

36 Harrison Street
Brookline, MA 02146
October 6, 1988

Mr. Ira Spanierman
Spanierman Gallery
50 East 78th Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Ira:

Re Eastman Johnson, Landscape, oil on canvas, 12 x 18-1/4 inches, signed L.R. "E.J." I examined this painting at your Gallery on September 30, 1988.

I mentioned when I examined the painting, that I recalled seeing the picture sometime in the mid-1970s. I searched my files and discovered not only a photograph but also detailed notes I had made at the time (including a sketch of the Shattuck corner brace) along with a letter to the then owner. I am attaching a photocopy of the photograph of that picture, which clearly matches the landscape in your Gallery.

I saw the painting on September 29, 1976, and again in November. It then was owned by Mrs. Mira Berger, to whom I wrote a letter on November 24, 1976, confirming that in my opinion it was painted by Eastman Johnson.

The composition, coloration, and quality of the brushwork are characteristic of those few landscape paintings which were painted by Johnson, one of the best examples being The Catskill Mill, late 1860s, reproduced in my Eastman Johnson (New York: Clarkson Potter, 1972), p. 69. These characteristics are: the feathery strokes representing water in the stream (or pond); the sky with the paint "scrubbed" on; slim, dark tree trunks amidst loosely painted masses of leaves; patches of light in the middle ground at the right and left; and spots of orange color in the center area.

I looked up information regarding the Shattuck stretcher keys. The New Britain Museum of American Art 1970 catalogue, Aaron Draper Shattuck, N.A., 1832-1928, A Reprospective Exhibition, states [p. 7 (unpaged)]: "1883. Invented and had patented a stretcher key which was forged in New Britain, Connecticut and backed by the leading artists of the times including Bierstadt, Church, Eastman Johnson, Cropsey, Champney, and Wyant. F. W. Devoe and Company of New York was the sole agent."

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills