



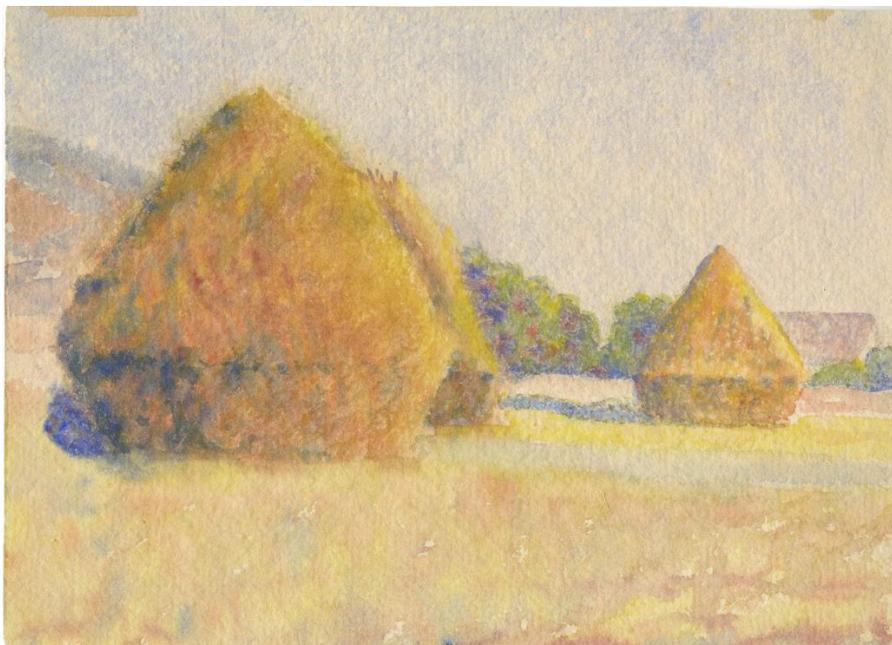
BOSTON ATHENÆUM

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Boston Athenæum Exhibition Is First in an American Museum to Showcase Work of Important American Impressionist

Thomas Buford Meteyard (1865–1928): Travels through Impressionism chronicles the artist's investigations of different media and myriad progressive artists' styles during a lifetime of travel.



Boston, MA—August 25, 2017—The Boston Athenæum announced today that its fall/winter exhibition will be *Thomas Buford Meteyard (1865–1928): Travels through Impressionism*. [The exhibition](#), which will run from October 25, 2017 to February 24, 2018 is curated by David B.

Dearinger, Ph.D., Director of Exhibitions and Susan Morse Hilles Senior Curator of Paintings & Sculpture at the Boston Athenæum. A [members' opening reception](#) will take place on October 24 and the exhibition will open to the public on October 25

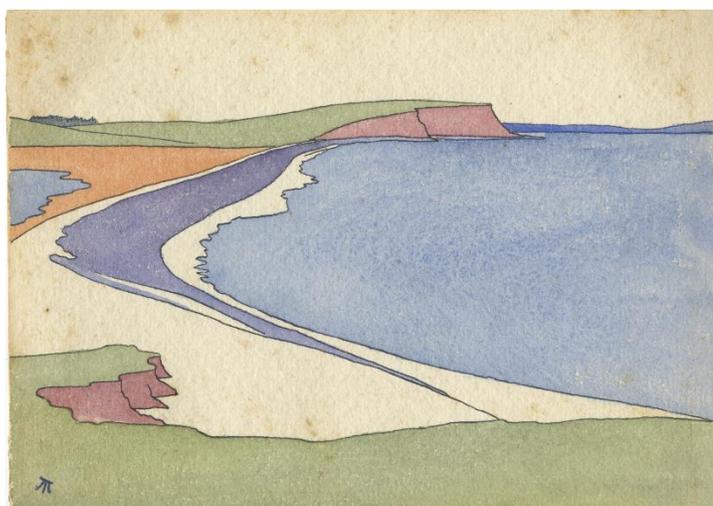
Born in Rock Island, Illinois, raised in Chicago, and educated at Harvard, Thomas Buford Meteyard followed the great artistic migration to Europe of the late 19th century and became a memorable figure in American expatriate communities in England and France. In 1889, he went to London and then Paris, where he studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in the atelier of the master academic painter Léon Bonnat. He spent summers traveling throughout England, Ireland, the United States, and the Continent. In the early 1890s, he joined the international artists' colony at Giverny, where his work flourished under the influence of the Impressionists, both French and American, and the Symbolists.



Meteyard returned to the United States in 1893 and spent most of the next 16 years at Scituate, Massachusetts, where he was active as an illustrator and designer for several Arts-and-Crafts periodicals as well as a number of books by the poets Bliss Carman and Richard Hovey, the novelist and essayist Robert Louis Stevenson, and others. In 1906, Meteyard returned to Europe, eventually settling in England where he married and lived the rest of his life. By that time, his work was widely recognized and being exhibited in major group and solo shows in both Europe and America, including the Paris Salons and at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

The exhibition at the Boston Athenæum, which includes over eighty examples of Meteyard's work, chronicles the artist's development over the course of his extensive travels. The exhibition's curator, David Dearinger, remarks, "Thomas Meteyard was an American artist of diverse talents and interests. He spent significant portions of his life in some of the world's great cities as well as avant-garde art colonies, such as Giverny in France, which happened to be populated with young, forward-looking artists such as himself." Emphasizing the artist's spirit of innovation, he adds, "Meteyard was a willing recipient of inspiration from myriad sources—Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Symbolism, the Nabis, the Aesthetic and the Arts and Crafts movements, Japanese art—and he knew many of the progressive artists and writers of his day, including Henry James, Stéphane Mallarmé, Claude Monet, Edvard Munch, John Singer Sargent, and Oscar Wilde."

The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with an essay by Dearinger.



About the Boston Athenæum:

The Boston Athenæum, a hybrid cultural organization consisting of a membership library and fine art museum, first opened its doors in 1807 as a sanctuary of arts and letters for Boston intellectuals and rapidly became an important incubator for innovation. Today, it continues to serve its members and the community with a vast circulating collection, rich and varied special collections, extensive archives, comprehensive electronic resources, handsome reading spaces, and a dynamic programming schedule. The exhibition gallery and many events are open to the public. Membership is open to all. For more information, visit www.bostonathenaeum.org.

Images: 1. *Haystacks near Giverny*, ca 1891. Watercolor, 4 ¾ x 6 ¾ inches. Private collection. 2. *Vernon Church*, ca 1891. Watercolor, 7 x 5 inches. Meteyard Family Collection. 3. *Scituate Bay*, ca 1894. Watercolor, 5 x 7 inches. Meteyard Family Collection.