

Patricia Hills
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February 29, 2008

Dan Burns
American Paintings, Drawings & Sculpture
Christie's
20 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Burns:

Re: Eastman Johnson, Florent Willems, 1851, pencil and charcoal on brown paper, 13 1/8 x 12 1/2 inches [my measurements]. Inscribed lower center: "Willems" and LR: Hague, Dec. 15, 1851 / E.J."

I viewed this drawing at Christie's, New York, on February 15, 2008. In my opinion the work is by the American genre painter Eastman Johnson (1824-1906), and I plan to include the work in my catalogue raisonné of the artist's work.

As you know, the drawings was included in John I. H. Baur, Eastman Johnson: An American Genre Painter, 1824-1906 (Brooklyn: Brooklyn Museum, 1940), Baur's checklist No. 349. It was also in the exhibition of the same name.

It is a fine drawing and very typical of his works at this time. The pencil and charcoal render the sitter's features very delicately, and at the same time gives definition to those features. I do not know of an oil portrait of this sitter. I am sure this drawing was meant to be a finished work.

If you have further questions, please reach me at pathills@bu.edu.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills, PhD
Co-Author: Eastman Johnson:
Painting America (1999)