

A Parkville Frame Gallery Newsletter “Supplement”

2023 Newsletter “Supplement” #23-2 (5/12/23)

Subject: Catalogues Raisonnés

What is a Catalogues Raisonnés

The term *catalogue raisonné* is French, meaning "reasoned catalogue". These are essentially “catalogs” that are defined as: *a comprehensive, annotated listing of all the known works of an artist either in a particular medium or all media*. These catalogs can be either in book format or available as digital files. They may provide some or all of the following information about an artist’s verified work:


- Title and title variations
- Dimension/Size
- Date of the work
- Medium
- Current location/owner at time of publication
- Provenance (history of ownership)
- Exhibition history
- Condition of the work
- Bibliography/Literature that discusses the work
- Essay(s) on the artist
- Critical assessments and remarks
- Full description of the work
- Signatures, Inscriptions, and Monograms of the artist
- Reproduction of each work
- List of works attributed
- Catalog number

Why do I need to know this

Maybe the best way to answer the question: “why do I need this information”, would be to conduct an actual case study. Let’s assume that you are interested in the art created by American artist Winslow Homer (1836-1910). [More Here](#) and still more [Here](#)

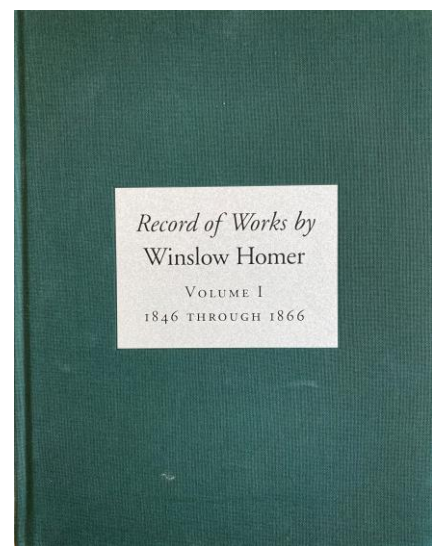
Homer created a lot of art. In fact, he created so much art that it would be difficult to assimilate it all, or to locate a specific piece. That is where a good catalogues raisonnés can help. Let’s look to the International Foundation for Art Research (IFAR) for help. We will get to know IFAR better in a future newsletter.

- On your computer enter: IFAR.org and click Enter (Chrome or Firefox is best)
- Select the tab titled: *catalogues raisonnés*.
- Check the boxes titled “*Published Catalogues*”, and “*Catalogues in Preparation*”

- In the box titled: “*Select by Artist*” enter Winslow Homer, and click GO
- You will see Homer, Winslow in blue text. Click on that.
- Next you will be presented with two sources for *catalogues raisonnés*
Select the catalog: *Record of Works by Winslow Homer* (in blue text)
- Click on the external link  (Give it sufficient time to open.)
- On the World Cat page select: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Spencer Art Reference Library (mid-page, blue text)
- Click on: Go to Library’s Catalog
- In the *Search anything* box type or paste: Record of Works by Winslow Homer (Chrome or Firefox works best)
- Click the magnifying glass (click two times maybe)
- You will be presented with a message telling you that the book(s): *Record of Works by Winslow Homer* are available from the “stacks” (five volumes).
- Click on *Record of Works by Winslow Homer* (blue text)
- You will see *Check holdings* (blue text) and the number: *N6537.H58 G66 2005 Homer*. Give the library that number when you request the books.
- Note also that if you click on *Check holdings* (blue text), other books at the library about Homer are shown at the bottom of the page.
- You do not need to be a member of the Nelson-Atkins Museum, or have a library card to use their reference library. Note, however, that you cannot check books out. That said, they have an excellent reading room, and their staff is very helpful.
- Note also that the Spencer Library has limited days/hours. It is always best to call ahead before going (816) 751-1216. That way materials will be brought from the stacks and available when you arrive. In this case study you would ask that *catalogues raisonnés* number *N6537.H58 G66 2005 Homer* be available.

In this case study we learned what a *catalogues raisonnés* is, and how to locate one. We found a *catalogues raisonnés* (five volumes) for Winslow Homer at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Spencer Art Reference Library. Using the Homer *catalogues raisonnés* we found information about a specific painting by Homer: *Hound and Hunter*.

- Catalogues item number 1507 (Volume 5)
- Painted in oil by Homer in 1892
- Size: 28 ¼ x 48 1/8
- Inscribed: Winslow Homer 1892 (last digit obscured)
- Location: National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- Gift of: Stephen Carlton Clark



[Record of Works by Winslow Homer](#)

1507
Hound and Hunter

1892
Oil, 28 3/4 x 48 1/8 (71.755 x 122.238)
Inscribed lr: Winslow Homer 1892 [last digit obscured] / 2

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, gift of Stephen Carlton Clark, 1947.II.1

On 15 October 1891, while still at the North Woods Club, Homer wrote of this work, and *Huntsman and Dogs* (No. 1478) to his brother Charles: "I am working very hard & will without doubt finish the two oil paintings that I commenced Oct 2nd & great works they are . . . The original ideas of these paintings are in water-color & will . . . be presented to you."

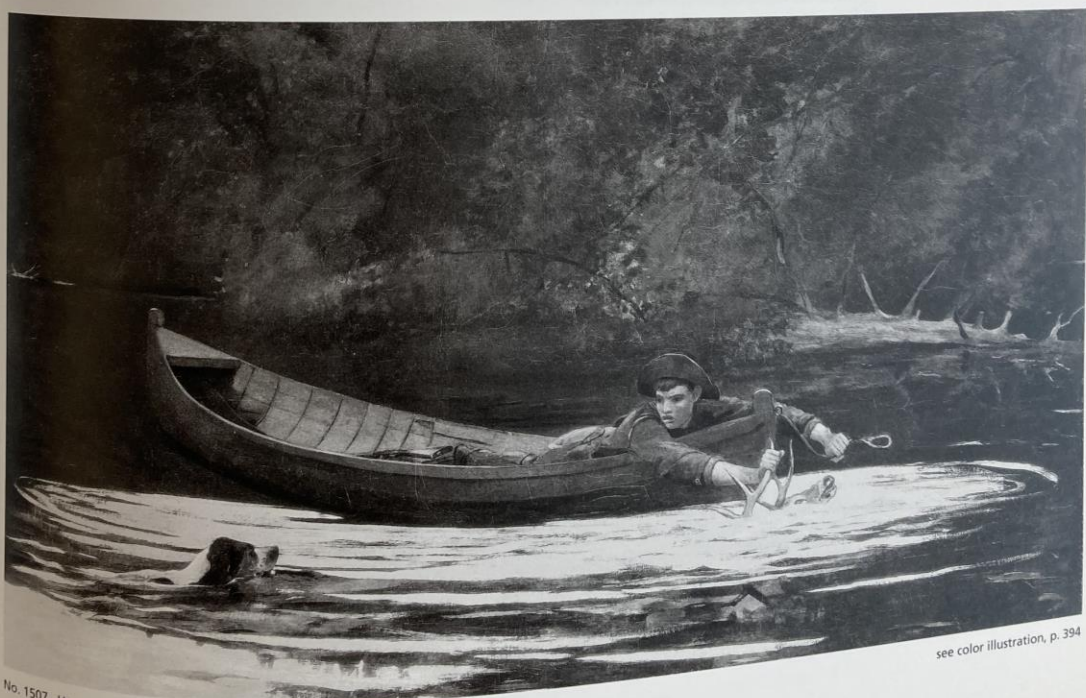
Almost exactly a year later, on 25 October 1892, he wrote Thomas B. Clarke:

I am in receipt of your letter. . . I cannot say now what my plans are for the winter but I think I shall show in Boston my only new oil color with ten or so watercolors (all Adirondacks) The oil to go to Chicago & the lot to go to N.Y. after being

shown at 2 Park St. [Doll & Richards] . . . I think I owe it to you to give you more particulars about this oil picture. I have had it on hand over two seasons & now it promises to be very fine. It is a figure piece pure & simple & a figure piece well carried out is not a common affair. It is called "Hound & Hunter." [small sketch] A man Deer & Dog on the water. My plan is to copyright it, have Harper publish it in *The Weekly* to make it known, have Klackner publish it as a print & then exhibit it for sale first in Boston (at \$2000.) with my watercolors.

Homer's marketing scheme was not carried through. About six weeks from the date of his letter to Clarke, the painting made its debut in New York in the Union League Club's December exhibition. Given Clarke's powerful influence over the Union League's art events, it is reasonable to suppose his response to Homer's 25 October letter convinced the artist to suspend those extended plans in favor of immediate presentation at the Club. No reproductive image of the painting appeared in *Harper's* or was produced by the C. Klackner firm. At least six Adirondack subject watercolors did go to Doll & Richards late in 1892.

Several critics admired *Hound and Hunter* when shown at the Union League, but failed to perceive



No. 1507. Hound and Hunter

see color illustration, p. 394

Page copied from the *Record of Works by Winslow Homer*.
Note that most images in this *catalogues raisonnés* are in black and white verses color.

Using similar techniques to those above you will be able to locate other *catalogues raisonnés*. Starting with IFAR.org, try your hand at locating “digital” catalogs.

In a future edition of our newsletter we will learn more about the iconic American artist Winslow Homer. A sample of his work: *Boys in a Dory* (1880), was featured in the 2023 May/June issue of our *Top Picks*. Please follow all of our newsletters, newsletter supplements, and our Top Picks. All current and archived issues are available on our web page parkvilleframegallery.com

Fine giclée prints of some of Homer’s work can be purchased from the vendor 1000 Museums <https://www.1000museums.com/> Type Winslow Homer in their search box. Information about giclée prints can be found [Here](#).



A framed giclée print of *Hound and Hunter* is available for purchase in our gallery.

You are always welcome here.

Enjoy your research,

[The Art Advisor](#)

Enjoy fine art--well framed