

36 Harrison Street  
Brookline, Mass. 02146  
March 22, 1982

Mr. Richard York  
Richard York Gallery  
21 East 65th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Richard:

Regarding the Eastman Johnson painting Study of Captain Moore which I saw in your Gallery on March 12, 1982:

The painting seems to be a study or sketch for the middle figure in Johnson's painting The Nantucket School of Philosophy, 1887, oil on panel, 23½ x 31 3/4", The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore. (This latter work is reproduced in my catalogue Eastman Johnson of 1972.)

According to Robert A. diCurcio, who is writing a book on the art of Nantucket, there is a memo in the files at the Walters Art Gallery which states that Eastman Johnson called on Edward D. Adams at 455 Madison Avenue, New York City, on April 21, 1889, and identified the names of the figures in the painting, then owned by Mr. Adams. The man leaning on his cane is Capt. Ray; the "talker" is Capt. Moore, and the cobbler at the right is Capt. Haggerty.

Your Study of Captain Moore is characteristic of Johnson's studies. As we noted when we examined the painting with a magnifying glass, there are sharp graphite (at least it looks like graphite) lines defining the raised hand and the features of the face. It is even difficult to see these lines with the naked eye, but ~~one~~ one does see such marks on many works for which it is known that there are other (or finished) copies. Also, the way the hand is held is quite characteristic of Johnson's poses. And the very brown and thinly painted passages are another characteristic. I have no doubts of the painting's authenticity.

Mr. diCurcio reminded that a good book on the Nantucket whaling captains can be found in Alexander Starbuck's History of Nantucket. Mr. diCurcio also said that a variation on the spelling might be "Mooers"; future researchers might be alert to this.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills