



NEWSLETTER

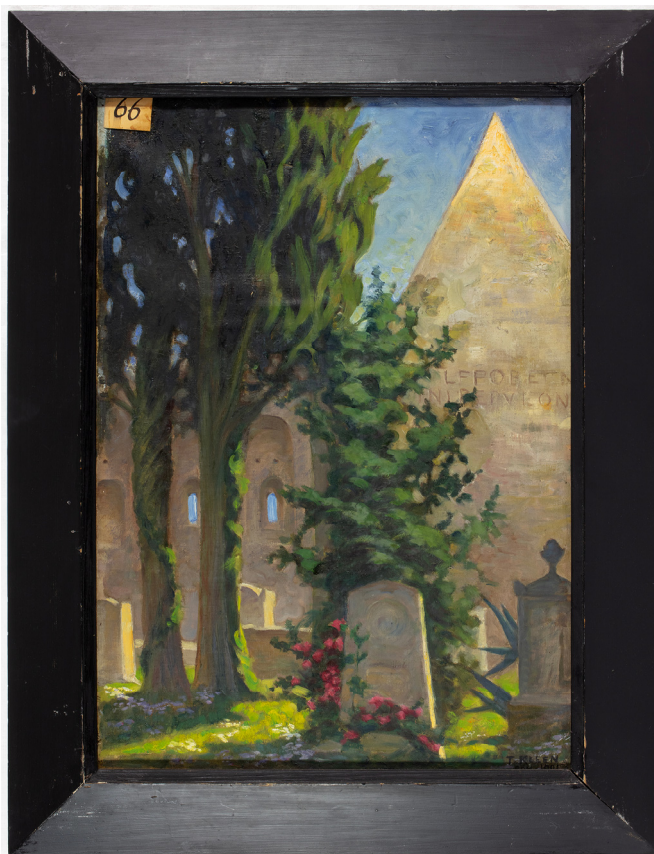
Tyra Kleen's painting of the Old Cemetery in 1901

The Swedish artist Tyra Kleen (1874-1951) was well-known in her lifetime, with her work being exhibited around the world. Stipulating in her will that her archives should remain inaccessible for fifty years, she has now been 're-discovered' and her work reassessed. Last year the Norrköping Art Museum in Sweden hosted the exhibition 'Tyra Kleen – Constantly Searching' which is now travelling to other venues in Sweden.

Kleen's artistic training started in Karlsruhe and Munich but especially influential were her three years (1895-98) in Paris where she was fascinated by the Symbolist movement. There she also became interested in spiritualism and theosophy which remained her primary inspiration and led to her later travels in Asia. In Rome (1898-1906) she worked in oil and watercolours but also in lithography which she favoured. She was an active member of the Theosophical Society in Rome (founded in 1897) and of the Circolo Scandinavo where she mixed with fellow-Scandinavian artists and writers.



Unknown photographer, *Tyra Kleen in her studio in Rome, 1904*
(House of Nobility/Valinge Manor. Photo: Bobbo Lindblad)



The Pyramid of Cestius, Rome, 1901. Oil on canvas (House of Nobility / Valinge Manor. Photo: Mats Arvidsson, Norrköpings Konstmuseum)



Photo: N. Stanley-Price

The Garden monument today

Her curiosity about esoteric meanings (and a previous visit to Egypt) may have prompted her to paint the Pyramid of Gaius Cestius. Prominent in the foreground is the headstone of a fellow-Scandinavian painter, Asmus Jacob Carstens (1754-1798). To its right, in reality several metres away, stands the monument to Mary Garden (1834). The conifer tree and *agave* plants were growing nearby in the Old Cemetery. But it is the pyramid, with its luminous apex, that is evidently the focal point of this unusual painting.

Nicholas Stanley-Price

I thank Corinna Lotz for alerting me to the exhibition and its curators Helena Scragg and Karin Ström Leander for the images. The latter's essay in *Approaching Religion* (March 2021; online at <https://doi.org/10.30664/ar.100479>) assesses Kleen's remarkable life and art.

