

Alfred Borden

Alfred Borden Fine Arts

Engravings by David Blythe 1815-1865

2-31 MAR, 1908

QUEBEC UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
LOCATOR	5169
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WORKS BY  
**DAVID BLYTHE**  
1815-1865



BLYTHE: POST OFFICE, date unknown

AN EXHIBITION AT  
*THE COLUMBUS GALLERY  
OF FINE ARTS*

March 8-31, 1968



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is by no means a complete presentation of the works of David Blythe, but even in its modest scale it represents the result of enthusiastic cooperation on the part of many people and institutions.

Early records and information were shared by Clyde Singer, Assistant Director of the Butler Institute of American Art. The members of the staff of the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Gustave von Groschwitz, Director; Leon Arkus, Associate Director and Fred Myers, Curator, all gave generously of their time and knowledge. William H. Vodrey, of East Liverpool gave aid in bringing together works in private collections in Ohio and Robert Morton of Time-Life Books offered color-separation negatives for three illustrations.

We wish to extend our thanks to the following individuals and institutions that made the exhibition possible by kindly sharing their works by Blythe:

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York  
The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown  
Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh  
County of Fayette, Pennsylvania  
J. J. Gillespie Company, Pittsburgh  
Kennedy Galleries, Inc., New York  
National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York  
The Ohio Historical Society, Columbus  
Mrs. Alexander Nimick, Sewickley, Pennsylvania  
Robert Schoelkopf Gallery, New York  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Vodrey Boyd, Shaker Heights, Ohio  
William H. Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio  
Joseph Kelly Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio  
Jackman S. Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio  
Dorothy Vodrey Zepernick, East Liverpool, Ohio  
Mary Josephine Boyd, Portsmouth, Ohio  
Mr. and Mrs. William K. Wamelink, Cleveland



## INTRODUCTION

Born in East Liverpool, Ohio, on May 9, 1815, David Blythe spent most of his life in the Pittsburgh area, where he became quite well known and admired before his death on May 15, 1865. His art presents a spirited American expression even though it is stated in the varnish-glazes of the old masters.

Not many of us are immune to the power, humor and satire of his poignant statements in oil on canvas. His reports of the Civil War with their topical complexities, painted during his last years, are marked by a rare personal vision, and his comments concerning human foibles are revealing of his imaginative yet gentle nature.

His early portraits are painted without much "artistic" insight or grace, but later, as his technique and understanding grew, his charming close-ups of children express freely their gamin spirit, that early blending of good and evil; these canvases are perhaps his purest and most endearing expression, the visual counterpart to Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer". Largely self-taught, Blythe may have studied the work of other artists during his travels as a sailor. He made his living by doing odd-jobs as carpenter, housepainter, wood-carver and portrait painter, and later he tried his hand at sculpture and panorama painting.

After our exposure to such 20th Century sophistications as cubism, dada and surrealism, it is instructive and refreshing to look again at the work of such an original yet characteristic 19th Century American artist.





