

# **“Art Bronze in America”**

(The American Bronze Co.)

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## Art Bronze in America.

The fact that occasionally mention is made in some of our leading newspapers, of bronze work produced in Europe, and spoken of in such a manner as to lead many people to believe that such work is not produced in this country, and when so produced is inferior in workmanship and material, leads us to an explanation of what is done here, as it is but justice to our home production.

If any purchase of any character is to be made, is it not a lack of good judgement, and is it not poor policy to buy away from home that which can be produced at our own door as cheap, if not cheaper, and not inferior in any sense, and oftimes superior to that which would be obtained away from home? Referring to a statue recently received in this city, a local paper states that its weight was 15,000 lbs., and that it had no bolt or rivet in it. The weight was incorrectly stated, and was a mistake of the printer or reporter undoubtedly, as the weight, without boxing or crating, could not be over 1,500 pounds, and the fact that it is a single casting, being regarded as an exceptional feat, we wish to say that in this city a pouring of bronze was recently made by the American Bronze Company wherein 2,200 pounds of bronze was used, and the pouring was complete in every respect; not a break or imperfection of any kind. This company has made several castings recently that required from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds at a single casting and they were uniformly successful. Some of the largest work ever produced in bronze has been made at this foundry, and artists who have traveled extensively and visited the foundries of this country and Europe, have been surprised when visiting this foundry to see the excellence and magnitude of the work produced, and have so expressed themselves. That the American Bronze Co., in its art productions,

are not confined to bronze, is evidenced from the fact that the casting of the pure silver statue of "Justice" for the State of Montana was awarded to this company after very careful investigation of the ability and resources of the different art foundries of the country.

The cuts on this page show some of the different styles of work that have been made by the American Bronze Co. of Chicago, Ill. The "David" is an



DAVID, GEO. T. BREWSTER, SCULPTOR

ideal of the sculptor, Geo. T. Brewster, and the model was exhibited by him in the Salon at Paris, France. The statue of Lincoln is 10 feet high and was unveiled by President Harrison, at Rochester, N. Y., on May 30th, 1892. The model for this statue was made by Leonard W. Volk, of Chicago. The seated figure, representing C. J. Hull, a prominent Chicago man, is heroic in size, and is placed on a monument in Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago. The model is by R. H. Park, of this city.

Notable among the artistic productions of this company is George T. Brewster's colossal figure of "Indiana," designed to surmount the Indiana State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, now nearing completion at Indianapolis. This statue which typifies the genius of Indiana, is a triumph of the sculptor's and founder's art. It is thirty-eight feet in height and several tons in weight. To attempt to give our readers a list of the productions of this company would necessitate enumerating soldiers' monuments erected in several states East, West and South; and a large number of portrait figures, busts, medallions, memorial tablets, etc. They are now engaged upon a colossal group of statuary representing Literature, Science and Art, modeled by Richard W. Bock for the public library at Indianapolis. Statues of Salmon P. Chase and Ex-Secretary Stanton for Ohio's monument at the World's Fair, are being molded, but what is probably the most important of their latest commissions, if we may except the silver statue already referred to, is Howard Kretschmar's colossal statue of Columbus for the city of Chicago.

We have obtained from the American Bronze Co., a partial list of sculptors who are their patrons, and to whom they refer: Lorado Taft, Johannes Geleert, Leonard W. Volk, R. H. Park, Howard Kretschmar, A. P. Proctor, G. Wagner, C. Rohl-Smith, Richard W. Bock, Castor Barbera and Mrs. Ella Rankin Copp, of Chicago, Ill.; Alois Loehner, Milwaukee, Wis.; Geo. T. Brewster, Levi T. Scofield and J. F. Mahoney, Cleveland, Ohio; J. Fjeld, Minneapolis, Minn.



C. J. HULL, R. H. PARK SCULPTOR.



LINCOLN, L. W. VOLK, SCULPTOR.