

LETTER OF AUTHENTICATION

1 October 2007

Mr. Mark Lawson
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492 Maple Avenue
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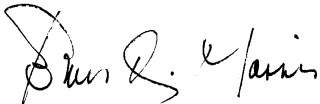
RE: painting by Edwin Lord Weeks (1849 – 1903);
“Lake at Oodeypore, India” (No. 258 in the artist’s estate sale of 1905)
original size: 35½ by 61 inches [90.2 by 155 cm.]
present size: 30¹/₁₆ by 49⁷/₈ inches [76.4 by 126.5 cm.]
originally signed “E. L. Weeks” (lower left); the signature is now absent due
to a reduction in canvas size
oil on canvas

I have examined the above painting on the basis of numerous color digital images: one overall view and 32 detail views covering the entire surface of the painting. The detail views clearly show the handling of paint, including areas of impasto, areas where the paint is sufficiently thin to reveal traces of pencil underdrawing, and other characteristics of Edwin Lord Weeks’ paint handling and working methods. The overall view clearly reveals the overall composition of the painting, including the diagonal compositional structure, the manner in which the lake is painted and the striking way the brilliant light is handled, all of which are completely characteristic of Weeks’ work.

The painting has evidently been reduced in size, with an attendant loss of area at the perimeter, with a greater loss of width than height, and which has resulted in the loss of the artist’s signature. I have been informed that this reduction was a result of unfortunate conservation handling that occurred some time around 1970 as a result of water damage to the canvas while being stored.

Notwithstanding the evident reduction of the canvas, I can state without reservation that the painting is an authentic work by Edwin Lord Weeks. This painting will be included in the catalogue raisonné as a genuine work by the artist.

Sincerely,


Ellen K. Morris, PhD