

# PAUL WAYLAND BARTLETT

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*"He reminds me of one of those artisans of the Renaissance who were masters of a foundry as well as a studio, and to whom the smallest details to enoble a work of art were as important as the conception."*

— Jean Carries

Paul Wayland Bartlett was the son of the noted nineteenth-century sculptor, Truman Bartlett, the designer of the imposing statue of "Wisdom" that presides over the Benedict burial site in Riverside Cemetery. The elder Bartlett ran a studio in Waterbury during the 1860s and early 1870s and it was during this period that Paul Wayland Bartlett was born on January 24, 1865. He spent his early boyhood years growing up in Waterbury and lived in the old Griggs house on Cottage Place.

At age fourteen Bartlett began his artistic studies in Paris, modeling animal figures at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He won several medals at the Paris salon in 1887 for his sculpture, "The Bear Tamer," which is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He spent the greater part of his life in Paris and is best known for his monumental portrait studies including the equestrian statue of Lafayette that was presented to France by the school children of the United States in 1908 and stands in the courtyard of the Louvre.

Bartlett is noted for a number of significant works in the United States including: the equestrian statue of George B. McClellan in Philadelphia, the group of allegorical figures in the pediment over the House wing of the U.S. Capitol,

his statues of Columbus and Michelangelo in the Library of Congress, the six imposing statues above the entrance to the New York Public Library, the sculptured characters on the facade of the New York Stock Exchange and the Speakers' Plaque of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Towards the end of his life, Waterbury City Fathers commissioned Bartlett to honor a bequest made by Elisha Leavenworth to create a statue of Benjamin Franklin. Bartlett decided to sculpt Franklin at the end of his lifetime, reflecting upon the events that helped to shape the eighteenth century. After the completion of the statue, it made a twenty-two city tour from Baltimore to Boston to Waterbury. The statue of the elder statesman that greets patrons at the entrance of the Silas Bronson Library was dedicated June 3, 1921.

Bartlett, whose animal, historical and symbolic subjects were done in the French romantic tradition, has had his art work described as "...essentially monumental, with a happy balance between the austere and the more picturesque or plastic tendencies; it may, indeed, be characterized as a union of the better qualities of the two." Bartlett was made a commander of the Legion of Honor shortly before his death, in Paris, on September 20, 1925.

