ART OF APPRECIATION
Museums pick their favorite gifts of 2009

KEEN ON THE QUEEN
‘Young Victoria’ rules

BEHIND THE SCENES
AT ASTORS’ BEECHWOOD
“SUGARING OFF; MEAD SCHAEFFER, 1945”
National Museum of American Illustration
From: Dudley & Michael Del Balso in memory of C. W. Moody
By the time you read this, National Museum of American Illustration
director Dudley Del Balso will have returned from New York with this recently cleaned and framed oil
painting and hung it in its new home in the museum’s Post Office. Three Mud
Slaughers’ (1888-1980) nostalgic sketch of New Englanders burning maple syrup
will hang alongside paintings by his friend Norman Rockwell.

“This is the eight years. It will be
surrounded by other notable contempo-
raries of mead Schaeffer,” said Del Balso,
who picked the painting as his favorite gift of 2009.

Slaughers’ (1888-1980) signature signed
painting illustrated the cover of the Feb. 17, 1945, edition of the Saturday Evening Post. Paintings that were Post covers are rarely given as gifts. Del Balso said.

Last fall, Dudley Del Balso of New York City contacted Goffin Curator to learn more about the museum.

“Of course, it’s the family and they don’t really appreciate what they don’t want it to be seen. ‘Goffin Curator’

Goffin Curator was curious. While it is often difficult to find information about American illustrations, “Sugaring Off” is the only relevant piece.

Schaeffer’s career is divided into three distinct phases. He began by illustrating adventure novels for publisher Dodd & Co., then turned to more serious, weightier and other characters. By the 1930s and con-


FUNDING FOR JOHN SINGER SARGENT PAINTING ACQUISITION
To: Preservation Society of Newport County
From: Three Vanderbilt great-grandchildren

Last May when Sotheby’s New York held a sale of American paintings, the Preserv-

Letters of Gideon Wanton (1706-1786)

The full-color title page from a book once owned by Gideon Wanton, a patriarch of the tremendous collection donated last June to the Preservation Society is reproduced. The society’s painting of Gideon Wanton was one of the most sought-after items in the auction.

Man at work. Gideon Wanton shaves off a quick letter dated February 17, 1785, to his mother-in-law Daniel Lemay in Newport after arriving safely in Haiti where he found his French fluency useful.

photo by Jacqueline Marque

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