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Dedham (Mass.)

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41387

Unit Date Oct. 26, 1822

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.002 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

No Copyright - United States: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-US/1.0/?language=en>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: C. H. Hall Esqre Newyork Care Thos. H. Smith Boston Alvan Fisher October 26th 1822 Recd 28th [?] Boston 26th Octr 1822 C. H. Hall Esqre Dear Sir, I have shipped as per bill of Lading the four paintings, and the book which you were so kind to loan me. The paintings I believe are in perfect order and hope they may come to your hands in the same state. In the execution of them I have do my best, I hope they may meet your approbation, as paintings they are certainly superior to the first. as likeness's you will from your more recent observation, be the best judge in this respect from the change in position. I may have lost or possibly have gained - as to the price of the paintings (which in your last you desired me to name) I shall charge seventy five dollars each, this is the sum I have hitherto recei'd for this sized painting. If you please, you will direct the payment to be made to Francis Fisher of the Firm of H. Hovey & Co. Boston. I shall leave this for the South in twelve days - probably not be in Nyork. Yours, Alvan Fisher

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Horses in art

Painting, American. 19th century

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Boston (Mass.)

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.003

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41388

Unit Date Nov. 29, 1822

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.003 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

No Copyright - United States: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-US/1.0/?language=en>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Charles H. Hall Esqre New York Care of Thos. H. Smith Charleston Alvan Fisher November 29th 1822 Recd Decr 11th 1822 [?] Charleston / S.C. / 29th Novr 1822 Dear Sir, I understood from you that it was in contemplation to have the portraits of Eclipse and Bassorah Engraved. If I have not been mistaken as to this fact, I wish to call your attention to a proposition of a friend of mine who is an engraver of much merit and particularly in animals and landscape - and from the specimens of horses which I have seen I think that he would execute the portraits of the above animals as well as any man

in America. Mr. Charles C. Wright the gentn alluded to, is desirous of Engraving one or both of the animals - and as his proposition is a fair one, I thot that you might wish to avail yourself (as one of the association) of it. His proposition is this: he will take the portrait of Eclipse and Engrave it on a plate of the size which which you may desire, and when finished it shall be at your option to take it at a fair price, If it meets with your expectations. If not, the loss is to be his alone - should he meet your expectations in the first he will hope, and expect the other portrait. Mr W. is ambitious to make himself known and I have no doubt he would do justice to the paintings - his offer is so candid and disinterested in every respect (but the wish to add to his fame) that it is an additional inducement for me to write independant his merit as an engraver. It has given me much pleasure to hear that Eclipse has gained fresh Laurels from the ""Ancient dominion"" and that the South are convinced that the North can run as well as fight. I employ my leisure moments in portraits of Bassorah in picturesque positions and situations. Should your friends wish for his portrait I can supply them. Yours respectfully, Alvan Fisher C. H. Hall, Esqre

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Horses in art
Painting, American. 19th century
Wright, Charles Cushing, 1796-1857
Engraving, American. 19th century
American Eclipse (Race horse), 1814-1847
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Charleston (S.C.)
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

General

Man with back towards camera is Earl James; Taken at Ray's apartment

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.004

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41389

Unit Date Dec. 24, 1822

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.004 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: PAID Charles H. Hall Esqre Newyork To the care of Thos H. Smith Charleston Alvan Fisher December 24th, 1822 Recd January 2d, 1823 Charleston 24th Decr 1822 Charles H. Hall Esqre, Dear Sir, your letter of the 11th Just was this day recei'd. I am sorry to find that I did not mention in my former letter that Mr Wright is a resident at this place, particularly as much time is lost thereby. In order that you may form some idea of Mr Wrights style of engraving, I have enclosed an impression of an animal owned in this place called Twig he is by regular descent one of the decendants of the Godolphin Arabian, this print (which is a strong likeness) will, I think convince you that his claims are

good, to the honour that I have mentioned. I will observe respecting this engraving, that it was executed merely for the purpose of putting at the head of Bills, (the horse being kept for a [?] horse) and done in so much haste that Mr Wright had no impression taken from the plate white executing, an omission not common among engravers even on subjects of less importance. Notwithstanding the haste with which it was done I think you will not fail to observe the beauty and firmness in the lining [?] of the animal as well as beauty of the etching of the ground and sky. I am inclined to send this specimen as it is the largest of the animal kind that he has done. I have no doubt should you think proper to give Mr W. the engraving of the plate that he would give you something far beyond this specimen. Mr Wright is still willing to do it on the terms which I stated in my former letter. It is impossible for Mr Wright to say say definately what he should charge as he does not know the size of the plate desi-red nor if there is to be figures and Land-scape introduced. He recei'd thirty dollars for engraving the plate of this horse. If he engraves it he will engrave it in the line manner, he executes in no other manner. Mr W. wishes to do this rather as an introduc-ction to Newyork than anything else, as he contemplates settling in that place next spring. The eclat which ""Old Ironsides"" gained in the late race pleases me much. I assure you that I laugh without mercy at these boasting ""Southoons"" [?] in consequence of our Northern Victory. It is nuts for me, and I crack them open the arro-gant assumption of this people. I sincerely hope that the North will retain the character which they have gained for superior speed and which they have always had for bottom - this last remark will apply to the sciences and general literature. This place is very dull buisness generally stagnant. the late attempt at insurrection has cast a damp upon many. much slave property will be disposed of this winter, and its owners will remove to the North. I am Dear Sir, Yours respectfully Alvan Fisher

