The Sculpture of Anna Hyatt Huntington in the Syracuse University Art Collection

Myrna Garvey Eden

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JOAN OF ARC
Bronze, 1¼ times life. 1915. Riverside Drive and 93rd Street, New York, New York.
Anna Hyatt Huntington, Sculptor

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The Sculpture of Anna Hyatt Huntington in the Syracuse University Art Collection

by Myrna Garvey Eden

Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973), one of the foremost American sculptors of her time, presented a large quantity of her personal and professional papers and sculpture to Syracuse University. In addition to the Huntington Manuscript Collection located in the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University, the University owns diverse and numerous examples of her art. These statues, numbering over sixty pieces, represent a variety of subject matter, mood, and grouping completed throughout a career that spanned seventy years of artistic activity. Her general approach continued the French naturalistic tradition of Barye, Frémiet, and Falguière.\(^1\) Although both wild and domestic animals were Mrs. Huntington’s favorite subjects, she also created portrait busts and vigorous studies of the human form which are also part of the Syracuse University collection.

Mrs. Huntington’s eminence in her profession was internationally recognized. Among the highest of her honors are the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from France, 1922; the Grand Cross of Alfonso the XII from Spain, 1929; and in this country, the Gold Medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1930; and the National Sculpture Society’s Medal of Honor. The Union of the Women of the Americas (Union de Mujeres Americanas) elected Mrs. Huntington “Woman of the Americas” in 1958. Who’s Who in America elected her “Outstanding Woman of 1960.”

At the height of her career in 1923, Anna Hyatt married Archer Milton Huntington, poet-philanthropist, and adopted son of Collis Potter Huntington, the railroad magnate.\(^2\) Archer Huntington was the founder of many cultural institutions including the Hispanic Museum in New York City. Their marriage marked the beginning of a personal and cultural partnership of over thirty years. Inspired by her husband’s translation of the epic poem on El Cid Campeador, Mrs. Huntington created a monumental equestrian and sculpture group in honor of this hero for the terrace of the Hispanic Museum. Replicas stand in Seville, Spain; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and in San Francisco, and San Diego, California.

\(^{1}\) Despite the French influence, Mrs. Huntington intended to create an indigenous American sculpture. In an interview I conducted on May 14, 1975 with Mrs. Huntington’s nephew, Mr. A. Hyatt Mayor, Curator Emeritus of Prints at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mr. Mayor stated the following: “She [Anna Hyatt Huntington] consciously tried to start a school of American sculpture.” – M.G.E.

\(^{2}\) Personal records of Archer M. Huntington are also in the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University.
DIANA
Both Mrs. Huntington and her husband were public benefactors and among the great patrons of the arts in America. Because ecology and the preservation of wild-life were major concerns of the Huntingtons, they gave Syracuse University 13,000 acres of forest land in the central Adirondacks near Newcomb, New York to be held in trust for the New York State College of Forestry. They later added 2,000 acres to the gift. Together they founded and developed Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, one of the finest collections of American sculpture of the late nineteenth century and pre-World War II period in this country. Many other museums and institutions were amply endowed by the Huntingtons.

The full range of Mrs. Huntington’s sculpture, from the heroic equestrian monument to the poised ferocity of tigers or the graceful portrayal of a playful fawn, is distributed throughout the collections of over two hundred museums in the United States and in parks and gardens of major cities throughout the world. Syracuse University, however, is the educational institution to which Mrs. Huntington contributed the most extensive amount of her work. A number of her works have been exhibited or are currently on display at the University.

In the 1930s Mrs. Huntington gave the University the first of many gifts of her art — an eight-foot high bronze Diana with bow and hound; it is still on display in the lobby of Carnegie Library.

Among the papers in the Anna Hyatt Huntington Collection at Syracuse University is the following letter concerning the statue, sent to Mrs. Huntington from her poet-playwright friend, Maxwell Anderson:

Dear Anna —

Your Diana did haunt me — and I had to get up that night to try to put her on paper — for she wouldn’t let me sleep. And I’m not easily conquered by bronze women. I’m sending the handwritten copy and shall be proud if you want to show it in facsimile.

For Anna Hyatt Huntington’s Diana

Now you have shot your arrow at the Sun,
little Diana, and the god caught you there —
the living wind still in your up-blown hair,
your eyes burnt back from staring hard upon
the target of the glory of high noon —
caught and immured you in his burnished air
forever, a too valiant challenger,
lifting the empty sockets of the moon.