18. ART VERSUS LAW (before 1860)

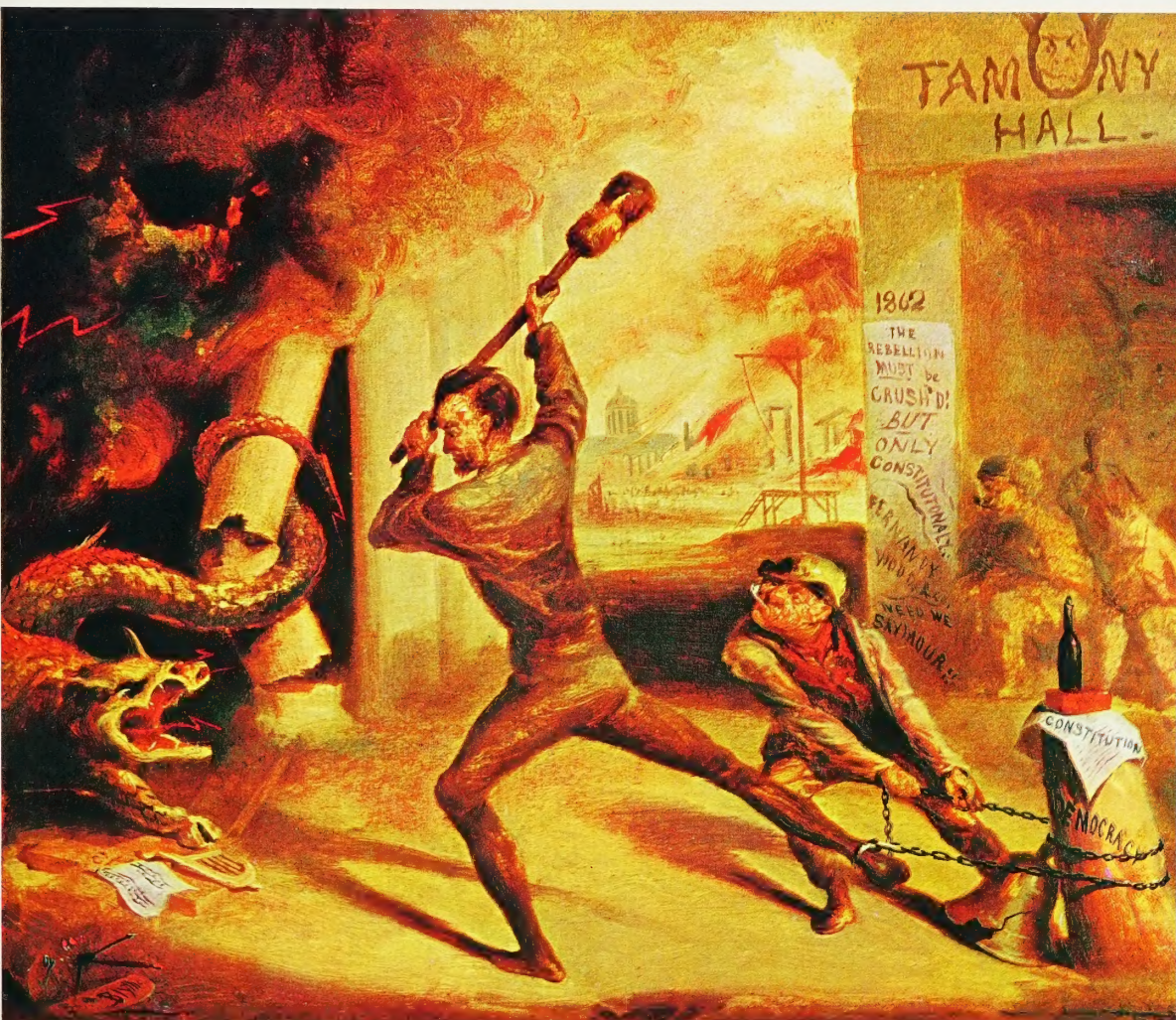
## CATALOGUE

### PORTRAITS

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. SELF-PORTRAIT (date unknown) Pencil Drawing          | 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ |
| <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |                                   |
| 2. A FREE-TRADE MAN                                     |                                   |
| (date unknown) Pencil, Pen, Ink Wash                    | 11 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$              |
| <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |                                   |
| 3. SILAS GAULT (1858) Oil                               | 27 x 22                           |
| <i>The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown</i> |                                   |



4. DAVID BLYTHE AND BROOME IN FRONT  
OF J. J. GILLESPIE GALLERY  
(1865) Watercolor 19 x 16½  
*J. J. Gillespie Company, Pittsburgh*
5. GENERAL LAFAYETTE (1847) Wood, Polychrome 9' x 3' x 3'  
*Fayette County, Pennsylvania, through the generosity  
of the Fayette County Commissioners*