Ambassador Reinhardt, the non-burial of Palmiro Togliatti, and LBJ's visit

The diplomatic career of Peter Bridges (1932-2022) culminated in his posting as U.S. Ambassador to Somalia in 1984-86. Previously he had two spells in Rome, as a political officer for six years (1966-1971) and as Deputy Chief of Mission (1981-84). He was also an author, publishing an account of his time in Somalia (*Safirka: an American envoy*, 2000) and many articles, especially about Italy (see, for instance, the website of the *California Literary Review*). He also wrote for this *Newsletter* (nos. 12, 16, 40 and 51). We remember him for his keen interest in the Cemetery and for his fund of anecdotes about his life.



Ambassador Frederick Reinhardt

One of those anecdotes concerned the death in 1964 of Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) of which he and Antonio Gramsci in 1921 had been co-founders. In an oral history interview for the Library of Congress in 2003, Bridges revealed a story told him by Solie Reinhardt, widow of G. Frederick Reinhardt who at the time of Togliatti's death was the US Ambassador to Italy (and due to be Bridges' boss two years later). Under Togliatti the PCI had become the largest non-ruling Communist party in Europe. He died during a visit to the Soviet Union, suffering a stroke while on holiday at Yalta in the Crimea. Reinhardt heard that the Soviet ambassador in Rome had set off to bring Togliatti's body back for burial in the Protestant Cemetery where Antonio Gramsci had been interred (qualifying as the husband of Giulia Schucht who was Russian Orthodox (see *Newsletter* no. 10)).

Reinhardt as the President of the Cemetery informed the ambassador on his return to Rome that Togliatti's burial there was out of the question but that he was too busy to meet him to discuss it. Eventually, Reinhardt, a fluent Russian-speaker who had served in Moscow during WW2, reminded the ambassador that Togliatti had been awarded Soviet citizenship, renouncing his Italian one (this had been in 1930). 'So, all you have to do is give me a letter saying that Togliatti is a Soviet citizen, and we will get him buried the next day. And the next day he was buried in the main city cemetery' (Campo Verano).

Another of Bridges' anecdotes concerned President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ). Johnson had flown to Vietnam just before Christmas 1967 as 'he wanted to visit his boys in the trenches. From Vietnam,

instead of flying east he started flying west. The rumour was that he was going to stop in Rome to see his friend the Pope' (Pope Paul VI). But neither the US embassy in Rome nor the Italian government had been informed of LBJ's travel plans.

'Fred Reinhardt very bravely made clear that the President, if he came to Rome, would absolutely have to call on the President of the Republic before he called on the Pope. The Italians were adamant on this; no foreign chief of state could see the Pope before he went to see the Italian head of state. This rubbed LBJ the wrong way, but in the end he agreed and it was done. He landed at the military airport (Ciampino) and took a helicopter to the presidential estate where the President, Giuseppe Saragat, was waiting with his daughter and her children around a Christmas tree. ... there they were, the two presidents, and it was a big scene on television; LBJ spent 15 minutes with Saragat and then took a helicopter to St. Peter's Square and saw his friend the Pope.' For a contemporary newsreel of the meeting, see <https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/113631/>



Pope Paul VI with LBJ (1967)

Reinhardt, a highly respected diplomat, resigned from the Foreign Service soon after this episode – he had served in Italy for six years (while also President of the Cemetery), and had previously been Ambassador to Vietnam and to Egypt. His insistence that protocol be followed for LBJ's visit had evidently annoyed LBJ so much that he requested his resignation.

Reinhardt died in Switzerland in 1971 and was granted exceptional burial in the Old Cemetery. Every visitor to John Keats's grave passes the Reinhardt grave, where his wife Solie (Lillian Tootle, d. 2009) also lies, under a tree to the left of the path.

Nicholas Stanley-Price

WHO THEY WERE

A young Canadian, Louisa Allan (1825-1852)

Upon entering the cemetery, in the first row ahead and only two metres to the right (Zone 1.2.3), lies Louisa Mathilda Maude Allan (born Robinson), who passed away in Rome at the age of 26 while on holiday with her husband in the spring of 1852. Her family had been crossing the Atlantic longer than many – in the 1660s, Charles Robinson, whose brother went on to become Bishop of London, settled in Virginia, building 'The Grange', a house that still stands in Urbanna, Virginia, named after a family home in the village of Cleasby in northern Yorkshire, England. Robinsons were prominent across the early life of colonial America. When independence came in 1776, some stayed, but most among the British empire's many loyalists left for shores new and old, back to England, on to the Car-

ibbean, or in the case of Louisa's family, to the British colonies, to another York, now Toronto.

