

EDWARD EVERETT (1794-1865), c. 1825

Attributed to Sarah Goodridge (1798-1882)

Watercolor on ivory

3 1/4 x 2 5/8 (8.2550 x 6.6675)

Gift of Janelle Hardin Morton, Norah Hardin Lind, and Mary  
Welby Hardin Watkins, 1991

Hewes Number: 45

Ex. Coll.: Sitter, possibly to his nephew Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), owned by his son Philip Lesley Hale (b. 1865), to his widow Lilian Wescott Hale, to their daughter Nancy Hale Bowers (1908-88), to her granddaughters the donors.

The orator and statesman Edward Everett, as a youth, was an outstanding scholar. He graduated from Harvard College at the age of fourteen and was awarded the M.A. the next year. In 1815 he was ordained as the minister of the Brattle Street Church, the largest and most fashionable church in the Boston area.<sup>1</sup> In 1819 Everett was appointed professor of Greek at Harvard and the young Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-32) was among his students. He also served as editor of the North American Review from 1820 to 1824, where he wrote columns on topics ranging from Grecian art to the work of Friedrich von Humboldt (cat. #70). Many of his writings, including Defence of Christianity (1814), and Orations and Speeches on Various Occasions (4 vols. 1853-1868), are preserved in the imprint and book collections of the American Antiquarian Society. A small collection of his personal papers is also included in the Society's manuscript collection.<sup>2</sup>

Everett had a gift for oratory and was encouraged to enter politics by his family and friends. In 1825 he made a successful run for the United States Senate and moved to Washington, D.C. Over the course of his political career, he also served as governor of Massachusetts, foreign minister to Great Britain, and secretary of state. He delivered impassioned speeches on the arts and humanities at Harvard. From the floor of the Senate he spoke about the importance of keeping the Union together and, in 1864, speaking just prior to President Abraham Lincoln, Everett outlined the details of the historic battle at Gettysburg.

He became a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1815, at the age of twenty-one. He later served as the Society's secretary of foreign correspondence and was elected president in 1841, a position he retained until his retirement in 1853.

This miniature was made of Everett when he was a young man, possibly around the time of his first election to the United States Congress in 1825. The portrait has been attributed to both

Sarah Goodridge and her sister Eliza. The complexity of the colors used to form the facial features and the confidence of the brushwork make Sarah Goodridge, who was more established in her career in the 1820s than her younger sister, a more likely choice.<sup>3</sup>

In 1991 this was one of five family miniatures given to the American Antiquarian Society by the sitter's descendants. The group included a portrait of Everett's brother, Alexander Hill Everett (cat. #44), and another image of Edward painted in 1828 (cat. #46).

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<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of American Biography, 'Everett, Edward.'

<sup>2</sup> Edward Everett Papers, 1832-1865, American Antiquarian Society Manuscripts Collection. The majority of Everett's personal and political papers are in the Massachusetts Historical Society collections. Prints and photographs of Everett may be found in the American Antiquarian Society's Graphic Arts Collection.

<sup>3</sup> A similar miniature of Everett, owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society, is also attributed to Sarah Goodridge. Both are the same size, and Everett is similarly posed.