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# Guide to the Fowler & Wells Portrait Posters for Physiognomy Lectures

YCAL MSS 1000



by Beinecke Staff

2014

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1000

**CREATOR:** Fowler & Wells, attributed name

**TITLE:** Fowler & Wells Portrait Posters for Physiognomy Lectures

**DATES:** circa 1860

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 19 boxes (111 drawings on 19 posters)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** A set of nineteen posters with 112 bust portraits depicting identified men and women, primarily authors, artists, scientists, monarchs, and religious and political leaders from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with a group of idealized heads illustrating characteristics identified by phrenologists.

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## Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Ian Brabner, Bookseller, on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2011.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Fowler & Wells, Portrait Posters for Physiognomy Lectures. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Fowler & Wells, American practical phrenologists in the mid-nineteenth century, and creators and publishers of illustrative charts, diagrams, and posters for use by lecturers on physiognomy and phrenology. Based in New York, the firm also had offices in Boston, Philadelphia, and London.

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## Scope and Contents

A set of nineteen posters with 112 bust portraits depicting identified men and women, primarily authors, artists, scientists, monarchs, and religious and political leaders from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with a group of idealized heads illustrating characteristics identified by phrenologists, such as inhabitiveness and philoprogenitiveness. The portraits, or plates, were rendered in sepia ink and wash on paper, and were mounted on linen or canvas in groups of six; each set has wooden rods at each end to aid in hanging for display, and rolling for compact storage and travel. Each portrait or head is captioned with name of the sitter or the prominent character type portrayed. The posters were likely intended as exhibits supporting phrenology lectures.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	<a href="#">Poster 1: Destructiveness small, Destructiveness large, Hydrocephalus James Cardinal, Thomas Sewall, Red Jacket, Language large</a>
b. 2	Poster 2: William Shakespeare, Alphonse de Lamartine, Alexander von Humboldt, Jonathan Edwards, Perfect Male Head, Perfect Female Head
b. 3	Poster 3: Johann Gaspar Spurzheim, J. W. Gall, Robert Fulton, Isaac Newton, Constructiveness large, African
b. 4	Poster 4: George Washington, James Madison, John Adams, James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams
b. 5	Poster 5: Laura Bridgeman and Oliver Caswell, Junius Brutus, Dioclesian
b. 6	Poster 6: William Herschel, William Harvey, Charles Sumner, Preston Brooks, Inhabitiveness large, Patrick Henry
b. 7	Poster 7: Cautiousness small, Aimable-Jean-Jacques Pélissier, John Bunyan, Henry VIII, Omer Pasha, Abdool Medjid (Abdul-Mejid I)
b. 8	Poster 8: Emanuel Swedenborg, Voltaire, Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, Coarse Organization, Frances Sargent Osgood, Cautiousness large
b. 9	Poster 9: Washington Irving, Horace Greeley, Aaron Burr, John Knox, Robert R. Livingston, David Hume
b. 10	Poster 10: Benevolence small, Benevolence large, Robert Pollok, John Collins, Gottfried (a murderer, two portraits)
b. 11	Poster 11: Moral Sentiments large, Charles Caldwell, Pope Alexander VI, Caligula, Madame de Staël, Joseph C. Neal
b. 12	Poster 12: Galileo, Firmness large, John Howard, Stephen Decatur, Horatio Nelson, Israel Putnam
b. 13	<a href="#">Poster 13: Nicolaus Copernicus, Raphael, Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, Conceited Simpleton, Thief</a>
b. 14	Poster 14: Prince Gortschakoff, Peter the Great, Frederick William IV, Franz Joseph I, Lord Raglan, Charles Napier
b. 15	Poster 15: George Washington, Francis Bacon, Alexander Frisbie, Emerson (an idiot), Convict, Tribulation Trepid
b. 16	Poster 16: Fannie Forrester, William Wordsworth, Jenny Lind, Calculation small, Thomas H. Benton, Harriet Martineau
b. 17	Poster 17: Martin Luther, Philipp Melancthon, Alexander Campbell, Oliver Cromwell, Armstrong (a Murderer), Parricide
b. 18	Poster 18: Socrates, William Tyndale, George Gordon Byron, Alexander Pope, Philoprogenitiveness small, Philoprogenitiveness large
b. 19	Poster 19: William Cullen Bryant, Benjamin West, Oliver Hazard Perry, Samuel F. B. Morse, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Sydney Smith

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Phrenology -- United States  
Physiognomy -- United States

### Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works) -- United States -- 19th century  
Posters -- United States -- 19th century