Had you walked soberly your forest shade
and hid your virgin lustre under cloud
and let your bow hang at the eaves unstrung
you had not died so light and fierce a maid,
nor, dying, gone to join the mutinous crowd
of beautiful blind rebels who died young. Maxwell Anderson
THE YOUNG LINCOLN
Bronze, 18 high. 1963. Room 208, Bray Hall, Syracuse University.
This is the model for the "Young Abe Lincoln on Horseback" (Bronze, 14 ft. high. 1963) given to Syracuse University in 1974, now located on the campus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry adjacent to the Syracuse University campus.

During the 1960s Mrs. Huntington gave Syracuse University more pieces in bronze and aluminum, including portrait busts of Don Quixote; Archer Huntington, Anna’s husband; and several small-scale bronze equestrian statues.
In 1974, after Mrs. Huntington's death, Syracuse University received a bequest of six large-scale pieces of sculpture together with many other smaller pieces in bronze, stone, aluminum, plaster, and clay. The largest of the six pieces is a fourteen-foot, two-ton bronze statue, "Young Abe Lincoln on a Horse," which was installed November, 1974, on the main campus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, where it is on permanent loan from Syracuse University. Another statue, which she entitled, "L’Orage,"3 stands in the lobby of William B. Heroy Geology Laboratory. The third piece, a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, is on extended loan to the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse where, during the winter of 1974, it was on display. A replica of the bronze standing relief of Joan of Arc created for the French Chapel in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City is also included in the gift. Two smaller figures in bronze, "Father Canas" and "Collis Potter Huntington" complete the group of six.

3This is one of several versions.
L'ORAGE
Bronze, 49 high. Lobby, Heroy Hall, Syracuse University.
A List of Sculpture by Anna Hyatt Huntington
in the Syracuse University Art Collection

Following is a catalogue of the sculpture of Anna Hyatt Huntington in the art collection of Syracuse University. The collection, although comprehensive, is lacking in works of Mrs. Huntington’s early period. The list includes completed pieces, studies, models, and sketches, some of which were done in preparation for larger works.

This list is in the chronological order of Syracuse University accession dates. The titles in square brackets have been supplied by the compiler of the list. No date is given for works for which the date of execution has not been traced. Measurements are designated in inches; height precedes length and depth in all cases. Those pieces for which no location is given are in the care of the University Art Collection, Sims Hall.

*Diana*, 1932
Bronze, 99 high, Carnegie Library Lobby
Gift of Archer M. Huntington. 19.18

*Study for Diana*, ca. 1932
Aluminum, 33½ high
Gift of the artist. 19.43

*Archer M. Huntington*, 1924
Bronze, 23½ high
Gift of the artist. 60.12

*Don Quixote*, 1946
Bronze, 23 high, Bird Library: Arents Reading Room
Model for equestrian statue at Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina
Gift of the artist. 60.13

*Queen Isabella on Muleback*, 1959
Bronze, 20 high
Gift of the artist. 60.14

*Sybil Ludington on Horseback*, 1959
Bronze, 17 high
Model for equestrian statue at Carmel, New York
Gift of the artist. 60.15
Two Medals: AFRICA, Bronze, 3-3/8 diam. WATER HOLE, 3-1/2 diam.

These are mounted together on a mahogany block, 6½x10½. At Syracuse University.
The Young Lincoln, 1963
Bronze, 18 high, Bray Hall: Room 208
Model for equestrian statues at New Salem, Illinois; Salzburg, Austria; Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey; and Syracuse University, New York
Gift of the artist. 64.107

Goat's Head
Bronze, 12 high
Gift of the artist. 64.267

Diana, 1950
Aluminum, 31 high
Gift of the artist. 64.268

Donkey Head
Bronze, 9½ high
Gift of the artist. 64.326

Foot of a Goose
Nickel, 7 high
Gift of the artist. 65.99A

Foot of a Deer
Nickel, 4½ high
Gift of the artist. 65.99B

The Young Jackson, 1965
Plaster, 29¾ x 32 x 7
Model for equestrian statue at Lancaster, South Carolina, birthplace site
Gift of the artist. 65.159

Father Cañas, 1965
Plaster, 21½ x 17 x 10
Gift of the artist. 65.160

Captain Putnam, 1965
Plaster, 21 x 14½ x 3¾
Model for equestrian statue at Redding, Connecticut
Gift of the artist. 65.161

Hand of the Artist, 1935
Aluminum, 2½ x 12½
Gift of the artist. 65.162

Two Commemorative Medals:
William Dean Howells, 1920, Bronze, 3¼ diam.
Joan of Arc, 1919, Bronze, 2¼ diam.
Gift of the artist. 69.244-245
**Fish Hawk**, 1935  
Bronze, 16 high, Heroy Hall: Room 112  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.2

**Swan Stretching Wing**, ca. 1935  
Bronze, 22 long  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.3

**Faun and Goat**, 1950  
Bronze, 37 high  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.4

**A Waif**, 1965  
Bronze, 14 high  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.5

**Two Medals:**  
**Water Hole**, Bronze, 3½ diam.  
**Africa**, Bronze, 3-3/8 diam.  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.6-.7  
N.B. 74.6 and 74.7 are mounted together on mahogany rectangle 6⅞ x 10⅞.

