

Portrait of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

MCC-00575

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Portrait of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (MCC-00575)

Shelf List Number: OS-575

Collection Overview

Creator

Edgar Marshall (artist)
George Barrie (publisher)

Dates

1881

Extent

1 framed portrait measuring 25 x 1.5 x 34 inches (frame). The portrait itself measures 21 x 29.5 inches.

Provenance

Donated by Gerard Morin, December 2024. The donor purchased the portrait at an antique shop.

Language

English

Conservation Notes

Frame has some chipping along the corners due to wear and age. Handle with care.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

No restrictions

Physical:

No restrictions

Technical:

No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

Portrait of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (MCC-00575). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was a widely known American poet from the 19th century. He was born in Portland (Maine), which at the time was still a part of Massachusetts until it gained statehood in 1820 to Stephen Longfellow and Zilpah (Wadsworth) Longfellow. He was one of eight children and named after his mother's brother who had died in Tripoli harbor in 1804.

Henry's family one that encouraged education and literary pursuits, starting his education at the age of 3. At the age of 13, Henry passed his entrance exams for Bowdoin College, where he would later become a professor. He also later taught at Harvard College before retiring from teaching in 1854 to focus on his writing. Longfellow was married twice with both of his wives predeceasing him. Longfellow lived out his days after retiring from teaching in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He died in 1882.

Though he has been world-renowned for many of his famous works, Longfellow's *Evangeline: A tale of Acadie* quickly became popular with Acadians and because of its depiction of the Great Deportation. Even though the story is fictional, it depicts real events in a way that quickly became popular. Since its first publication, there have been countless editions and adaptations of the tale in different media formats.

Edgar William Marshall was born in 1837 in New York City. He moved to Washington D.C. at a young age and earned a living as a watchmaker before learning to engrave portraits through his work with the U.S. Treasury department. At the age of 21 he traveled to Paris to learn how to become a great painter.

Marshall returned to the United States during the American Civil War after hearing of President Lincoln's assassination. After his return, Marshall painted a number of portraits of prominent figures in American history such as President Lincoln. Ulysses S. Grant, and General Sherman. He set up shop in New York where he set up a studio and

created portraits of many prominent figures. He died in 1906 at age 70 due to pneumonia.¹

Not much can be found about the publisher George Barrie online by the processing archivist. It appears he could have been a publisher who contracted local artists to create prints, but this couldn't be confirmed.

Scope and Content

One framed portrait of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, famous author and poet. The portrait appears to be a lithograph of Longfellow with sketches depicting various scenes along the edges of the portrait.

Arrangement

Not applicable

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

The donor also dropped off a reprint of Maine artist Marden Hartley's portrait of boxer Lionel Daigle along with a book of Hartley paintings. The reprint was returned to the donor due to the lack of historical significance and relation to the Acadian Archives' mission. The book was donated to the Blake Library to add to their section of books on art.

Subject Headings

Authors, American--Maine
Portraits
Acadians--Fiction

Related Materials

Evangeline Artifact collection (MCC-00510). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Evangeline collection (MCC-00209). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Gerry Morin Evangeline collection (MCC-00245). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. *Evangeline: A tale of Acadie* (various editions)

¹"Marshall, William Edgar (1837-1906)." The Vault at Pfaff's. <https://pfaffs.web.lehigh.edu/node/54234>. Accessed on 1/24/2025.

Collection Inventory

Item Description	Date
1 framed lithograph of Henry W. Longfellow in a golden colored frame.	1881