14.02.12 **Wellesley, MA**

The American artist William Wetmore Story tutored Robert Browning in sculpture at the same time as the poet was returning the compliment in verse. In 1860 Elizabeth Browning praised her husband's "extraordinary progress" in his new manual trade; Story studied the dramatic monologue and added to his repertoire of marble heroines a bust of Mrs Browning herself. The American was a famously good companion to his British friends in Italy and his Medea and Alcestis were once rather more highly regarded than they are today. In optimistic moods he would argue that all arts were as one; he also recognized that poets tended to be kind about his sculpture and sculptors kind about his poems. The bust is on show with the Brownings' newly digitized love letters at Wellesley College from February 14.