

**Patricia Hills
238 Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139-37678**

February 29, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Burns:

Re: Eastman Johnson, Study for The Warren Family of Troy, New York, c. 1874. Oil on Panel, 4 15/16 x 6 3/16 inches [my measurements].

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.

This is a small study for the large family portrait of the Warren family. With this study, Johnson could remind himself of the ways the lights and darks were situated in this interior. (It was a method recommended by the French painter Thomas Couture.) It is very sketchy, but has Johnson's characteristic brushstroke. The ultra violet light we used to examine it did not tell us much, so that I do not know if there was anything added (eg. to the boy's face). That the painting was once owned by Abram Lerner, the founding director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, is telling.

The large portrait of Joseph Mabbett Warren, his wife, Elizabeth Adelaide Phelps and their son, Stephen Warren is in the collection of the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. That work is oil on canvas, 39 1/2 x 47 1/2 inches. He also did individual oil portraits of both Mr. Warren and Mrs. Warren.

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

Sincerely yours,

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