**Monkeys Crouching**  
Bronze, 12 long  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.8

**Louis Auslander**, 1952  
Aluminum, 10½ long  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.9

**Victory**  
Aluminum, 20 x 16  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.10

**[Horse on Oval and Rectangular Base]**  
Stained plaster, 17½ x 12 x 5½  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.11

**[Old Horse on Rectangular Base]**, 1937  
Stained plaster, 14 x 12½ x 5½  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.12

**[Old Horse Grazing on Rectangular Base]**, 1937  
Stained plaster, 14 x 15  
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.13
FISH HAWK
Bronze, 16 high. 1935. Room 112, Heroy Hall, Syracuse University.
**Study for the Storm**
Stained plaster, 15½ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.14

**Model for Torch Group** (nude male figure leaning down from back of excited horse), ca. 1955
Stained plaster, 31 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.15a

**Model for Torch Group** (nude male figure reclining with arm raised), ca. 1955
Stained plaster, 15½ x 21
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.15b
N.B. 74.15a and 74.15b are models for equestrian statue at University of Madrid, Spain.

**Model for Sybil Ludington Monument**, ca. 1956
Plaster, 20 high
Model for equestrian statue at Carmel, New York
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.16

**Baby Centaur**, ca. 1936
Stained plaster, 21 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.17

*[Crouching Deer on Flat Rectangular Base]*
Stained plaster, 9½ x 5
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.18

*[Standing Doe]*
Stained plaster, 9½ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.19

*[Doe with Head Thrown Back]*
Stained plaster, 11½ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.20

*[Seated Dog]*
Stained plaster, 11 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.21

*[Crouching Dog]*
Stained plaster, 16 long
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.22

*[Two Mountain Lions Crouching]*
Stained plaster, 7 x 13
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.23
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Bronze, 63 high. 1962. On extended loan from Syracuse University to the Everson Museum of Art of Syracuse and Onondaga County.
[Seated Bear on Rectangular Base]
Stained plaster, 10 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.24

[Terrain Base for Unidentified Figure]
Plaster, 4½ x 14
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.25

Model for a Tabernacle (head of saint, cross, two seated figures, architectural framework)
Stained plaster, 11 x 8½
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.26

Collis P. Huntington, ca. 1926
Plaster, 16 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.27

[Female Death Mask]
Plaster, 10 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.28

Head of Lincoln
Plaster, 7 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.29

Run and Play Darling, ca. 1967
Stained plaster, 14½ high, Heroy Hall: Room 101
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.31

[Crouching Draped Female Figure with Raised Arms]
Stained plaster, 10 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.32

[Seated Figure of Mendicant on Three-Step Base], 1963
Bronzed plaster, 11¾ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.33

Henry P. Davison, ca. 1926
Grey stone, 26 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.35

[Mendicant Friar Holding a Lamb]
Clay, 12½ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.36

[Bear Erect on Hind Legs Against Tree Trunk]
Clay, 12 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.37
DON QUIXOTE
Bronze, 23 high. 1946. George Arents Research Library Reading Room, Syracuse University.
Model for Saint Francis of Assisi, ca. 1962
Clay, 14 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.38

Model for Fly Time (standing cat)
Clay, 15 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.39

[Goat Biting Its Back]
Clay, 6¼ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.40

[Male Figure Carrying Sack on Head with Second Figure Crouching Behind]
Clay, 14 x 5
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.41

Young Abe Lincoln on a Horse, 1963
Bronze, 14 feet high, Campus: State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.67

Father Cañas, 1965
Bronze, 42 high, Sims Hall: Outer Front Hallway
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.68

Saint Francis of Assisi, 1962
Bronze, 56½ high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.69

Joan of Arc, 1922
Bronze, 63 high
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.70

L'Orage (The Storm), remodeled 1963
Bronze, 49 high, Heroy Hall Lobby
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.71

Collis Potter Huntington, ca. 1964
Bronze, 28 high, Sims Hall: Outer Front Hallway
Model for a statue in Christopher Newport Park, Newport News, Virginia
Gift of the Estate of Anna Hyatt Huntington. 74.72