

Ray Simpson, Jr.

From: RickS [RickS@cartermuseum.org]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 10:15 AM
To: mail@simpsongalleries.com
Subject: Remington bronze

Ray—

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. I'm just jammed with projects right now—trying to finish a complicated mass of material for a special Remington/Russell component on the museum's website. It's really like writing a book, only faster!

The photos you sent were great—very sharp. From what I can see, you don't have much to worry about. It looks like a nice cast, in good condition. I consulted Mike Greenbaum's book, *Icons of the West*, and find that cast #182 is listed as "unlocated." That number is not recorded in the Roman Bronze Works ledgers (which we have here at the museum), but cast #s 179 and 184, 185, 186, and 190 are all listed in the ledgers with the date 5/31/18. (Cast #190 is in the Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey.) I strongly suspect that your cast was "costed out" of the foundry at about the same date. It is thus an estate cast—Remington died in December 1909—done while his widow was alive, I think, although Eva Caten Remington died the year all those casts were made, 1918.

For your information, the last Roman Bronze Works ledger date is 12/31/18, for cast #214—which is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The first 90 casts, at least, seem to have been finished in Remington's lifetime. Thus there were a lot of estate casts, but these casts were made by the same people that had done the earlier ones, and sometimes they are quite good. Yours looks pretty good—nice and sharp detail. The patina, from what little I can see, looks pretty good as well. The base is a sand cast—as it should be—and the horse and rider is a lost wax cast. You can see the blackish sand sticking to the underside of the base. When Remington switched around 1900 from the Henry Bonnard Bronze Foundry (which did sand casting) to the Roman Bronze Works foundry (which pioneered the lost-wax method in America), Remington changed the horse and rider somewhat, but not the base, so the base continued to be made with the sand cast method.

At this point I don't think you need to send the bronze up for my review; I'd be glad to write a letter of opinion on it. However, I'd have to qualify the letter by saying I haven't physically examined it. But I do this all the time, so I don't think it's a big deal. As long as the buyer knows they're getting an estate cast, I think you'll be all right.

I hope this is helpful. I'm going to be out of my office most of today, and up in Glacier Park in Montana next week. Would it be OK if I sent the letter when I return to my office on September 8? Let me know.

All best—

Rick

8/29/2008