



THE
PUBLIC
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and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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**The People's Fountain: Images of the Tyler Davidson Fountain (1871)
at Its 135th Anniversary
(July 5-September 20 in the Art & Music Department, third floor)**

In preparation for the reopening of Fountain Square and the Tyler-Davidson Fountain, the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, will feature an exhibition that includes a wide array of visual images and material culture of "the people's fountain," from its unveiling in 1871 to the present. **The People's Fountain: Images of the Tyler Davidson Fountain (1871) at Its 135th Anniversary** is curated by Theresa Leininger-Miller, Ph.D., associate professor of art history in the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning.

The most significant feature of the display is the private collection of the descendents of Henry Probasco (1820-1902), who funded the fountain in honor of his brother-in-law and business partner, Tyler Davidson (1808-1865). The collection includes two red leather-bound scrapbooks filled with information that Probasco collected about fountains while in Europe, as well as a spectacular 39-inch by 25-inch scrapbook containing family photos and memorabilia about the work of public art.

Other items of note are an original invitation to the unveiling, a souvenir book of the event, a portrait miniature of Probasco, some remarkable 19th century images, a print from *Harper's Weekly* (1871), large albumen photographs of the esplanade on Probasco Place (Fifth Street between Vine and Walnut), handwritten correspondence between Probasco and city officials, a city directory from 1851 featuring Tyler Davidson & Co., a bronze medallion from the centennial, a key chain from the restoration in 2000, and several of Probasco's personal effects, such as his monogrammed handkerchief, vanity set, and traveling cards.

Drawn from the Library collection, private collections, and the Rare Book Department of the University of Cincinnati are books in both English and German (ca. 1872-2001), with reproductions of the fountain, the artist, August von Kreling (1819-1876, and the man who cast it, Ferdinand von Miller (1813-1887), at the Royal Bronze Foundry in Bavaria. The exhibition also features many vintage black and white, sepia, and color postcards (ca. 1900-1980s), as well as several stereographs of the fountain and photographs by Charles Waldack, Paul Briol, Landy, Michael Isaacs, and others.

In addition to 19th century souvenir albums of Cincinnati, there will be original prints and reproductions of works by Ehrgott & Krebs, Edward T. Hurley, J.W. Hart, Louis Vogt, Leon Spiegel, Leon Lippert, and Caroline Williams, as well as cartoons by L.D. Warren

and Jim Borgman. There are also multiple souvenir items such as a sterling silver spoon, coffee mugs, serving trays, drinking glasses, and a Wedgwood plate.

DISPLAY HOURS:

9:00-9:00 p.m. Monday-Wednesday

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

1:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday

Closed Holidays

Information: (513) 369-6955

✓ Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

KER: Sponsored by the Kersten Fund

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*: Requires free tickets or pre-registration.