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Horses in art
Painting, American. 19th century
Wright, Charles Cushing, 1796-1857
Engraving, American. 19th century
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Charleston (S.C.)
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.005

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41390

Unit Date Feb. 27, 1823

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.005 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Charles H. Hall Esqre Newyork N.Y. Care of Thos. H. Smith [?] Ship Saluda. Charleston Alvan Fisher, February 27th 1823. Recd March 7th Charleston 27th Feby 1823 Dear Sir, I have sent to you by the ""Saluda"" a box containing three paintings, two Bassora's and one Eclipse. you will please

to look at them and If you find any one to please you more than the ones you have, you will make an exchange. I do not know If the ones sent are better or as good as the ones you now have but you will by comparing them be able to judge. Should any of your friends wish for any or all of them I should like to dispose of them. I would sell them low. say sixty dollars each or even at fifty as I am in want of funds to enable me to put in execution a project which I have long had in contemplation. were it otherwise I should not be induced to sell them at the sums I have mentioned - as I at those prices obtain but a living only - In sending these paintings to you I hope not to be misund-erstood. I only perform a promise which I made to you when in Newyork (last), that you should have a choice from any that I might execute while in this place. I hope and trust that I have not intruded too far upon your politeness by desiring you to show them to your friends. If I was less acquainted with your friendly disposition to the arts and artists I should not have taken this liberty. I shall be in Newyork in all twenty days, when I shall do myself the pleasure to call on you. I have nothing to write about unless it be a report that old Eclipse' bottom and speed is to be tried by one of two horses that have recently run here. I witness'd the running of both horses. The Sumpter ran four mile heats with considerable speed. say in 8 min. 5 seconds, but the course was muddy in part - he certainly is a fast horse - but I should bet on Eclipse. The other horse is called Flying Childers he ran 3 mile heats, is a very fast horse but doubt If he can run four miles with the pride of Newyork. he is a short horse but runs very clean. The report here is that one of these animals or one now in Virginia - will run against Eclipse for twenty thousand dollars. when I see you I shall give you more particulars. I am sir, yours respectfully Alvan Fisher Charles H. Hall Esqre

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Horses in art
Painting, American. 19th century
American Eclipse (Race horse), 1814-1847
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Charleston (S.C.)
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.006

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41391

Unit Date May 5, 1823

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.006 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: PAID Charles H. Hall Esqre Newyork Care Thos H. Smith Boston Alvan Fisher May 5th, 1823 Recd 7th [?] Dedham May 5th 1823 Charles H. Hall Esqre Dear Sir, When I was in Newyork you observed that you thot it probable that I might dispose of some portraits of "Eclipse" should I paint them. I have completed four pictures of him in a superior Style. and I think from the best of my recollections of the horse, one better likeness's than the one I brot on from Newyork to copy from -

both in respect to form and colour. I may be mistaken in these respects, but think not in point of finish. the Animal is much better than the one I have - as a guide - I have been continually engaged on them since my arrival home - and have very [?] done from. I am now engaged on one other for Mr Van Ramst. Shall aslo if possible finish one of Bassora before your races commence. I shall be disposed to sell the portraits at fifty dollars each. which is very low for a single picture - Lower than I can well paint them for. If you now think I could effect a sale of them I would send them - or If there was a fair prospect of obtaining business - even enough to defray my expenses to Newyork. I would certainly visit your city as I wish very much to be present at the races. Your opinion on this subject will have much influence in determining me with regard to visiting Nyork or sending my Pictures. I beg you will excuse me for troubling you respecting my business. I certainly should not have done so, If I had not had proof on proof that you were friendly disposed towards me, and the Arts, or If I had any other person in Newyork to whom I could write. I have not heard what horse is to run against Eclipse. I should much like to know. Please to make my compliments acceptable to Mrs Hall - and your brother - I am Sir, respectfully yours Alvan Fisher

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Horses in art

Painting, American. 19th century

American Eclipse (Race horse), 1814-1847

Van Ramst, Cornelius W.

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Dedham (Mass.)

Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Van Ramst, Cornelius W.

Alvan Fisher to Charles H. Hall, Esquire

Unit ID SC33.01.0.007

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41392

Unit Date May 15, 1823

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.007 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 folded leaf

Extent Correspondence

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

No Copyright - United States: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-US/1.0/?language=en>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: PAID Charles H. Hall Esqre Newyork Care of Thos. H. Smith Boston Alvan Fisher. May 15th 1823. Recd 17th Dedham 15th May 1823 Chas H. Hall Esqre Sir, your much esteem'd and most friendly letter of the - just has been recei'd. Your kind offer to aid me in the disposal of my paintings lays me under additional obligations, and altho my situation in life perhap will never furnish me with the opportunity to make you any return for your many friendly acts, yet the will all be remembered with gratitude and pleasure. I have as you recommended, sent four portraits of ""Eclipse"" to Newyork for the Steam Boat which will arrive in Nyork on Sunday next. I have directed them to your care. In so doing I hope that you will not think me too presuming. In truth I feel as If I was intruding too much on your kind disposition. Respecting the horses, I will say that on comparing them with the one I brot on

with me I think them improved in several respects - viz colour, general form. The width of breast hoch - standing - of the fore leggs - in particular. [?] In all these however I may be wrong. for memory is not always faithful. Yet on it I have depended for the alterations I have made. I hope that you will find them better in those parts mentioned. I am now engaged on a portrait of Eclipse for Mr. Van Ramst. which I shall carry with me when I come on to the races. I shall also return Mr Lynch's picture - I shall be in Newyork on Thursday next or this day a week - and shall come prepared to stay sometime or not as circumstances may incline me. We have numerous stories respecting the horses that are to run against Eclipse. The races produce considerable excitement and many from this part of the country will visit them. The pictures I am disposed to sell on the best terms that can be obtained, tho, I think pictures of the size and Labour that is in them ought to command fifty dollars at the least sum - yet rather than not sell should be disposed to take a trifle less. Indeed the Labour bestowd on such pictures will not warrant me in painting pictures at that price. Please to remember me to Mrs. Hall and your brother I am [?] Sir, respectfully yours [?] Alvan Fisher

Related Materials

76.33.1, 76.33.2, 76.33.3, 76.33.4, 76.33.5, 76.33.6, 85.640

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Horses in art
Painting, American. 19th century
American Eclipse (Race horse), 1814-1847
Van Ramst, Cornelius W.
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Dedham (Mass.)
Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863
Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Van Ramst, Cornelius W.

Envelope

Unit ID SC33.01.0.008

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41393

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC33.01.0.008 (Item)

Language English

Creator Fisher, Alvan, 1792-1863

Extent 1 item

Extent Envelopes

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

No Copyright - United States: <http://rightsstatements.org/page/NoC-US/1.0/?language=en>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Letters from the artist Alvan Fisher Mr. Chas. H. Hall Esq. Mr. Hall was a great enthusiast of race horses and had a fine breeding establishment at what is now Harlem NYC

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852
Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

Series 2: Clippings

Unit ID SC-33-02

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41383

Unit Date 1852

Extent 2 items1 folder

Box 1, Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41385

"Spirit of the Times," XXI, 582

Unit ID SC33.02.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41394

Unit Date 1852

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC33.02.0.001 (Item)

Language English

Creator Spirit of the times (New York, N.Y. : 1837)

Creator Porter, William Trotter, 1809-1858

Extent 1 page

Extent Clippings (information artifacts)

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Spirit of the Times 1852 XXI 582 Death of Young Lady Lightfoot. - We regret to learn that ""Young Lady Lightfoot"", the youngest of Lady Lightfoot's colts, died at the stables of the late CHARLES HENRY HALL, Esq., at Harlem, on the 26th Dec., 1851. She was got by Shark, out of old Lady Lightfoot, and was owned by Dr. LEWIS A. SAYRE, of this city, by whom she was much valued on account of her blood and breeding. Her death was occasioned by a severe cold, which terminated in inflammation of the lungs. She died in foal of a horse colt, by Trustee, which rendered her loss still more severe. One Trustee filly, (the only one of her colts now living), remains, who is beautiful in her points, and shows the blood she is derived from in a remarkable degree.

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

New York (N.Y.)--Pictorial works.

