

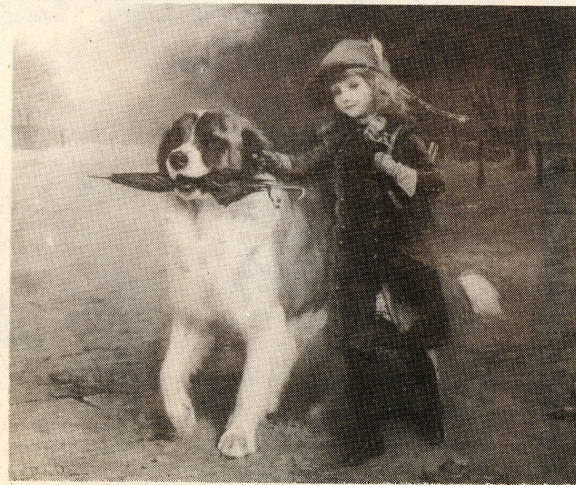
Victorian works show their sentimental value at Christie's

AS EXPECTED, Heywood Hardy's *The Bruised Foot*, a typical hunting scene by the artist, was one of the highlights of a very successful sale of Victorian pictures at Christie's (P10) on February 13 which totalled £427,060 with only seven per cent unsold. Signed and dated 1905 *The Brutal Foot* was one of two paintings by Hardy included in the sale and made the top price of £20,000 paid by a private collector. The second Hardy, was a later view from the Banks of the Lesser Drybrook Reservoir, Charmwood Forest, showing an unusual conclusion to the Devon Hunt's Meet on March 29, 1910. The huntsmen looked on as one of the foot followers swam out to the centre of the lake to retrieve the body of the fox. Estimated at £4000-6000 this sold to Kensington Sporting Paintings and Prints for £9500.

William Shayer was a painter who saw nature rather less red in tooth and claw generally concentrating on picturesque rustic scenes often with country folk and animals. One such in this sale was *The Wayside Inn* which was bought by Partridge Fine Arts for £7000. Shayer was much influenced by William Collins, whose large oil *Buying Fish* made

Right: yet another dog but this time a feature of a sentimental Victorian work *Off to School* by Charles Burton Barber sold for £16,000 at Christie's on February 13.

one of the sale's highest prices selling to Kensington Sporting Paintings and Prints at £14,000. Dating from 1826, this coastal scene was bought from the artist by Elhanan Bicknell and subsequently sold by Christie's on April 25, 1863, in the Bicknell sale to Agnews for the then considerable sum of 1170 guineas. It was also exhibited at the Royal Academy on two occasions, in 1827 and 1889.



Another well-known sporting and animal painter, Charles Burton Barber, often took children and dogs as his sentimental subjects and one of the more important pictures offered here was his *Off to School*, showing a large furry dog, umbrella in mouth, dutifully chaperoning a young girl. It was hardly surprising that this appealing work attracted wide interest, finally selling to New York dealer Schillay & Rehs

for £16,000 - £4000 over its top estimate.

Looking back to mediaeval England, Frank William Warwick Topham's scene from *Ivanhoe* of 1885, *The Queen of the Tournament*, was exhibited at the Royal Academy in the same year and proved itself to be as popular in today's world by selling over estimate for £11,000 to a private col-

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