

Art Work of Danville

The name is misleading. Art Work of Danville is a collection of photographs taken in or before 1903.

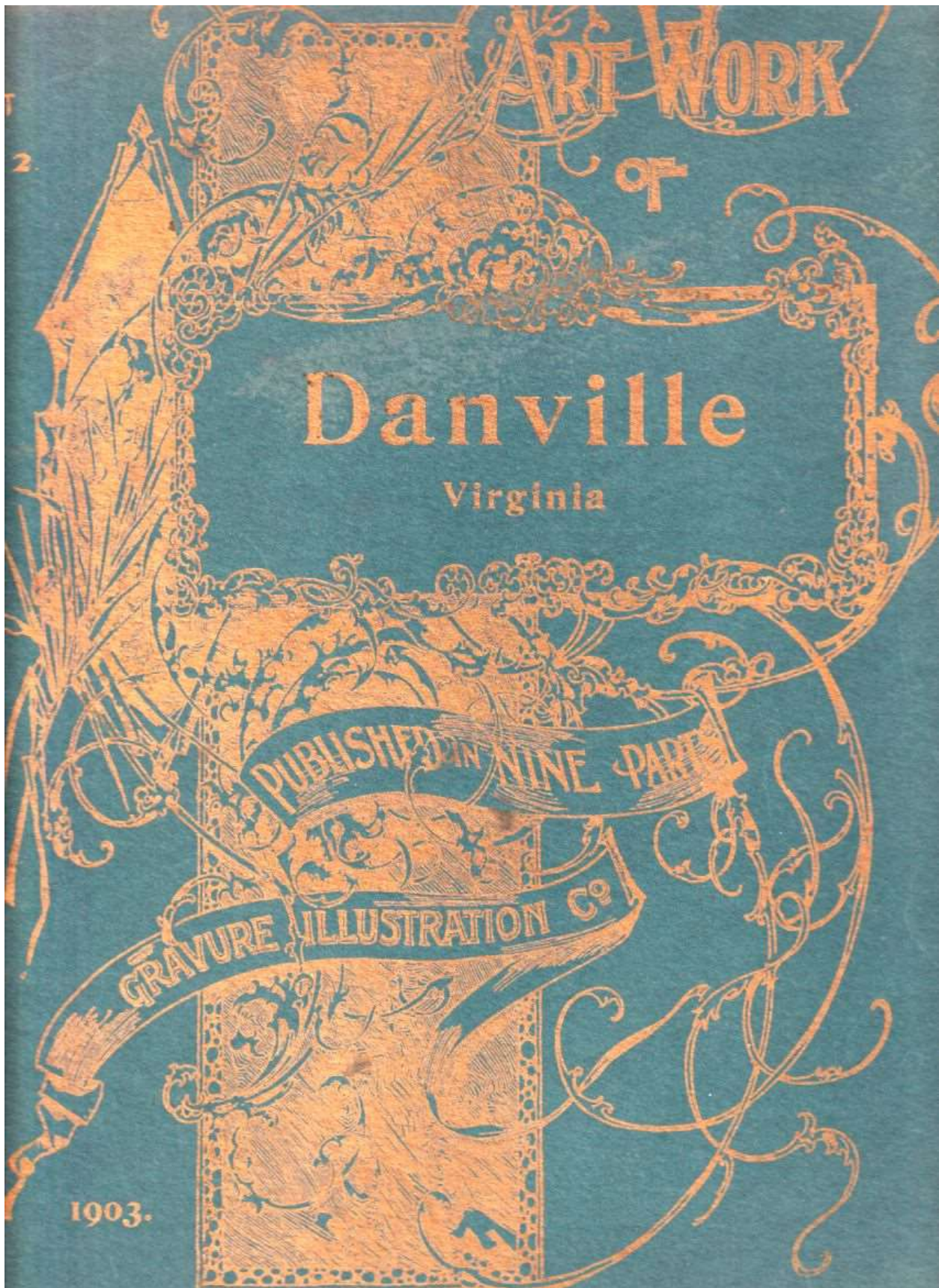
The Gravure Illustration Co. of Chicago apparently specialized in producing these kinds of volumes. Searching online for similar volumes shows at least thirty locations receiving the same treatment between 1899 and 1927.

As with most other cities, the Danville photographs were divided into nine parts or volumes with each volume having about nine pages. The nine volumes were sold together in a cardboard portfolio. The portfolios did not wear well, as there are no known copies of the Danville portfolio in existence. An example from Petersburg is shown below.



All pages, including the covers, were printed on heavy card stock. For most localities, each volume had a green front and rear covers with gilt lettering and art on the front. The cover for part 2 of Danville is shown on the next page. The pages are a rather odd measure at 10-3/4 by 13-5/8.

In all likelihood, the Gravure Illustration Co. requested and received purchase agreements before committing to photography and printing. According to Kyle Griffith in the Chatham Star Tribune, Dr. C. W. Pritchett, Jr., purchased a copy of Art Works for \$16.65. This would be over \$500 today.



ART WORK

of

Danville

Virginia

PUBLISHED IN NINE PARTS

GRAVURE ILLUSTRATION CO

1903.

Despite some yellowing of the pages (easily corrected), the photographs are in outstanding condition. This is because of a special gelatin-based photo printing process called collotype. There is no grain to the photos.

The binding for each part or volume was a combination of side-stitched (stapled) pages with a cloth mull (hinge) glued to the covers and the stitched pages. While this binding hid the staples, it also meant that the volumes could not lie flat. As a result of failed glue, failed cloth, and rusted staples, nearly all pages have come loose from their binding. This also means that the original order of the photographs is now unknown.

In addition to the photographic pages, each volume had two or three pages of Danville history at the rear cover. This part of the work is titled "Notes on Danville" by a Native. In their book *Danville Revisited*, Clara Fountain and Gary Grant exposed Harry C. Ficklen as the author of this work.

As the original order of pages cannot be determined, the scanned Art Work is included on this website in six categories:

- "Notes on Danville"
- Schools and Churches
- Residences
- Outdoor Scenes
- Street Scenes
- All other

These images are for online viewing and are not of the highest possible quality. Please be in touch for any more balanced / higher-resolution scans.

Many thanks to Jimmie Bolton.