



HAWTHORNE

Fine Art

Charles F. Pierce (1844-1920)

Charles Franklin Pierce was born in 1844 in Sharon, New Hampshire to Phila A. and John A. Pierce. In 1876, he married fellow artist Luene R. Wilder. After the passing of Wilder in 1906, Pierce married Katherine Plimpton in 1912.¹ Well-known for his pastoral landscapes, Pierce had a particular interest in animal painting. A leading figure of the Boston Art Club, Pierce often served on the club's committee on exhibitions.

In 1905, during the autumn exhibition of the Boston Art Club, Pierce's work was praised by the *Boston Evening Transcript* who said, "Mr. C.F. Pierce's study of a heifer lying down (20) is the deepest and best piece of color by him that has ever been exhibited here."² A critic for the *Boston Globe* found Pierce's *A Watering Place, Pembroke, Mass* to be, "Notable among the 'Landscape with cattle' pictures." The critic also said, "The group of cattle in the foreground is especially well handled in this picture. The study of a cow lying down, by [Pierce], is strong in drawing and color."³ The same year, Pierce contributed *The Two Cows* and *The River* to a loan exhibition said to be "the most important art event in the history of [Lowell]." The exhibition, held in the high school in the town of Lowell, Massachusetts was comprised of oil paintings by many notable artists including John Singer Sargent, Cecilia Beaux, and George Inness as well as 23 etchings by Whistler.⁴

In 1906, Pierce's work was included in a watercolor exhibition at the Worcester Art Museum. Other exhibitors in the show included J.A.S. Monks, Sears Gallagher, Charles Copeland, and William J. Bixbee.⁵ In 1907, Pierce was a member of the exhibition committee, the jury on admission, and the hanging committee during the Boston Art Club's 76th annual exhibition.⁶ The following year, Pierce contributed *Changing Pasture* to an exhibition of watercolors, pastels, and miniatures at the Boston Art Club. The critic for the *Boston Globe* noted that Pierce "shows his knowledge of sheep as well as his nice feeling for landscape composition."⁷

¹ "Funeral this afternoon of Charles Franklin Pierce," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sun, Feb 29, 1920, 12.

² "The Autumn Exhibition of the Boston Art Club," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sat, Nov 18, 1905, 20.

³ "Autumn Exhibit of the Boston Art Club," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sat, Nov 18, 1905, 4.

⁴ "The Fine Arts," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Wed, Apr 5, 1905, Page 4.

⁵ "Gallery and Studio Notes," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Thu, Mar 1, 1906, 11.

⁶ "Watercolors, Pastels and Miniatures," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sat, Mar 16, 1907, 10.

⁷ "Boston Art Club's 78th Exhibition," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Thu, Mar 26, 1908, 5.



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In 1908, Pierce exhibited *Cows Drinking* and *In the Stable* during an exhibition held at the Boston City Club.⁸ In 1910, Pierce exhibited 30 paintings and a number of cattle studies in a joint exhibition with artist Frank H. Tompkins. Upon viewing the exhibition at Boston's Vose Galleries, the critic for the *Boston Evening Transcript* noted that Pierce's *In the Stable* was, "one of the best of his productions, and has a depth of tone and an agreeable quality of color in the shadows that exemplify his new departure in a striking manner." The critic praised the "good landscape qualities" in *Early Autumn* and in *Twilight* stating that Pierce, "has always had the faculty of making an effective composition, and of placing his cattle in a landscape setting in a congruous relation to their surroundings, and this knack is shown in many of his canvases."⁹ In 1912, Pierce's cattle paintings brought some competitive bidding during an auction held at Copley Hall. His painting entitled *The Evening Call* was sold for \$470.¹⁰

In 1913, Pierce's work at an exhibition of the Boston Art Club was lauded by the critic for the *Boston Evening Transcript* who said, "Among the landscapes, we note particularly Charles F. Pierce's gray and green picture near the north door, which marks an advance over any of his landscape works...."¹¹ The following year, Pierce was included in a Christmas exhibition with other Boston artists at Vose Galleries. His small cattle works were called "poetic" by the critic at the *Boston Globe*.¹² In 1916, Pierce was included in an exhibition of the ten leading artists of Boston held at Leonard's Gallery on Bromfield Street. According to the *Boston Globe*, "Charles F. Pierce shows some of his dainty, poetic cattle pictures, carefully drawn and exquisitely painted. "Going Home" is one that lives in the memory."¹³

Charles Franklin Pierce passed away in 1920 in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was 76 years old.¹⁴

⁸ "Pictures at the City Club," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Fri, Feb 14, 1908, 11.

⁹ "Paintings by Mr. Tompkins and Mr. Pierce," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Thu, Jan 6, 1910, 11.

¹⁰ "The Copley Hall Picture Sale," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Mon, Apr 8, 1912, 16.

¹¹ "The Fine Arts," *Boston Evening Transcript* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sat, Oct 4, 1913, 22.

¹² "Fine Group of Paintings," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Mon, Dec 14, 1914, 14.

¹³ "Exhibition by 10 Boston Artists," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Thu, Apr 6, 1916, 3.

¹⁴ "Funeral this afternoon of Charles Franklin Pierce," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Sun, Feb 29, 1920, 12.