

## A GREAT AMERICAN PAINTER.

Carroll Beckwith's Tribute to the  
Late William M. Chase.

New York, Oct. 28, 1916.

To the Editor of *The New York Times*:

It is with gratitude and respect for THE NEW YORK TIMES that I read your editorial of yesterday on that great painter, William M. Chase, who has gone from us.

Mr. Chase's gift as an artist is questioned by none of his profession and we are all eager to lay a palm upon his coffin. THE NEW YORK TIMES, in its words of appreciation, shows that it rightfully occupies a position of authority among the leading journals of our country in its recognition of the cultivated American. Why is it that the mass of our people are so slow in their just valuation of their gifted countrymen? Chase and Vollon of France are the two greatest painters of still-life that have ever lived, but our country has been slow in granting him the mead which he has deserved. Doubtless now that he is dead and his output has ceased, both the dealer and the collector will awaken and grant his work the price which it has always merited.

When we set sail together, to begin our career at home, on the same steamer from Antwerp in the early Autumn of 1878—Chase returning from a seven years' study in the schools of Munich, and I from five years in those of Paris—we had exhaustive consultations regarding our future. We felt convinced that at the beginning we would not be able to earn our living by our brush, and that one of the two vocations, teaching or illustrating, was inevitable. Chase said with deep determination, "But I must continue to paint." Happily, upon our arrival, Mr. Frank Waller, the President of the then recently started Art Students' League, invited us both to take departments in that school, Chase as an instructor in painting, and I to start the department of antique drawing. Thus the problem of self-support was partially solved. The loyalty with which Chase has always stood by the higher principles of his profession has been an encouragement to all American painters. Never stooping to the commercial or the cheap, he has held high the banner of courage and integrity, striving ceaselessly to "paint the thing as he saw it, for the God of things as they are."

He was greatly gifted as a technician and a tireless worker, some of his smaller canvases and panels of still-life and from nature, both out of doors and in his handsome studio in the old Tenth Street building, show a technical dexterity in the handling of the brush and pigment that has never been excelled. Such painters among us are rare and, with the present unfortunate tendencies in our profession, bid fair to disappear almost entirely.

I predict that his works will grow greatly in value, as I see few among us who will be able to take up the brush where he has laid it down.

CARROLL BECKWITH.

*The New York Times*

Published: October 29, 1916

Copyright © The New York Times