

Mary Maccarty Stiles (1807-1872), c. 1825

Eliza Goodridge (1798-1882)  
watercolor on ivory  
3 1/16 x 2 1/2 (7.7788 x 5.0800)  
Bequest of Dwight Foster Dunn, 1937  
Weis 89  
Hewes Number: 111

Ex. Coll.: possibly owned by the sitter's parents John and Mary Stiles (cats. #107, 108), to the sitter, to her niece Mary Stiles Foster Dunn (1830-1900), to her son the donor.

The youngest child of John and Mary Stiles (cats. #107, 108), Mary Maccarty Stiles was born in Templeton, Massachusetts. She lived with her parents until her marriage in 1837 and corresponded often with her older sister Lydia (cat. #109).<sup>1</sup> Mary's father gave her a number of books when she was a child and several of them, including Virtue and Vice, Or the History of Charles Careful and Harry Heedless (1787) and A New Version of the Psalms of David (1762), are inscribed with her name and are part of the American Antiquarian Society's imprint collection.

This miniature of Mary Maccarty Stiles, painted when she was around seventeen years of age, was probably intended to accompany a similar portrait of her older sister (cat. #109). The sisters may have exchanged the miniatures when Lydia was sent to school in New Hampshire in 1820, or their parents may have commissioned the portraits after Lydia completed her formal education around 1825. The artist, Eliza Goodridge, lived in Templeton and was well-acquainted with the family. After 1835, Goodridge painted two additional portraits of Mary Maccarty Stiles, one at the time of her marriage and a second to accompany a miniature of her new husband, Henry Knox Newcomb (cats. #88, 89).

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<sup>1</sup> For the Stiles sisters' lifelong correspondence see the Foster Family Papers 1740-1884, American Antiquarian Society Manuscript Collection.