Louisa Mathilda Maude was born in October 1825, the fifth of eight surviving children to John Beverley Robinson, a prominent lawyer who went on to become Attorney General and, later, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, and his wife Emma Walker of London. She was among three older daughters close in age, the 'stylish Robinson sisters' of early Toronto life, who appeared equally at home in their father's political circles or in England where they spent time with their mother's family, staying at the home of the Duke of Wellington or visiting Charles Dickens.

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In early 1846, Louisa wrote to her parents of a young George Allan before spending the evening with him at a ball: 'We want to be married, and we want you to think we are in earnest, even if we are so



George Théodore Berthon, *The Three Robinson Sisters* (1846), oil on canvas, Art Gallery of Ontario (photo: © AGO)

young.' Allan was a wealthy young lawyer of distinction, already known to her father and with a bright political future. On the eve of a double wedding, her own and that of her sister Emily, the husband of their older sister Augusta commissioned a surprise gift to their parents from Canada's leading portraitist of the day, George Berthon. In the portrait Louisa is in the centre with Augusta at left and Emily at right. The parents are likely to have been pleased at the life prospects of their three oldest daughters, with Augusta wed to James McGill Strachan, son of the influential Bishop Strachan of early Canadian politics; with Emily wed to Henry Lefroy, a dashing young adventurer, military officer, and scientist who would go on to become Governor of Bermuda; and finally Louisa, wed to George Allan, the young man of means with a bright career ahead of him.

Of the storied lives of the eight children in that family, Louisa's may have been the most glamorous. Together for six years, the prosperous young couple travelled to places that most could only read of – to Cuba and to South America, to Europe and to Egypt. Their time in Rome came on the heels of visiting extended family in London. But Louisa's health had never been strong and tuberculosis claimed her during this visit. Her husband, who went on to remarry and became first the mayor of Toronto and later the Speaker of the Senate of Canada, stayed close to his first wife's family, buying land next to the Robinsons for a summer home in Innisfil, on Lake Simcoe north of Toronto, along with his new wife and children.

Since 1852, generations of Canadians have visited Louisa's grave. Among them in the 1920s was her great-niece, the art historian Mary Augusta Stewart Houston, who spent extended time in Rome with her husband, the Italian archaeologist Gilbert Bagnani. They departed Rome in disillusion at Mussolini's regime and went on to create their own new traditions, with Houston working as a curator and lecturer at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada's leading art museum, and with Bagnani moving from the University of Toronto to Trent University in nearby Peterborough, teaching the classics of an older world where Louisa had been laid to rest.

Bruce Grant, the great-grand-nephew of Louisa Allan



The American painter William Stanley Haseltine and his family



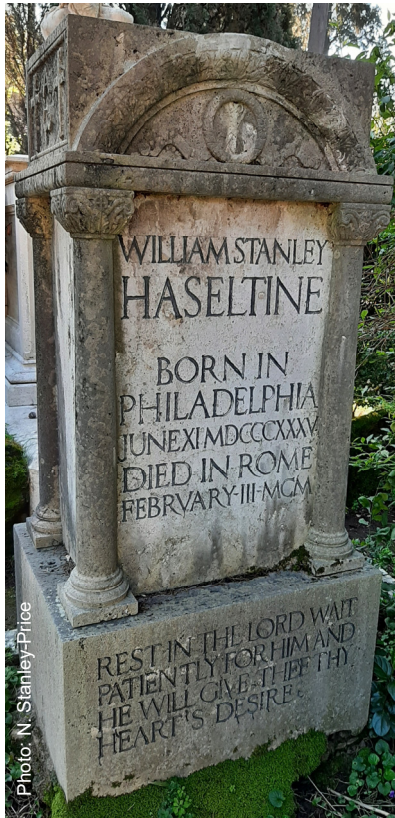
G.P.A. Healy, *Portrait of William Stanley Haseltine* (1871), oil on canvas, 76.2x63.2cms, The New York Historical, 2022.21

William Stanley Haseltine (1835-1900) first arrived in Rome in 1856 together with two other landscape painters, Worthington Whittredge and Albert Bierstadt. They had all studied in Düsseldorf before setting out for Rome for further artistic inspiration. In 1858 he returned to the United States where he married Helen Lane, was widowed and then married again. His second wife Ellen (Helen) Marshall was the daughter of Captain Charles Marshall, the principal shareholder in the Black Ball shipping-line which ran the first scheduled passenger service from New York to Liverpool, a source of wealth for him and his family. In 1866 the Haseltines returned to Rome, eventually settling in 1874 in the Palazzo Altieri.

