

# BARNEY STATUE HID, BUT MYSTERY GROWS

**Mrs. Barney Denies Her Daughter  
Was the Model, but Sculptor  
Contradicts Her.**

**TO DESTROY THE ORIGINAL**

**Brys, Artist, Declares He Has It—  
Gossips Recall That Barneys and  
McLeans Are Not Friends.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—What is the Barney statue? When was it placed on the lawn of the fashionable residence in Massachusetts Avenue? Who placed it there? And why? Does it represent the beauty of Miss Natalie C. Barney, the younger daughter of Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, or is it the likeness of some maid of antiquity? These are questions that are being asked in diplomatic, social, and official circles, and no one can reply with certainty.

The Hindu butler at the Barney home, who answers to the strange name of Only, to-day caused the statue to be placed in a coffin-like box and holds the key to the lid. The lid may be lifted if Only is properly approached.

Within the last two days vandals have with charcoal and colored crayons written various remarks on the statue. It was to prevent a repetition of this sort of work as much as to protect the figure from the gaze of the curious and the attacks of the elements that Only caused it to be placed in its box.

Positive denial that Miss Natalie was the model for the statue came to-day in a cable from Mrs. Barney and both her daughters. It corroborated the statement of Mme. Ali Kuli Kahn, wife of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Persian Legation, which appeared in this morning's NEW YORK TIMES. Mme. Ali Kuli, who had just returned from Paris, where she visited with Mrs. Barney and her daughters, asserted that Miss Laura Barney is now at work on a bust of her sister, Natalie, and that, therefore, the statue on the lawn must be "some sort of antique."

To deepen the mystery J. Brys, a well-known local sculptor, to-day asserted that Miss Natalie's figure was shown in the statue, and that the original was securely locked up in his studio in Farragut Square. He added that the figure on the lawn was only a copy. Mr. Brys refused to allow the treasured original to be seen, although urgently requested to do so, and terminated the interview by declaring that he intended to "destroy" it at once.

"I do not want any more notoriety about the thing," he exclaimed, "and so have concluded that the best thing to do is to destroy the statue."

"Have you received orders from Mrs. Barney to do this?" he was asked.

"I do not care to make any further statement," he replied.

Among the gossips to-day it was remarked that attention was first called to the presence of the statue on the Barney lawn by The Washington Post, which suggested that it should be covered from public gaze by the police. The Post is owned by John R. McLean, and it was recalled that Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Barney had not been on friendly terms for some time.

Mrs. Barney has been a prominent patron of the amateur theatre, as well as of art and literature. About three years ago she gave a lawn drama for charity upon the beautiful grounds of Friendship, the country home of Mr. and Mrs. McLean. It was at Friendship that Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth spent their honeymoon.

The advance sale of tickets for this performance, it is said, was quite gratifying. Admission to the grounds was given for 50 cents, and for the use of a select few who paid \$3, \$4, and \$5 for their tickets a choice section of the lawn was roped off. Mrs. McLean, half an hour before the performance, without consulting Mrs. Barney, is said to have caused the ropes to be removed by her workmen. When the \$3, \$4, and \$5 ticket holders put in an appearance, fashionably late, they found all their places pre-empted by the 50-cent crowd. The next day Mrs. Barney in an interview expressed her disapproval of Mrs. McLean's action.