

# **Gebbie Prints Collection**

## **MS 53**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid written by Joan M. Wolk**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections

July, 2016

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
<b>Title</b>	Gebbie Prints Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	19th century
<b>Extent</b>	1.062 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Graphic materials [Box]</b>	1
<b>Container</b>	1-6
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Gebbie Print Collection consists of a small group of etchings of 19th century European paintings featuring Neo-Classical themes. Gebbie and Company was especially noted for photogravure. Many of the prints are by distinguished engravers from Goupil et Cie formed in Paris in 1850 though their authorship is not always indicated.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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George Gebbie, a lithographer, emigrated from Scotland in 1862 and eventually ended up in Philadelphia. In partnership with Frederick Keppel (1867), George Barrie (1873), and finally by himself (1880) he became the most important fine-art printer and publisher in Philadelphia. Gebbie extensively used the photogravure for both art prints and book illustrations.

Early photogravure was developed in France and England in the 1820s, as a means to create photographic images on plates that could then be etched and used to make prints on paper with a traditional printing press. Photogravure in its mature form was developed in 1878 by Czech painter Karel Klí#. Because of its high quality and richness, registering a wide variety of tones, photogravure was used for both original fine art prints and for photo-reproduction of works from other media such as paintings.

Gebbie died unexpectedly in 1892 and his daughter Mary Elizabeth ran the business until she died in childbirth a year later at the age of 24. The business was then taken over by his son George, who managed to bankrupt the company in 1907. (During the bankruptcy proceedings auditors discovered that George was using the company as a front to launder some 1.5 million USD of organized crime money.)

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Gebbie Prints Collection consists of etchings of European paintings. In the left corner of several prints, "Pinx" refers to the Latin "pinxit" (he or she painted it) and is printed after the name of the artist/engraver. The subject matter features 19th c. Neo-Classical themes and depict figures in Classical and Middle Eastern garb. Many of the prints in the collection are by distinguished engravers from Goupil et Cie, a leading art dealership formed in Paris in 1850.

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## Arrangement note

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The prints are not arranged in any particular order and are housed in 1 box using 6 oversized folders.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections July, 2016

### Conditions Governing Access note

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The Gebbie prints collection was transferred from the Fine Arts Department to Special Collections ca. November, 2013.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Enoch Pratt Free Library. Fine Arts Department.
- Enoch Pratt Free Library. Special Collections Department.
- Gebbie & Husson Co..
- Gebbie and Company.

### Genre(s)

- cliche
- Engraving
- etching (prints)
- gravure prints
- Illustrated books
- Illustrations
- photogravures (prints)
- steel engraving (printing process)
- Wood-engraving.

**Occupation(s)**

- Artists
- engravers (printmakers)
- lithographers

**Personal Name(s)**

- Barrie, George
- Gebbie, George
- Keppel, Frederick, 1845-1912
- Klic, Karel, 1841-1926

**Subject(s)**

- printing blocks

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
E. Cecconi, Washerwomen in Leghorn	1	1
Giuseppe Castiglione, Terrace of the Royal Palace, Naples	1	1
Carlo Ademollo, Chariot Race in the Circus at Antioch	1	1
Eduardo Dalbono, Ariadne	1	1
A. Glisenti, The Two Cousins	1	1
Federico Maldarelli, Ione and Nydia	1	1
C. Maccari, The Fortune Teller	1	2
Tito Conti, The Quarter-Hour of Rabelaise	1	2
Giacomo de Chirico, The Marriage	1	2
Nicolo Cecconi, A Pompeiian Bath	1	2
Amos Cassioli, The First-Born	1	2
G. Induno, An Accident in the Alps	1	2

A. Mangilli, The Floral Festival 1888	1	3
Giovanni Mancini, The Tuscan Maremma	1	3
Lucia Bazzani, A Visit to Pompeii	1	3
Eduardo Gelli, Temptation	1	3
P. C. Gilardi, Three Connoisseurs	1	3
R. Giannetti, Meditation	1	3
E. Fontana, In the Dangerous Sunshine 1823	1	4
G. Costa, The Interrupted Lesson	1	4
Costantino Corti, Lucifer, based on original statue	1	4
V. Corcos, The Butterflies	1	4
L. Bartolini, Charity, based on the original statue group	1	4
F. Andreotti, Wooing	1	4
Niccolo Barabino, Archimedes	1	5



P. Fontana, Hercules and Lichas Based on the engraving of Canova's statue in the Tortolnia Palace at Rome	1	5
Emmanuele Caroi, The Messenger of Love	1	5
A. Cassioli, The Rose	1	5
M. Lovatti, Nana	1	5
D. Induno, The Coquette	1	5
Francesco Hayez, Marino Faliero	1	6
Ada Mangilli, You Little Rogue!	1	6
Vincenzo Marinelli, Masaniello	1	6
G. Mancinelli, The Toilet of the Odalisk	1	6