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

"Spirit of the Times," XXI, 583

Unit ID SC33.02.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/41395

Unit Date 1852

mixed materials SC-33 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC33.02.0.002 (Item)

Language English

Creator Spirit of the times (New York, N.Y. : 1837)

Creator Porter, William Trotter, 1809-1858

Extent 2 pages

Extent Clippings (information artifacts)

Extent Paper

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis

Preferred Citation

Alvan Fisher Personal Papers (SC-33). Gift of Mr. T. Kenneth Ellis. VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Scope and Contents

Transcription: Spirit of the Times 1852, XXI 583 DEATH OF CHARLES HENRY HALL, ESQ. It is our painful duty to record the death of CHARLES HENRY HALL, Esq, of Harlem - a gentleman whose name has long been familiar to every reader of the "'Spirit of the Times'" as one of the most noted breeders of blood stock in the United States. He died suddenly of apoplexy on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1852, at Harlem, at the age of 70. Mr. Hall was born at Pomfret, Windham County, Conn., Dec. 26th, 1781. He was the eldest son of Dr. Jonathan Hall, a physician of eminence in that State. In early life he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, which no doubt gave the bias to his mind, which afterwards so fully developed itself. At the age of nineteen he went to New York, and entered the counting house of Murray & Mumford, at that time eminent merchants in this city. He there acquired the necessary information to fit him for intercourse with foreign countries, and soon after went abroad. He visited England, France, Portugal, and Spain, and from the natural strength of his mind and great habits of observation, acquired that vast amount of commercial and other knowledge, which enabled him to become one of the first American merchants in Spain. He established him-self at Cadiz, where he conducted a most extensive business, having at times no fewer than thirty vessels consigned to his house in the harbor at once. He resided at Cadiz during the exciting period of the French invasion of the Peninsular, and was in the city during its bombardment by the French forces. After the peace of 1815 Mr. Hall returned to his native land and to his family. His father having died previously, the care of his mother and a numerous family of brothers and sisters devolved upon him, and most faithfully did he perform towards them the part of father and protector. Placing his brothers at college to complete their education, he devoted himself again to commercial pursuits, and entered the house of Thomas H. Smith, then engaged in the China trade. By his great skill in all commercial affairs, knowledge of trade, and superior enterprise, he gained for the house a position of great eminence. His intellect and unvaried application made him known and respected both at home and abroad. Having purchased an extensive tract of land on the East River, he caused the Dry Dock to be established in its present position, laying out streets and avenues adjacent thereto at his own individual expense. Tompkins Square was laid out for the public by his exertions, and the greater part of the land given by him to the city. The large purchases he had made of lands at Harlem made him resolve to leave commercial life, and he settled himself there on his estate as an agriculturist, employing his time in laying out and planting the grounds around him, and carried the cultivation of his farm to such a degree of perfection that it became the most beautiful spot on the island. He imported many valuable animals from England, and raised others and soon became noted for his superior breed of cattle as well as for the excellence of his race horses. Mr. Hall purchased Lady Lightfoot, so famous in the annals of the Turf in Virginia, and from her descended many noted horses - Eclipse, Lightfoot, Black Maria, Shark, Bay Maria, "'Young Lady Lightfoot,'" whose death, strange to say, we chronicle with that of her breeder, with others less celebrated, all of which claim Harlem as their birth-place. "'Alarm,'" imported from Lord Grosvenor's stud in England, was also many years in his stables, and was the dam of "'Clara Howard,'" a fine racer, and many other superior horses. Mr. Hall's knowledge in regard to the breeding and rearing of all animals was remarkable, and his taste and judgement in regard to them extremely good. Though devoted to his farm and the agricultural improvement of it, he nevertheless found time to attend to affairs of public interest and improvement. He was chosen Alderman of the Twelfth Ward

for several successive years, and whilst in that office caused the construction of the McAdamized road - the Third Avenue. He afterward was elected to the Assembly at Albany, and was instrumental in causing the construction of the Harlem Railroad. Mr. Hall expended large sums of money in order to carry through a railroad to Albany, and had others possessed the same foresight with himself the road would have been completed ten years ago. As it was, he failed to accomplish this object, and it was merged in the Harlem Railroad. Mr. Hall married in England Miss Sarah Mullett, a daughter of Thomas Mullett, Esq., an eminent merchant of London, whose house for twenty-five years stood conspicuous for integrity and commercial honor. As a man, Mr. Hall was distinguished for the dignity and amenity of his manners. His generosity was remarkable, and he never saw the needy of the distressed without the wish to relieve them. Hundreds now live who owe their all in life to his bounty, and many were the tears shed for his memory by the recipients of his kindness. He was a rare man, in every respect, high toned and honorable - a true gentleman in every sense of the word. Magnanimous in prosperity, he was yet greater in adversity. Unchanged by the frowns of fortune, he still pressed onward, with the same strength of mind and energy of purpose at the age of seventy, that he had always manifested, and died as he had lived, with an unflinching reliance on the goodness of God. J. PRESCOTT HALL, the present United States District Attorney and DAVID P. HALL, a lawyer of high standing in this city, are brothers of the deceased.

Keywords

Hall, Charles Henry, 1781-1852

New York (N.Y.)--Pictorial works.

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