

COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Uncle Henry by Edward V. Valentine, 1879



ERA

Reconstruction, Post Reconstruction,
Late 19th Century

THEMES

Racist Caricatures

CITATION INFORMATION

Uncle Henry sculpture, 1879,
Edward V. Valentine,
The Valentine Museum.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How does this piece's title, *Uncle Henry: Ancien Régime*, add to its meaning?
2. What stereotype is this popular sculpture by Edward Valentine using?
3. How did this piece of commercial art help support the Lost Cause narrative?

CONTEXT

The title of this sculpture is carved into the base. Its subtitle, *Ancien Régime*, in combination with the figure's clothing and expression, are meant to evoke the trope of the faithful servant or "good slave," the enslaved person that looks upon his master (or former master) with fondness and unswerving devotion. Henry Page (d. 1886) served as the model for the bust in 1873. The Valentine family enslaved him as a carriage driver prior to the Civil War and Emancipation.

**DISCOVER
RICHMOND STORIES**

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Daguerreotype, 1855,
Montgomery P. Simons,
The Valentine Museum.



Uncle Henry sculpture, 1879,
Edward V. Valentine,
The Valentine Museum.