



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM

The Chronicle of the Horse in Art

On view August 26, 2016 – March 26, 2017

MIDDLEBURG, Virginia – The National Sporting Library & Museum presents *The Chronicle of the Horse in Art*, on view in the Museum from August 26, 2016 through March 26, 2017. This major exhibition, with accompanying catalog, gather a sampling of forty-six American, British, and Continental oil paintings, watercolors, and sculptures to highlight the variety of material that was placed in front of readers, on the covers of the *Chronicle of the Horse*, a national equestrian magazine, for almost seventy years.

The introduction of art to the front cover of *The Chronicle* came on the August 31, 1945 issue with little fanfare. The periodical was first begun eight years earlier as a local Virginia newspaper under the name *The Middleburg Chronicle* by Gerald B. Webb and Stacy B. Lloyd, Jr. No explanation for the alteration from the Wall Street Journal-esque all-text format of the cover, overseen by Lloyd, was written in the periodical either prior to or in that seminal 1945 issue. It was the first of what would become an iconic cover for almost seventy years, reflecting the broad range of expression of classic to contemporary sporting art, the rich history of *The Chronicle of the Horse* itself, developments in equine sports, and the interests of the equestrians who have followed the national weekly publication for over two generations. A fascinating story of the development of some of the important sporting art collections in the United States also unfolded between the pages of the magazine.

The Chronicle of the Horse engaged its readers with appealing images that spoke to the audience of breeders, owners, trainers, athletes, and enthusiasts of the various equestrian sports. A comprehensive and eclectic variety of over 3,400 images of paintings, sculpture, illustrations, caricatures, prints, and other objects reflecting equine pursuits were reproduced on the covers between 1945 and 2012. Not only works with horses appeared on the cover; portraits of foxhounds and even a donkey described as “employed babysitting four young horses” were included. Iconic eighteenth and nineteenth century sporting artists such as George Stubbs, Benjamin Marshall, and John Ferneley, Sr. and artists who attained success in the twentieth century, many during their lifetime, such as Jean Bowman, Sir Alfred Munnings, James Lynwood Palmer, and Richard Stone Reeves were featured. By 1960 *The Chronicle* already also distinguished itself by highlighting “young painters just getting started, obviously with still a long way to go, but with enough apparent talent to justify a leg up.”

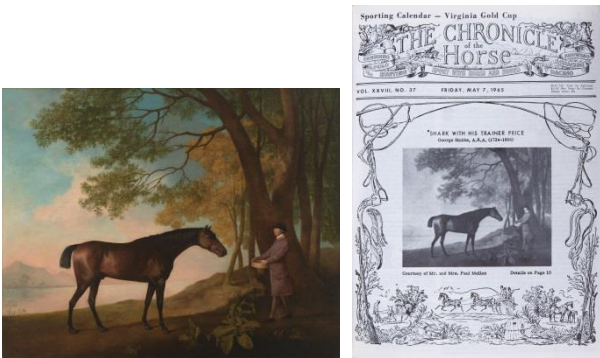
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Among the works that will be included are *Shark with his Trainer Price*, dated 1775, by George Stubbs (English, 1724–1806) from the Paul Mellon Collection at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; *Euxton, with John White Up, at Heaton Park*, 1829 by John E. Ferneley, Sr. (British, 1782–1860) from the Paul Mellon Collection at Yale Center for British Art; five other major paintings from the Yale collection; *Scene From A Spaghetti Western*, 1998, by Booth Malone (American, b. 1950) from The United States Pony Clubs collection; *Turning To Go Down*, 1976 by John Rattenbury Skeaping (British, 1901-1980), and *Saint Nick* from the collection of Caroline Moran; and *Mongo on the Turf at Laurel Racetrack, Maryland with Charles Burr Up*, 1964, by Jean Eleanor Bowman (American, 1917 - 1994) from the National Sporting Library & Museum.

RELATED EVENT: A public reception will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the National Sporting Library & Museum. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Curator of Art Claudia Pfeiffer will host a coffee reception from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. and then provide a custom tour of the exhibition. Admission to this event is free to NSLM members and \$5 for non-members. Coffee provided by Middleburg Common Grounds. RSVP to Anne Marie Barnes, Educational Programs Manager & Fellowship Advisor, 540-687-6542 ext. 25 ABarnes@NationalSporting.org

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) is located in Middleburg, Virginia, the heart of beautiful hunt country. Founded in 1954, the renowned research Library and art Museum highlight the rich heritage and tradition of country pursuits. Angling, horsemanship, shooting, steeplechasing, foxhunting, flat racing, polo, coaching, and wildlife are among the subjects one can explore in the organization’s general stacks, rare book holdings, archives, and art collection. The NSLM offers a wide variety of educational programs, exhibitions, and family activities throughout the year, and is open to researchers and the general public. The NSLM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. While there is no admission fee to the Library, the Museum charges \$10 for adults, \$8 for youths (age 13-18), and \$8 for seniors. NSLM members and children age 12 and under are free. Library & Museum hours are Wednesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AVAILABLE ARTWORK WITH CAPTIONS:



George Stubbs (British, 1724-1806)

Shark With His Trainer Price, 1794

40 1/8 x 50 1/8 inches

oil on canvas

Credit line must accompany image: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond. Paul Mellon Collection. Photo: Katherine Wetzell © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The Chronicle of the Horse, May 7, 1965

The masterworks of George Stubbs appeared on the cover of The Chronicle over 60 times. By 1965, readers had been exposed to almost half of these and a variety of articles on the historically-significant eighteenth-century sporting artist. *Shark With His Trainer Price*, 1794, was in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon when it was reproduced. The article

about the painting delved into the positive impact the imported British racehorse had on American bloodlines. He was the first winning race horse to be imported into the United States.



Jean Eleanor Bowman (American, 1917-1994)

Mongo on the Turf at Laurel Racetrack, Maryland with Charles Burr Up, 1964

29 x 36 inches

oil on canvas

National Sporting Library & Museum, Gift of Jacqueline B. Mars, 2012, © John H. Pentecost

The Chronicle of the Horse, November 13, 1964 cover

Mrs. Marion duPont Scott of Montpelier Farm, Orange County, VA, commissioned Jean Bowman to paint her dirt and turf track champion, Mongo trained by Frank A. Bonsal, Sr. for three consecutive successful seasons. Among his many wins, Mongo took the United Nations and the Diamond State twice and beat Horse of the Year, Kelso, in the Washington, DC, International Stakes. In the Bowman portrait Mongo is depicted with Charles Burr up in Montpelier silks at the Laurel racetrack, home of the Washington, DC, International which Mongo won with Burr aboard in 1963.

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