

# Du Pont Collections, Dog Paintings, & Decoys To Lead At Copley's



**A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952), the du Pont Crowell woodcock (\$70/100,000).**



**The Harmon Hollow Nantucket curlew, circa 1850 (\$150/250,000).**

PLYMOUTH, MASS. — On July 14 and 15, Copley Fine Art Auctions, the decoy and sporting art auction house, will conduct its 17th annual Sporting Sale. This auction, consisting of 675 lots, one of the company's largest to date, will offer buyers the opportunity to acquire world-class paintings, antique decoys, bird carvings, folk art and powder tins from important collections. The auction will be live-streamed and will utilize phone, absentee and internet bidding on three different online platforms, including CopleyLive, Bidsquare and Live Auctioneers. The auction will begin at 10 am on both Thursday and Friday.

The auction will include offerings from two important du Pont collections, a descendant of Eugène E. du Pont (1882-1966) and a descendant of Thomas

Coleman du Pont (1863-1930). The du Pont objects include previously unknown A. Elmer Crowell (1862-1952) bird carvings and 68 antique powder tin lots. Eugène E. du Pont was a personal friend of Elmer Crowell's and, as such, obtained his decoys directly from the maker. Du Pont's woodcock, (\$70/100,000), mallard drake, (\$50/80,000) and blue jay (\$15/25,000) are sure to entice bidders. Thomas Coleman du Pont was the great grandson of the company's founder. Along with his cousins, Thomas bought out the family's explosives business and then served as the firm's president from 1902 until 1915. This important powder tin collection features major American manufacturers, such as du Pont, Laflin & Rand, American Powder and King and Hazard.

Copley principal Stephen O'Brien Jr said, "In addition to the estates and private collections, several notable individual works have been consigned to this sale. We've been fortunate to land two major Taits in a row. His well-documented "Steady" (\$50/80,000), depicting two setters pointing quail, is notable for its bright composition and sublime condition. This painting really speaks to me. Though I grew up a New England bird shooter, I owned and hunted setters, and I have found wild quail second to none."

O'Brien continued, "The vast majority of the estate pieces are unreserved and carry no estimates, so it should be a very exciting auction for our clients. We really like putting the auction in the hands of our bidders. In an age where many auction



**Edmund Henry Osthaus (1858-1928), "Setter Puppies," oil on canvas, 18 by 36 inches (\$60/90,000).**

firms place high reserves and have unverified results, our ethos is to let the buyers choose their own levels."

Canine art will include "Steady," an oil on canvas by Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait (1819-1905) (\$50/80,000) and Edmund Henry Osthaus' (1858-1928) oil on canvas of setter puppies (\$60/90,000).

Shorebirds will headline the decoys on offer. The Harmon

Hollow Nantucket Curlew, circa 1850, hails from the collection of Ted and Judy Harmon (\$150/250,000). The form, paint, patina and featherlight construction of this curlew should ignite top decoy collectors. Copley decoy specialist Colin McNair noted, "Of all the Nantucket curlew forms extant, this may very well be the best."

For information, 617-536-0030 or www.copleyart.com.

## 'American Travelers' At The Hispanic Society Museum & Library

NEW YORK — The Hispanic Society Museum & Library (HSM&L) presents a new exhibition, "American Travelers: A Watercolor Journey Through Spain, Portugal and Mexico." The show focuses on major watercolorists by American artists that were painted in Spain, Portugal and Latin America, in dialogue with decorative art objects from the HSM&L collections from the actual places and monument depicted in the watercolors. The show will include a suite of contemporary watercolor paintings by California-based artist Timothy J. Clark (b 1951), best known for his large watercolor paintings. The exhibition is on view at the HSM&L in the East Building Gallery to October 16.

"American Travelers" brings to the spotlight the museum's robust collection of watercolors by United States artists painted in Spain, Portugal and Latin America. Works by Childe Hassam, Max Kuehne, George Wharton Edwards, Ernest Clifford Peixotto, Florence Vincent Robinson, Orville Houghton Peets and Milan Petrovic are presented in conjunction with a collection of recent watercolor paintings by Clark. The exhibition features 94 works, 83 of which are from the HSM&L permanent collection, including one of Clark's works with 11 more of his paintings on display that are sourced from various collections.

Since the days of Washington Irving, Spain has held a fascina-

tion for American writers and visual artists. For example, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) painted at the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid and in Granada. Other Nineteenth Century North American painters such as William Merritt Chase, Harry Humphrey Moore and Mary Cassatt and younger artists such as Childe Hassam and Robert Henri, toured and painted in Spain as an essential part of their artistic development. When the HSM&L opened its doors in 1908, it became a source of inspiration for American artists with Hispanic interests.

The Hispanic Society Museum & Library is at 613 West 155th Street. For information, 212-926-2234 or www.hispanicsociety.org.

## 'WPA In The Berkshires' At Berkshire County Historical Society

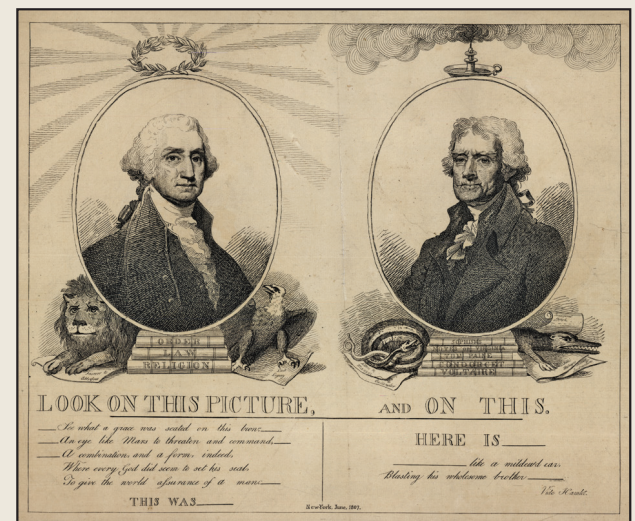
PITTSFIELD, MASS. — The history of the Works Progress Administration (1935-1943), the largest of President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, and its associated Berkshire projects are examined in the exhibition, "The WPA in the Berkshires," showing the impact these programs had on Berkshire residents and the ways in which they shaped the county we know today.

The exhibit, on view at Berkshire County Historical Society July 2-October 31, will look primarily at the Federal One projects (the Federal Art, Music, Theater, and Writer's Projects and

the Historical Records Survey), along with adjacent New Deal programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Historic American Building Survey. The history of these programs and the specific sites and individuals associated with them will be illustrated by photographs, documents and objects from the collection of the Berkshire County Historical Society. The exhibit is free.

The Berkshire County Historical Society is at Herman Melville's Arrowhead, 780 Holmes Road. For information, 413-442-1793 or www.berkshirehistory.org.

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