This oil on canvas illustration by Norman Rockwell, entitled 'The Armchair General,' was first published on the April 29, 1944, cover of the Saturday Evening Post.

Illustration museum exhibits 'Norman Rockwell's America'

NEWPORT — The National Museum of American Illustration will feature "Norman Rockwell's America" for the 2011 summer season, opening Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 27 (for a guided tour), at 3 p.m., and Saturday, May 28 — Monday, May 30, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The exhibition, which recently returned after a record-breaking exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery in England as part of that museum's 200th anniversary celebration, includes more than 50 original works by Rockwell. It gives visitors a unique opportunity to view works by Rockwell, America's best-known 20th century illustrator, alongside those by his mentors, contemporaries and competitors. Also on display as part of the museum's American Imagist Collection are works by Steven Dohanos, John Falter, JC Leyendecker, Maxfield Parrish, Howard Pyle, NC Wyeth and many more.

The museum will be open every Friday for a guided tour at 3 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays for general admission from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and other times by reservation. The cost for guided tours and general admission is $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and military, $12 for students and $6 for children.

For more information, call 831-6949 or visit www.americaniustration.org.

At left: Rockwell's 'Cousin Reginald Plays Pirates,' oil on canvas on board, was printed Nov. 3, 1917, on the cover of Country Gentleman.

At right: Rockwell's 'The Doughboy and His Admirers,' oil on canvas, was printed Feb. 22, 1919, on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post.