

HENRY WINCHESTER CUNNINGHAM (1860-1930), 1925  
Hermann Hanatschek (1873-1963)  
35 x 33 (88.90 x 83.82)  
oil on canvas  
signed, u.r.: 'H. Hanatschek/1925'  
Bequest of Henry Winchester Cunningham, 1930; arrived 1931  
Weis 43  
Hewes Number: 36

Following his 1882 graduation from Harvard College and a summer tour of Europe, Henry Winchester Cunningham went to work in his family's business, the Continental Sugar Refinery. After it was purchased by a larger sugar refining business some six years later, he no longer needed to work; fortunes established by his father and grandfather enabled the twenty-eight-year-old Cunningham to retire.

Free to pursue his personal interests, Cunningham devoted himself to history and genealogy, to Harvard alumni affairs, and ultimately to philanthropy. In 1890 he was elected secretary of his Harvard class and held that position until his death forty years later. He was a member of the group that established the quarterly Harvard Graduates' Magazine and was on that publication's board from 1892 until 1928. He became a member and later an active officer of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, serving in various capacities for fifteen years beginning in 1897. He was present at the founding of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts in 1892 and was elected its recording secretary, a position he held until 1924. He was also a founding member of the Bostonian Society, an organization dedicated to the study of the city and its role in history, and was one of its directors from 1913 to 1929. Elected to membership in the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1923, he became its recording secretary shortly afterwards, remaining in that office until his death. He was president of the Club of Odd Volumes in 1912 and 1913 and, for many years, treasurer of the Prince Society, which published primary

documents relating to Massachusetts and the colonial era.<sup>1</sup> He was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1909 and was a councillor from 1912 until 1930.

Cunningham researched the genealogies of the Cunningham and Winchester (his mother's) families. He published The Cunningham Genealogy, Andrew Cunningham of Boston and Some of His Descendants (1901). He also read papers before the societies to which he belonged, and some were published. Among them was 'Christian Remick, an Early Boston Artist,' presented at the Club of Odd Volumes in 1904. The Colonial Society of Massachusetts published his edition of the 1776 journal of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Vose (1910).

Cunningham, who married Mary May Hayward on October 30, 1899, left no immediate heirs. His wife died in 1929, less than a year before he died. The author of his obituary in the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society observed that 'Few members have shown so much concern for the Society or taken such pride in their membership.'<sup>2</sup> The Society received one of the larger of many bequests he made to charitable and historical institutions with which he was affiliated. Cunningham left \$100,000 to AAS, one of the largest monetary gifts the Society had ever received, and selections from his private library and a group of portraits, including three eighteenth-century images by Christian Gullagher (cats. 144, 146-47) and a portrait of Increase Mather (cat. 81).<sup>3</sup>

The artist who painted Cunningham's portrait, Hermann Hanatschek, was born in Austria and studied painting in Vienna and Munich before immigrating to New York City in 1903. In 1911 he returned to Vienna and enlisted in the Austrian army. During World War I, Hanatschek painted military scenes and portraits of Austrian officers and politicians. Among Hanatschek's most prominent sitters were Queen Elisabeth of Belgium and Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who

sat for his portrait shortly before he was assassinated. In 1920 the artist returned to New York where, five years later, he painted this portrait of Cunningham.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Edwards Scott, 'Henry Winchester Cunningham, A.B.,' The New England Historical and Genealogical Register 85 (July 1931): 243-46.

<sup>2</sup> 'Henry Winchester Cunningham,' Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society 41 (April 1931): 12.

<sup>3</sup> Worcester Gazette, October 28, 1930.

<sup>4</sup> 'H. C. Hanatschek, 89, A Portrait Painter,' New York Times, July 27, 1963. Hanatschek also painted a portrait of Calvin Coolidge now in the collection of Amherst College.