

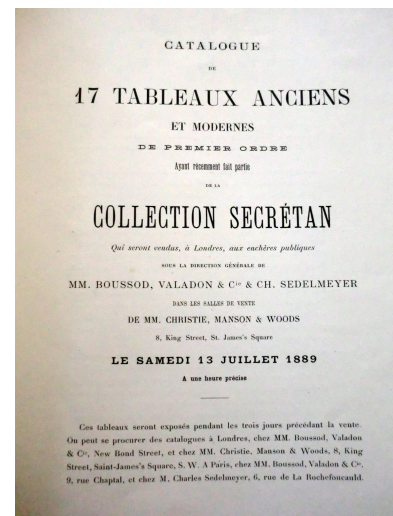


## THE SECRETAN COLLECTION – THREE-VOLUME AUCTION CATALOGUE DETAILING A FRENCH PAINTINGS COLLECTION NOW IN THE WORLD’S MOST IMPORTANT MUSEUMS – WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF EACH WORK

Eugène Secrétan (1839-1899) was a French businessman who made his fortune in the copper-making industry. His copper was used in the creation of the Statue of Liberty. At the height of his success, Secrétan established a major collection of nineteenth-century French and old master paintings. He went bankrupt during the Great Copper Crash in the late nineteenth-century and was forced to sell off his collection in 1889 to pay his debts.<sup>1</sup>

*Catalogue de Tableaux Ancien et Modernes et Objets d'Art Formant la Célèbre Collection de M. E. Secrétan.* Vols. 1-3. Paris. Charles Sedelmeyer's Galleries. July 1-4, 1889. Volume 1 has 104 pages, volume 2 has 115 pages, and volume 3 has 37 pages. 305 lots in total. Illustrated. These volumes were printed in both French & English. A substantial, two-volume catalogue was published to accompany Secrétan's sale. The first volume has a lengthy preface written by art critic Albert Wolff (1835-1891). Volume one displays his collection of modern French art, which included paintings, drawings, and watercolors by Corot, Courbet, Couture, Daubigny, Delacroix, Géricault, Ingres, Meissonier, Millet, and Rousseau, among others. Each work is briefly described and very limited amount of provenance and exhibition history information is included. A large illustration accompanies each entry. Volume two of the catalogue is dedicated two Secrétan's equally-impressive collection of old masters, including works by Bellini, Boucher, Cuyp, van Dyck, Fragonard, Lorrain, Greuze, Hals, Vermeer, Rembrandt, Reynolds, Rubens, Ruisdael, Tiepolo, and Velasquez. Volume 3 is dedicated to Secrétan's art objects, furniture, and sculpture collection.

*Catalogue de 17 Tableaux Anciens et Modernes Ayant récemment fait partie de la Collection Secrétan.* Paris. Mm Boussod, Valadon & Cie & Ch. Sedelmeyer. Sold at Christie, Manson & Woods. July 13, 1889. 38 pages. 17 lots. Illustrated. This catalogue is only printed in French. There is an associated catalogue of the sale printed by Christie, Manson & Woods for the London market. A smaller, separate catalogue without a volume number but seemingly continuation of the earlier part 2. The paper and illustrations are of notably lower quality than those of the first three catalogues. This book includes seventeen



works by Pater, Hobbema, Ostade, van de Velde, Wouwermans, Perugino, Decamps, Delacroix, Millet, and Troyon. Although most of these artists are also represented in volumes one and two, these specific works were not included in the earlier sale. Annotated in the same fashion as volume two.

The Secrétan sale was highly successful, totaling over one million dollars.<sup>2</sup> Jean-François Millet's *The Angelus* (no. 63) sold for a record 553,000 fr thanks to a bidding war won by the American Art Association in New York.<sup>3</sup> *The Angelus* is now at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. The art in the Secrétan collection was of extremely high quality, and many pieces are now in major museums, often passing through prestigious private collections along the way. For example, Alexander Decamps's *The Experts* was acquired by famed American collector Henry Osborne Havemeyer (1847-1907) shortly after the sale and later passed into the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection following his wife Louisine Havemeyer's death in 1929.<sup>4</sup>

We have four distinct sets of the Secrétan Collection in varying conditions, bindings, and completion.

### **Set One**

A hardbound set in leather and marbled board covers with gilt lettering on the spines. This set is comprised only of the painting sales, made up of Volumes 1 & 2 plus the additional volume of 17 paintings, bound into two volumes with a facsimile of the Christie, Manson & Woods catalogue. Volumes 1 & 2 and the Christie, Manson & Woods facsimile are in English and the volume of 17 paintings is in French. The pages, text, and illustrations are sharp and clean with tissue guards for the illustrations. This impressive set of catalogues is in excellent condition.

**\$1000**

### **Set Two**

A hardbound set in orange board covers with gilt lettering on the spines and white ink cataloging numbers from the Clark Museum. This set is comprised of all 4 parts bound into 3 Volumes, with all parts in French and a facsimile of the Christie, Manson & Woods catalogue in English. The pages, text, and illustrations are all sharp and crisp with mild foxing on some pages with some annotations of provenance. An impressive catalogue set in fine condition.

**\$850.00**

### **Set Three**

A hardbound set in leather and pebble board covers with gilt lettering on the spines with a stamp from the Duveen Brothers Library across the top binding edge. This set is comprised of Volumes 1 & 3 plus the addition volume of 17 paintings, bound into three volumes with a facsimile of the Christie, Manson & Woods catalogue. Volumes 1 & 3 and the Christie, Manson & Woods facsimile are in English and the volume of 17 paintings is in French. Volume 1 has been stripped of the preface by Albert Wolff,

otherwise the pages are sharp and clear. A partial set of the catalogues in very good condition.

**\$750**

#### **Set Four**

A softbound set with broken spines. This set is comprised of Volumes 1, 2, & 3 plus the addition volume of 17 paintings with broken bindings and a facsimile of the Christie, Manson & Woods catalogue. Volumes 1, 2, & 3 and the Christie, Manson & Woods facsimile are in English and the volume of 17 paintings is in French. The interior of all of these catalogues are in superb condition with all of the text in illustrations being incredibly sharp and clear with tissue guards for the illustrations. This catalogue is a great candidate to be scanned for digitization or rebound into something truly superb.

**\$900**

#### NOTES:

1. "Eugène Secrétan". Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eug%C3%A8ne\\_Secr%C3%A9tan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eug%C3%A8ne_Secr%C3%A9tan). Accessed Oct. 22, 2014.
2. "Secretan's Sale Closed: More Than a Million Dollars Realized. Some of the purchasers and the prices paid – A story about Millet never before told." *New York Times* July 2, 1889. Available online at <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9D02EFDF143AEF33A25750C0A9619C94689FD7CF>. Accessed Oct. 22, 2014.
3. "*The Angelus* (painting)". Wikipedia. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Angelus\\_\(painting\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Angelus_(painting)). Accessed Oct. 22, 2014.
4. "The Experts". Metropolitan Museum of Art online collection database. <http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search/436114>. Accessed Oct. 22, 2014.