

**Patricia Hills  
238 Putnam Avenue  
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August 6, 2011

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

Dear Ms. Young:

Re: Eastman Johnson, Lady in Yellow, not dated. Oil on canvas, 22 x 14 in. Initialed LR "E. J."

I viewed this painting at Christie's, New York, on August 1, 2011. 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.

I have a record of the painting, but until August 1, 2011, I had not seen it in person. As I mentioned, when you got in touch with me, I was on the Jersey Shore, not in Cambridge where I keep my Johnson records. I had recalled seeing a painting a few years back at the Hammer Galleries, but I have now ascertained that it was not this one.

The painting relates to a major portrait that Johnson painted of Edwina Booth (1861-1938), now in the collection of Amherst College: Portrait of Edwina Booth, dated 1885, oil on canvas, 29 ½ x 24 inches. According to Amherst records, the work was commissioned by Edwin, her father the actor. In 1885 Edwina married Ignatius R. Grossman, a banker. The ~~bust-length~~ portrait shows a very beautiful woman turned in profile with blue eyes. correction: 3/4 length

There is also an oil sketch of Edwina similar to the Amherst painting. Another portrait also exists. Neither of these I have seen but I have photos of them.

The painting has the characteristics that I associate with Johnson. The focus of his brushwork is the lovely face of Edwina; the eyes are in shadow, but the facial features are strong. The arms, the dress, and the background are sketchily done as was often the case for works he did not sell. The hair styling, the dress, and the profile in the other pictures are almost identical to the painting you have at Christie's. With that knowledge, I would identify the painting as: Lady in Yellow (Edwina Booth), circa 1885.

We examined the painting with an ultra-violet light. There has been some restoration, but it seems to have been done with great care and finesse.

The painting was exhibited at Hammer Galleries in their exhibition 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century European & American Paintings: Recent Acquisitions, June 16 – August 31, 1981. I have no records regarding the Hirschl and Adler label.

Sincerely yours,

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

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