

Winslow Homer

Artist (1836 – 1910)

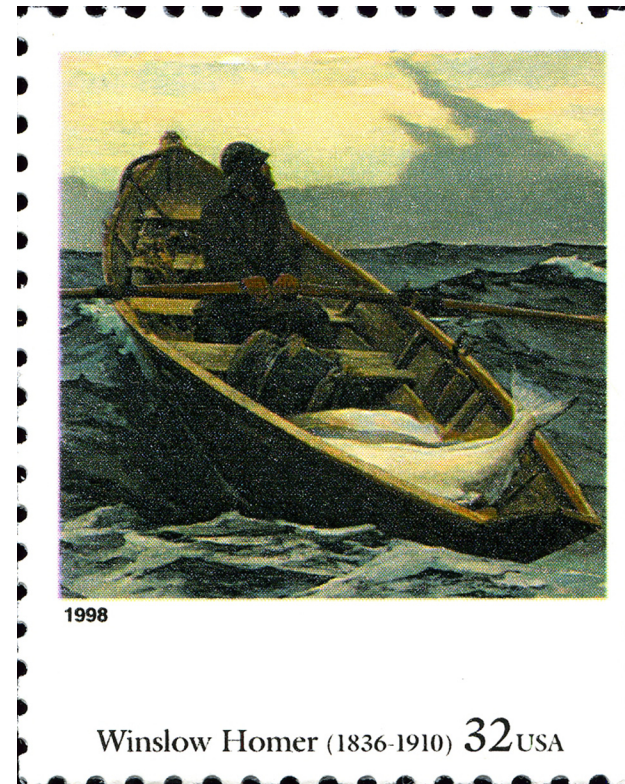
Homer was born in Boston in 1836, where his mother was a gifted amateur watercolorist and was his first teacher. Homer did not receive any formal art training, but began his art career as an apprentice for a commercial lithographer.

In the late 1850s he began creating line art drawings from photographs for *Harper's Weekly*. At the time pictures were printed by “stamping” them from a large wood block. Some illustrations in *Harper's* include his signature in the corner of the illustration, some were attributed to him by name in the caption, and others are believed to be his because of the distinct style of the drawing.

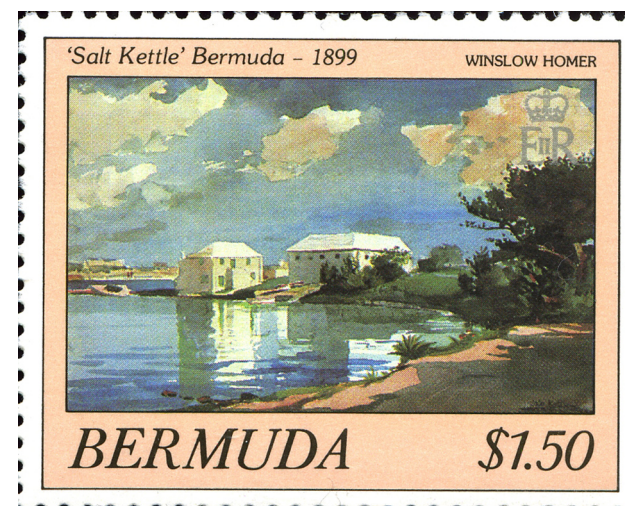
After the Civil War, Homer began a career as an artist, and painted several oils based on drawings he had done during the war. He went to France in 1867 and began painting landscapes, and by 1875 he stopped his work as a commercial lithographer, and focused on his painting. His 1872 painting *Snap the Whip* was very well received, and was displayed at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

Homer came to watercolors at the age of 37, already a mature artist. “You will see, in the future I will live by my watercolors,” he once remarked. As Robert Hughes commented, “... he did more than any other nineteenth-century American artist to establish watercolor as an important medium in this country. In structure and intensity, his best watercolors yield nothing to his larger paintings.”

In the 1880s he moved to Maine and began painting scenes of the sea and coast. While his early work captured the horror of the Civil War, towards the end of his life his paintings reflected the peace and serenity of the Maine Coast. Homer died at his studio in 1910. His Prout's Neck studio is now owned by the Portland Museum of Art.



The Fog Warning
The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Winslow Homer's 'Salt Kettle,' Bermuda portrays the home of MICHAEL FRITH. It's the house on the right, *Prudens Point*, as it appeared in 1899.