Haseltine painted landscapes in the Campagna Romana, in the hills of the Castelli Romani, and in Capri, Sicily and Venice. At home, the family maintained a comfortable lifestyle in their grand apartment in the Palazzo Altieri where they hosted visiting and resident Americans. They became well-known figures in Roman society and were famous for their annual Christmas parties for children. Among their visitors were authors and poets such as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Julia Ward Howe, Henry James and Louise Chandler Moulton, and singers and actors such as Clara Novello, Lillie de Hegermann-Lindencrone and Adelaide Ristori. Many of these guests also frequented the better-known apartment in Palazzo Barberini of the sculptor William Wetmore Story (1819-1895) and his wife Evelyn (1820-1894; both buried at Zone V.15.7). In both cases they complained of the number of steps to reach the apartments and the cold and the fleas once they were there.

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Gravestone of W.S. Haseltine



W.S. Haseltine, *Natural arch at Capri* (1871), National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

lice but not Prince Altieri. The horse was reluctant to descend so they both spent the night there. The horse descended the next day once a farrier had removed its shoes. Herbert subsequently studied sculpture in Paris where he had a successful career as an animal sculptor.

Haseltine was among the initial funders of the American Presbyterian church on Via Nazionale, St Paul's-within-the-Walls, and became a churchwarden there. Together with his friends William Herriman (1829-1918) and his wife Elizabeth (1834-1910; both buried at Zone V.8.9), he helped bail it out when it ran into financial difficulty during construction.

Haseltine died at the Palazzo Altieri shortly after returning from his first visit to California and Alaska. Such was his renown that a remarkable number of people paid their condolences there as he was dying. As well as his fellow-artists and other American friends, they included the ambassadors of the USA, Austria, Belgium, France, the

Haseltine's son Herbert acquired a brief notoriety by riding his horse up the steps of the Palazzo Altieri to the *piano nobile*, to the consternation of the other Haseltines, the servants and the po-

Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey, and members of the Altieri, Aldobrandini, Brancaccio, Caetani, Chigi, Doria Pamfilj, Giustianini Bandini, Mattei, Massimo, and Rospigliosi families. Among them were 23 princes or princesses, 17 marquesses or marchionesses, 25 dukes or duchesses, 33 counts or countesses, 16 barons and baronesses and one English baronet.

Haseltine's long stay in Rome led to his being less well known in his own country. His daughter, Helen Plowden, was assiduous in rectifying this lack, publishing a biography of her father in 1947. His elder brother James Haseltine had come to Rome in the 1850s but returned to fight in the Civil War. Back in Rome after the war he produced busts of famous visitors such as the poet Longfellow and neo-classical compositions such as *America honoring her fallen brave*. He and his wife Nena are buried at Zone 3.1.2.6.

In the large family plot at Zone 1.7.57 there lie Haseltine himself, his second wife Helen, and two of their children, Herbert the animal sculptor (1877-1962) and Mildred, Princess Rospigliosi (1879-1946) Two other children there did not survive to adulthood, Stanley Lane Haseltine (1861-1879) and Charles Marshall Haseltine (1866-1875).

Francis Plowden, great-grandson of William Stanley Haseltine

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

This Newsletter is made possible by the contributions of the Friends of the Cemetery.

The Friends also help fund the care of the trees in the cemetery and the restoration of tombs. Please can you help us by becoming a Friend? You can find a membership form at:

www.cemeteryrome.it

THE NON-CATHOLIC CEMETERY IN ROME

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Director: Yvonne Mazurek

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(last entrance 4.30pm)
Sunday & Public Holidays: 9.00am -1.00pm
(last entrance 12.30pm)

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Nicholas Stanley-Price, EDITOR
Anka Serbu, GRAPHIC DESIGN
Grafica Di Marcotullio, PRINTER
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Contact: nstanleyprice@hotmail.com
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