

238 Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
September 28, 1994

Andrew Schoelkopf
American Paintings
Christie's Park Avenue
502 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Schoelkopf:

RE: Eastman Johnson portrait drawing, Mrs. Jeremiah Chandler, pencil heightened with white on cream colored paper, 8 1/2 x 6 3/8 inches irreg. sheet. I examined the drawing at Christie's on September 17, 1994.

I have seen the drawing twice before: On March 22, 1971, at Knoedler's Gallery in New York, at which time I took a photograph of the front and back of the drawing, and on December 10, 1991, at my home here in Cambridge. I noted in 1991 that the inscription, "E. Johnson 77," had been added since my 1971 examination.

In my opinion the work is by Eastman Johnson. I will be including it in my catalogue raisonné. The subject is Mrs. Jeremiah Chandler (nee Judith Farnum), who was Eastman Johnson's maternal grandmother. He did another portrait of her which is dated September 1847 and is now in the collection of Smith College. I would date your work also 1847. (The sitter portrayed in the drawing was erroneously called Mrs. Alexander Hamilton when the drawing was at Knoedler's.)

The drawing is typical of Johnson's early pencil drawings, when he was a youth of 23 years old. However, he also worked in charcoal in a different manner, as exemplified by the portraits he did of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. The back of the drawing contains a fragment of a drawing of a young woman (eyes, forehead and hair), done with soft charcoal.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills
Art Historian and author
Eastman Johnson, 1972