



HAWTHORNE  
Fine Art

**GEORGE HERBERT MCCORD (1848 - 1909)**

*Christmas, 1873*

Oil on card

6 x 5 1/8 inches

Signed and dated 1873, lower right

Provenance:

Chapellier Galleries, New York

Collection of a Lady

In this serene winter landscape by George Herbert McCord, a child pulls a sled and a couple strolls along a country path near a church on Christmas day. Through a break in the clouds, the sun casts light upon the figures below, highlighting the atmospheric conditions and lighting effects unique to a winter day. The snowy setting recalls the celebratory scenes of winter often featured in seventeenth-century Dutch painting, where figures remain resilient, sometimes joyful, in their surroundings despite frigid conditions. Painted on a card, McCord likely produced this work as a gift for a friend or patron.

A member of the second generation of Hudson River School painters, McCord is known for his atmospheric landscape and marine paintings executed in a variety of media, including oil, pastel, and watercolor, and which capture a variety of locales.

McCord was born in 1848 in New York City, where he lived and worked his entire life. After 1883, he kept an additional studio in Morristown, NJ. McCord traveled throughout North America, painting in the Berkshire, Adirondack and Laurentian mountain ranges, the Hudson River Valley, the coast of New England, the Upper Mississippi, and Florida, which had become popular among Eastern vacationers. He was among a select group of artists commissioned by the Santa Fe Railroad to paint the Grand Canyon, and also participated in a special painting excursion to the Erie Canal. His travels in Europe were equally expansive, taking him to England, Scotland (having been commissioned by Andrew Carnegie to paint the scenery around his castle there), France, the Netherlands, and Italy.



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McCord was well-educated, having attended Claverack College amidst the Catskills in Claverack, NY, which provided instruction in classical, French, German, English, music, painting, military, commercial, telegraphic, and agricultural studies. He also studied with the accomplished painter and inventor of Morse code, Samuel F.B. Morse, and with the Scottish-born landscape painter, James Fairman.

McCord was active in numerous art clubs and institutions in New York, including the National Academy of Design, which elected him an Associate member in 1880, the American Watercolor Society, the Brooklyn Art Club, the Salmagundi Club, and the Lotos Club. He was also a member of Artists Fund Society in Philadelphia. McCord exhibited regularly at the National Academy and the Brooklyn Art Association, and was included in exhibitions at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Boston Art Club, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

His great success is evidenced by his numerous awards: he received a bronze medal at the Mechanics Institute Fair in Boston in 1883, a silver medal at the New Orleans Exposition of 1885, the prestigious Shaw Prize of the Salmagundi Club in 1891, a silver medal at the Charleston Exposition of 1901, and a medal at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. In January of 1904, his pastels of the coast of Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and England were featured in an exhibition at the Salmagundi Club. In addition to painting, McCord wrote articles on art for the *Richfield News*.