



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Hermann Gustav Simon (1846-1897)

Herman Gustav Simon was born in Germany in 1846. His family emigrated to the United States and settled in Philadelphia when Simon was two years of age. Simon studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and contributed to the 41st Annual Exhibition held in 1864.¹ In 1872, Simon was recognized as a rising Philadelphia artist by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. A critic for the newspaper noted how “remarkably true to life” Simon’s paintings of dog’s heads were after viewing them at the art gallery of Mr. J.E. McClees in Philadelphia.² The same year, Simon’s *Scotch Terrier* was exhibited as part of a collection of notable American and European artists owned by Charles F. Haseltine, proprietor of the Leavitt Art Rooms in New York’s Union Square.³

In 1878, Simon was one of 16 artists from the Philadelphia Society of Artists to exhibit at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. For the exhibit, Simon contributed more than a dozen landscapes and several studies of dogs.⁴ His paintings of sheep were included with the Society’s exhibition at the Academy in 1880.⁵ At the 52nd Annual Exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy in 1881, Simon exhibited *In Full Cry* which according to *The Times* depicted “three beagles bounding toward the spectator in a way that suggest a canine version of Wagner’s ‘Chariot Race.’”⁶

Simon was among many of Philadelphia’s most prominent artists including Peter Moran, Frederick Waugh, and Prosper L. Senat who contributed work from their studios to be sold at auction at Davis & Harvey in April of 1886.⁷ The following year his work was displayed at the opening of the new quarters of the Philadelphia Art Club. Other notable artists included Albert Bierstadt, Worthington Whittredge, Jervis McEntee, and William Hart.⁸ In 1889, Simon and fellow German American artist Hermann Herzog (1832-1932) spent the summer sketching along the Delaware River at Dingman’s Ferry.⁹

¹ Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. (1893). *Catalogue of the ... annual exhibition*. Philadelphia: The Academy, 35.

² “Works of Art,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Mon, Apr 22, 1872 · Page 2

³ “Fine Arts,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Brooklyn, New York) · Fri, Oct 18, 1872 · Page 3

⁴ “Sketches and Studies,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sat, Nov 23, 1878 · Page 2

⁵ “Pictures and Music,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Thu, Feb 5, 1880 · Page 2

⁶ “The Fine Arts,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Apr 3, 1881 · Page 4

⁷ “Philadelphia Artists,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Apr 18, 1886 · Page 2

⁸ “In Their New Home,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Wed, Dec 28, 1887 · Page 2

⁹ “Personal Intelligence,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Tue, Jul 23, 1889 · Page 2



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Simon illustrated *Rab and his Friends*, a short story by Scottish writer John Brown featuring an old mastiff. The book was published by J.B. Lippincott Co in the winter of 1889.¹⁰ A volume featuring Philadelphia art entitled *A Mosaic* was produced by the Artist Society of Fund of Philadelphia for the 1890 Christmas season. Simon's work was included in the book's 22 reproductions along with work by William Trost Richards, Colin Campbell Cooper, Carl Weber and others.¹¹ The sporting magazine, *Outing*, featured work by Simon on its frontispiece in October 1893 and December 1894.

In 1897, Simon contributed a painting entitled *The Challenge* to the spring exhibition at the New York Academy of Art. The large canvas featured, "a bellowing stag by the margin of a lake, awaiting the approach of a rival."¹²

Herman Gustav Simon died in New York on March 31st, 1897 at the age of 52. At the close of the watercolor exhibition the Philadelphia Art Club's committee honored the artist by draping his *Study of a Dog* in black noting it was a, "fine little sketch, full of character. It is a worthy example of the dead artist's skill."¹³

¹⁰ "The Critic's Review," Pittsburgh Dispatch (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) · Mon, Dec 16, 1889 · Page 4

¹¹ "Some Books of Beauty," The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Mon, Dec 1, 1890 · Page 2

¹² "New York Spring Academy Exhibition," The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Apr 11, 1897 · Page 24

¹³ "In the Domain of Art," The Philadelphia Inquirer (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) · Sun, Apr 11, 1897 · Page 24