

The Upper Ipswich River: Gallery Label - Current

Born in Swampscott, Massachusetts, Little studied art at the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. . The Upper Ipswich River reveals Little as a master of his medium (as witnessed in the variety of brushwork) and an astute colorist. This autumnal scene was exhibited in 1915 at the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco where it received a silver medal.

It is a vivid, warmly colored scene in which a tumbling stream reflects in its many facets the bright autumnal foliage of the surrounding trees, yet it is treated with that restraint which is usually achieved by the group of Boston artists with whom Mr. "The Upper Ipswich River" was one of three canvases. Little had a generous spirit and gifted his works, the use of his studio and other possessions. **Our Painting is a gift from him too.**

Philip pursued dual careers as an artist and civic leader. Wealthy and generous, he became an important public servant in his adopted Salem. Over the course of his long career he served on both of the city's legislative bodies as well as the municipal school and health boards and city's committee on military matters. The artist, who looked as dashing in a military uniform as he did his cutaway and Inverness cape, also served in the Massachusetts Militia for a decade and a half. By the time he retired in 1901 Little had attained the rank of Major.

When he wasn't busy with governmental affairs, or with his duties as Curator of Art at Salem's Essex Institute, Little was carving out a reputation as a respected American painter and printmaker "untainted" by European art training.

Philip drew heavily on the New England coast for his subject matter. For much of his adult life he summered on MacMahan Island in Maine and every fall he would return home to Salem laden with stunning Impressionist scenes of the Maine coast. Little did not, however, ignore the North Shore landscape. Hanging on the walls of museums around the country are works entitled "Where Hawthorne Wrote and Derby Traded," "Transport Going East Off Marblehead," and "The Upper Ipswich River." One of his etchings, "Salem's Old Wharves," is in the collection of the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. He won a number of awards in national competitions and was a member of numerous art organizations

including the National Art Club, the American Society of Etchers, and the Portland Society of Artists in Maine. Little was also a founding member of the prestigious Guild of Boston Artists.

The artist would finally achieve national prominence in his early fifties when in the span of just a few years; he was given one-man shows in St. Louis, Worcester, Providence, and Utica, New York.

From 1914 until his death in 1942 Little worked in a studio he built on tiny Daniels Street.

Medium: Paintings, Painting | Oil on canvas

Size: 45 1/2 x 45 1/2 in. (115.57 x 115.57 cm) (canvas) 52 5/8 x 52 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (133.67 x 132.72 x 8.89 cm) (outer frame)

Creation Place: North America, United States

Culture: North America, United States

Style: 20th century

Inscriptions: Signature LR: [Philip Little]

Physical Description: Landscape

Credit: Collection Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Gift of the artist

Accession Number: 20.45

Artist: Philip Little, American, 1857 - 1942

Role: Artist

Nationality: American

Life Dates: American, 1857 - 1942

QUESTIONS:

1. What month in the year do you think Little painted this canvas?
2. What sounds do you hear in this painting? Smells? Describe the weather.
3. What is your favorite time of the year?
4. We often “paint” with our cameras today, what time of the year do you like to photograph?
5. More of Philip Little’s work can be seen with a Google search, in Images, our painting is one of his early works.