### Names

Abdülmecit, Sultan of the Turks, 1823-1861 -- Portraits  
Adams, John, 1735-1826 -- Portraits  
Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848 -- Portraits  
Alexander, Pope, VI, 1431-1503 -- Portraits  
Bacon, Francis, 1561-1626 -- Portraits  
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1782-1858 -- Portraits  
Bridgman, Laura Dewey, 1829-1889 -- Portraits  
Brooks, Preston S. (Preston Smith), 1819-1857 -- Portraits  
Brutus, Marcus Junius, 85 B.C.?-42 B.C. -- Portraits  
Bryant, William Cullen, 1794-1878 -- Portraits  
Bunyan, John, 1628-1688 -- Portraits  
Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836 -- Portraits  
Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron, 1788-1824 -- Portraits  
Caldwell, Charles, 1772-1853 -- Portraits  
Caligula, Emperor of Rome, 12-41 -- Portraits  
Campbell, Alexander, 1788-1866 -- Portraits  
Collins, John, 1811-1874 -- Portraits  
Copernicus, Nicolaus, 1473-1543 -- Portraits  
Cromwell, Oliver, 1599-1658 -- Portraits  
Decatur, Stephen, 1752-1808 -- Portraits  
Diocletian, Emperor of Rome, 245-313 -- Portraits  
Edwards, Jonathan, 1703-1758 -- Portraits  
Elizabeth, Queen of England, I, 1533-1603 -- Portraits  
Forrester, Fannie, active 19th century -- Portraits  
Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria, I, 1830-1916 -- Portraits  
Frederick William, King of Prussia, IV, 1795-1861 -- Portraits

Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815 -- Portraits  
Galilei, Galileo, 1564-1642 -- Portraits  
Gorchakov, Aleksandr Mikhailovich, kníȃz', 1798-1883 -- Portraits  
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872 -- Portraits  
Hale, Sarah Josepha Buell, 1788-1879 -- Portraits  
Harvey, William, 1578-1657 -- Portraits  
Henry, Patrick, 1736-1799 -- Portraits  
Herschel, William, 1738-1822 -- Portraits  
Howard, John, 1726-1790 -- Portraits  
Humboldt, Alexander von, 1769-1859 -- Portraits  
Hume, David, 1711-1776 -- Portraits  
Irving, Washington, 1783-1859 -- Portraits  
Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- Portraits  
Knox, John, approximately 1514-1572 -- Portraits  
Kościuszko, Tadeusz, 1746-1817 -- Portraits  
Lamartine, Alphonse de, 1790-1869 -- Portraits  
Lind, Jenny, 1820-1887 -- Portraits  
Livingston, Robert R., 1718-1775 -- Portraits  
Luther, Martin, 1483-1546 -- Portraits  
Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Portraits  
Martineau, Harriet, 1802-1876 -- Portraits  
Mary, Queen of Scots, 1542-1587 -- Portraits  
Melanchthon, Philipp, 1497-1560 -- Portraits  
Monroe, James, 1758-1831 -- Portraits  
Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, 1791-1872 -- Portraits  
Napier, Charles, 1786-1860 -- Portraits  
Neal, Joseph C. (Joseph Clay), 1807-1847 -- Portraits  
Nelson, Horatio Nelson, Viscount, 1758-1805 -- Portraits  
Newton, Isaac, 1642-1727 -- Portraits  
Ömer Lûtfi Paşa, 1806-1871 -- Portraits  
Osgood, Frances Sargent, 1811-1850 -- Portraits  
Pélissier, Aimable-Jean-Jacques, duc de Malakoff, 1794-1864 -- Portraits  
Perry, Oliver Hazard, 1785-1819 -- Portraits  
Peter, Emperor of Russia, I, 1672-1725 -- Portraits  
Pollok, Robert, 1798-1827 -- Portraits  
Pope, Alexander, 1688-1744 -- Portraits  
Putnam, Israel, 1718-1790 -- Portraits  
Raglan, FitzRoy James Henry Somerset, Baron, 1788-1855 -- Portraits  
Raphael, 1483-1520 -- Portraits  
Red Jacket, Seneca chief, approximately 1756-1830 -- Portraits  
Sewall, Thomas, 1786 or 1787-1845 -- Portraits

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 (Portraits)  
Smith, Sydney, 1771-1845 -- Portraits  
Socrates -- Portraits  
Spurzheim, J. G. (Johann Gaspar), 1776-1832 --  
Portraits  
Staël, Madame de (Anne-Louise-Germaine),  
1766-1817 -- Portraits  
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874 -- Portraits  
Swedenborg, Emanuel, 1688-1772 -- Portraits  
Tyndale, William, -1536 -- Portraits  
Voltaire, 1694-1778 -- Portraits  
Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Portraits  
West, Benjamin, 1738-1820 -- Portraits  
Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850 -- Portraits

## **Corporate Body**

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