

EDWARD EVERETT (1794-1865), 1861  
James Harvey Young (1830-1918)  
oil on canvas  
50 1/8 x 40 1/2 (127.3175 x 102.870)  
signed u.l.: 'J. Harvey Young 1861'  
Partial gift of Clarence W. Bowen, 1921  
Weis 52  
Hewes Number: 47

Ex. Coll.: Artist, to Francis S. Frost (1825-1902), purchased from his estate by donor and American Antiquarian Society.

'By virtue of Everett's intuitive dramatic sense, the grace of his language, the music of his voice, and above all, the magnetism of his presence, he created an unforgettable impression.'<sup>1</sup> This biographer's assessment underscores the appropriateness of the mature Everett captured in the midst of an oration for this portrait.

The artist, James Harvey Young, was born in Salem, Massachusetts, and in 1848 opened a portrait studio in Boston.<sup>2</sup> During his career, Young painted several images of Everett and repeatedly exhibited canvases bearing the title 'Edward Everett' at the Boston Athenaeum and elsewhere from 1861 to 1865. A summary of Young's career includes one of these portraits of Everett among a list of the artist's 'most noted paintings.'<sup>3</sup>

In 1884, in an effort to collect likenesses of all former presidents of the American Antiquarian Society, members of the Society began the search for a full-sized portrait of Everett.<sup>4</sup> In 1921, with help from Society member Clarence Bowen (cat. #10) this portrait was purchased from the estate of Francis S. Frost, an artist's materials dealer in Boston.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dictionary of American Biography, s.v. 'Everett, Edward.'

<sup>2</sup> George C. Gross and David H. Wallace, The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America 1564-1860 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1957), 710.

<sup>3</sup> Catalogue of Portraits in the Essex Institute (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1936): 258. Young's self-portrait and an image of his wife are in the collections of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

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<sup>4</sup> Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society 3 (April 1884): 141-42.

<sup>5</sup> A typed label affixed to the back of the portrait reads, 'It was owned by the estate of Francis S. Frost, formerly of the firm Frost and Adams of Boston, from whose estate, through Miss Helen A. Cook of Arlington, Mass. it was purchased for \$300 in September 1921. Of this amount Mr. Clarence Bowen gave \$100 and the Society took \$200 out of its funds.' For more on Frost as an artist and dealer in art supplies, see Jourdan Houston, 'Francis Seth Frost (1825-1902), Beyond Bierstadt's Shadow,' American Art Review 6 (1994): 146-57.