

Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831), 1859

Benjamin Kinney (1821-1888)

marble

24 1/2 (h) (62.23)

inscribed on verso: "by B. H. KINNEY/1859"

Commissioned by the American Antiquarian Society, 1859

Weis 122

Hewes Number: 130

Ex. Coll.: commissioned by the Society in 1859.

Exhibitions:

1985, "B. H. Kinney, Gravestone Carver and Sculptor," Worcester Historical Museum.

Publications:

Charles Hersey and William Lincoln, History of Worcester (Worcester: Charles Hersey, 1862): opp. 240, engraving.

William D. Wallace, B. H. Kinney, Gravestone Carver and Sculptor, (Worcester: Worcester Historical Museum, 1985): 31.

After Kinney's plaster bust of Isaiah Thomas (cat. #129) was exhibited in Worcester in May of 1859, a contract for a marble version was drawn up between the artist and the American Antiquarian Society the following month. The contract, which was arranged by Society member Isaac Davis (cat. #39), stated that Kinney should, "proceed to work and finish from the best Italian Marble, a bust of the late Isaiah Thomas, the former and first president of said Society, after the model now standing in their Hall, made by said Kinney, with such variations as the Hon. B. F. Thomas may suggest, the work to be done to his acceptances... ." ¹ Few changes were made, other than to omit the inscription on Thomas's shoulder and to soften the folds in the drapery around the marble books on which the bust rests. Kinney, who was paid \$500 for the marble bust of Thomas, delivered the completed sculpture at the end of 1859.

¹ Contract between the American Antiquarian Society and Benjamin H. Kinney, June 30, 1859, American Antiquarian Society Archives.