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William Star
Hasseltine

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WILLIAM STANLEY HASELTINE was born in Philadelphia 11th June 1835 and died in Rome 3rd February 1900.

His work, marked by three definite phases, might be described as belonging to the three rivers which he loved above all others: the Delaware, the Rhine and the Tiber. In his earliest youth he learned to draw and paint by the banks of the Delaware; and his work of that time gives evidence of his exceptional aptitude for drawing. The second phase started when he went to Düsseldorf on the Rhine, and when Andreas Achenbach widened his horizon and opened his eyes to the greater beauty and emotion underlying the production of works of art. The third and last phase, in which he has been called a "pre-impressionist," developed in Rome by the Tiber; of the hourly color changes here he used to say, "There is no light like that in the Campagna Romana."

He began painting under Paul Weber in Philadelphia at the age of fifteen, and studied with him in his spare time while a freshman and sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania. He transferred to Harvard, where he was graduated in 1854 at the age of nineteen; returning to Philadelphia, he continued working with Weber. The old man, however, had decided to return to his native Germany, and easily persuaded young Haseltine to go with him.

In Düsseldorf Haseltine studied under Andreas Achenbach, Weber's old mentor, and continued developing his draughtsmanship in emulation of the German mastery of drawing. Here, too, he became closely linked with three American artists, all older than himself—Emanuel Leutze, Worthington Whitredge and Albert Bierstadt—who remained lifelong friends. With them he made the journey of the Rhine to its source in Switzerland; and in 1856 they all went to Rome together. During this period, when German scenery gave way to the more virile landscape of the Alps, there began a long crescendo of activity for him; but this productivity was only a preliminary to the hundreds of sketches which Italy inspired him to make with all the joy of youth. Already he showed his first leaning toward impressionism, which later developed in France.

He returned to New York in 1858 and took up his quarters in the Studio Building at 51 West Tenth Street, where his friends Leutze, Whittredge and Bierstadt had already established themselves. His work was well received in the United States; he held exhibitions in Philadelphia, and in New York at the Century and Salamagundi clubs, and sold a number of important paintings. In 1861 he was elected a member of the National Academy of Design.

He married Helen Marshall, daughter of Captain Charles Henry Marshall, owner of the Black Ball Line, in 1866; and for a few years they lived in Paris. At this time he attached himself to the Barbizon school, then waging war with the Academicians; and he exhibited in the Salon every year. Contemporaneous critics sometimes found his work in color and line unfinished and too vigorous. It is certain that he admired Monet's paintings; one of his own works, some years later, was mistaken for a Monet.

No matter where he happened to be living in Europe, he made annual visits to the United States, where his paintings of the New England coast continued to be appreciated and found a ready sale. His large painting of the ruins of the Greek theatre in Taormina, Sicily, was exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876; soon afterward, his name appeared as one of the founders of the American Academy in Rome, and he was also instrumental in helping to complete the building of the American Episcopal Church in Rome. As in every city where he might make his home, his studio in Rome was the meeting-place for people of varied pursuits in life: artists, writers, diplomats, American visitors to Rome.

In 1893, Haseltine served on the Art Committee for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Between 1890 and 1899 he lived, with his family, in the United States for the greater part of the time. Toward the end of this decade he and his son, Herbert, well known today as a sculptor of animals, toured through the American West, going northward along the Pacific Coast to Alaska. He made many watercolors of Monterey and of the country along the Columbia River; and filled his sketch-books with exquisite watercolors done from the boat going to

Alaska. "I cannot describe to you," he wrote to his wife, "the wonder of our journey; of the six immense glaciers coming into view at the same time, one, of the most exquisite sapphire blue—wonderful against the snow mountains and scores of waterfalls lit up by the evening sun."

Who knows what new works might have resulted from the impressions of this journey upon a vigorous man who was ever fascinated by the variety of the earth's surface? In the autumn of 1899 the Haseltine family returned to their apartment in the Palazzo Altieri; but heart trouble had set in and the artist died peacefully in February 1900, a few minutes after telling his doctor: "I have only just begun to learn to paint."



1. Tivoli, 1858 *
2. Cannes, 1875 **
3. Rock study, Mt. Desert, 1859 *
4. San Pietro, Porto Venere, Spezia **
5. San Pietro, Gulf of Spezia *
6. Fortress in Switzerland **
7. Spezia *
8. Near the Rhine, Germany, 1855 *
9. Capri, 1858 *
10. Dutch boats, A *
11. Boats on Riviera or Italian lake **
12. Dutch boats, B *
13. Capri, 1858 *
14. Murano, Venice **
15. Boats on the Adriatic **
16. Venice **
17. Landscape ***
18. Sette Sale, Rome **
19. Tivoli, 1858 **
20. Cloud study, A *
21. Bruges *
22. Cloud study, B *
23. Rapallo, 1881 **
24. Greek theater, Taormina **
25. Alhambra, 1888 **

26. Traunstein, Bavaria **
27. Albano, 1882 **
28. Mt. Tacoma, 1899 **
29. New England coast, 1864 *
30. New England coast, 1864 *
31. New England coast, 1864 *
32. Mt. Desert, 1859 *
33. Boats, Venice **
34. Fishing boats, Venice **
35. Laguna, Venice ***
36. Grand Canal, Venice ***
37. Blankenberg **
38. Tree study **
39. Capri, 1858 **
40. Seal Harbor, Mt. Desert **
41. Crag, Mt. Desert *
42. Natural arch, Capri *
43. Wetterhorn, Switzerland *
44. Capri, 1858 *
45. Rocks, Maine *
46. Sette Sale, Villa Brancaccio, Rome **
47. Campagna Romana, 1881 **
48. On the slopes of the Hudson *
49. Peyncat, near Belvidere, Delaware *
50. Campagna Romana, 1858 *
51. Belvidere, Delaware *
52. College Hill, Poughkeepsie *
53. Mill dam in Traunstein, Bavaria **
54. Vahrn woods, Tyrol **
55. Torrent in wood, Vahrn, Tyrol **
56. Seelisberg, Lake Lucerne, 1857 *
57. Vahrn, Tyrol **

Drawings *

Water colors **

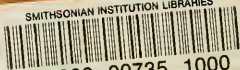
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