

WILLIAM S. PARROTT

(1843 - 1915)

Three Sisters, Oregon

Oil on board

22 1/2 x 36 inches

Signed lower right: W.S. Parrott



William Samuel Parrott was one of the first established landscape painters of the American Northwest. Overtime his paintings have become synonymous with the early romantic portrayal of some of this regions most well known natural monuments.

Born in Missouri in 1843, William Samuel Parrott came west with his family to Oregon in 1847. As a young man Parrott showed talent in drawing and soon began painting, often using "wild flowers for paint pigment, cloth or bark for canvas, and strands of his sister Jane's hair for brushes."¹ In 1867 he opened his first artist studio, in the old National Bank Building of Portland, Oregon. In this studio Parrott painted grandiose landscape scenes of the surrounding area, while also beginning to educate the next generation of Northwestern landscape painters, including Eliza Rosanna Barchus.

In 1887 Parrott closed his studio in Portland in favor of the Washington, Oregon, and California wilderness. He travelled and painted widely throughout these states, becoming well known for his paintings of the major peaks in the Cascade Mountains, especially Mount Hood.

Parrott eventually settled in Oakland, California with his second wife, Sue Hendershott Parrott. By 1911 the painter returned to the northwest, moving to Goldendale, Washington, where he would remain until his death in 1915. Parrot's mountainous landscapes proved exceptionally popular and far reaching. Today many of these paintings can be found throughout the country, including in collections at the San Francisco Museum of Art, Portland Art Museum, Brooklyn Art Museum, and the Stenzel Collection at Yale University.

Provenance:

- Frank Schwarz & Sons, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Private collection, Montana

References:

- Sharylen, Maria. *Artists of the Pacific Northwest; A Biographical Dictionary, 1600s-1970*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., Inc., 1993
- Dode Trip & Sherburne F. Cook. *Washington State Art and Artists, 1850-1950*. Olympia, WA: Sherburne Antiques and Fine Art, Inc., 1992
- Ginny Allen & Jody Klevit. *Oregon Painters; The First Hundred Years (1859-1959)*. Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1999

¹ Ginny Allen & Jody Klevit. *Oregon Painters; The First Hundred Years (1859-1959)*. Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1999, pg. 250

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