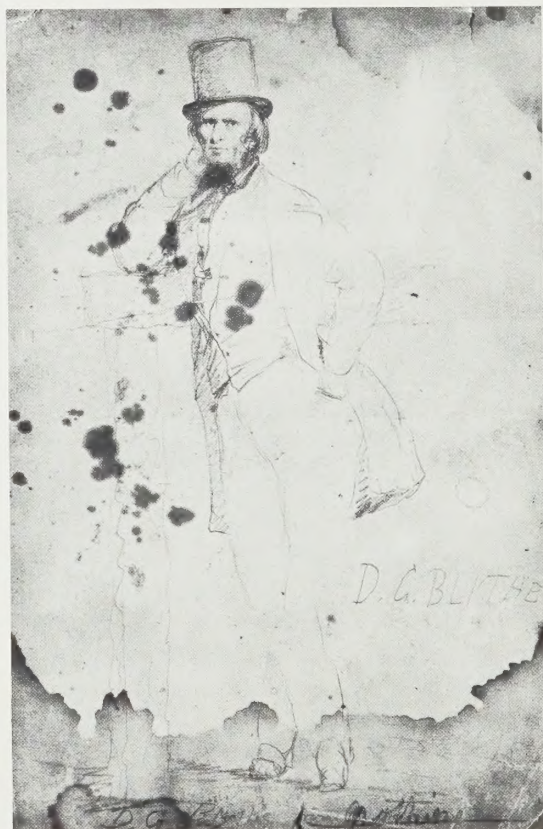


21. LINCOLN CRUSHING THE DRAGON OF REBELLION (1862)



## GENRE SUBJECTS

6. POST OFFICE (date unknown) ..... Oil 24 x 20  
*Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh*  
*Cover illustration*
7. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, RAIL SPLITTER  
(date unknown) ..... Oil 30 x 40  
*Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh*
8. PRESIDENT LINCOLN WRITING THE  
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION  
(date unknown) ..... Oil 21¾ x 27  
*Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh*



1. SELF-PORTRAIT (date unknown)





33. GENERAL DOUBLEDAY CROSSING THE POTOMAC (date unknown)

- |     |  |     |           |
|-----|--|-----|-----------|
| 9.  | A PRISON SCENE (date unknown)                        | Oil | 26¼ x 21¼ |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i> |     |           |
| 10. | MAN PUTTING ON HIS BOOTS<br>(date unknown)           | Oil | 14¼ x 11  |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i> |     |           |
| 11. | FOREIGN LOANS (date unknown)                         | Oil | 16 x 18   |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i> |     |           |
| 12. | TEMPERANCE PLEDGE (date unknown)                     | Oil | 15 x 12   |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i> |     |           |
| 13. | LAWYER'S DREAM (date unknown)                        | Oil | 24½ x 20¼ |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i> |     |           |





34. THE HALF WAY HOUSE (date unknown)

- |     |   |     |           |
|-----|---|-----|-----------|
| 14. | HARVESTING (date unknown)                               | Oil | 10 x 14   |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |     |           |
| 15. | MAN EATING IN FIELD (date unknown)                      | Oil | 10 x 14   |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |     |           |
| 16. | CONFEDERATE SOLDIER AT THE WELL<br>(date unknown)       | Oil | 12 x 18   |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |     |           |
| 17. | THE OVERTURNED CARRIAGE<br>(date unknown)               | Oil | 20¾ x 29¼ |
|     | <i>Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh</i>    |     |           |
| 18. | ART VERSUS LAW (before 1860)                            | Oil | 24 x 20   |
|     | <i>The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York</i>          |     |           |
| 19. | STREET URCHINS (date unknown)                           | Oil | 26 x 22   |
|     | <i>The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown</i> |     |           |





25. THE SHOREMEN (painted between 1850-1860)

20. LIBBY PRISON (1863) ..... Oil 24 x 36  
*Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,  
M. M. Karolik Collection*
21. LINCOLN CRUSHING THE DRAGON OF  
REBELLION (1862) ..... Oil 18 x 22  
*Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,  
M. M. Karolik Collection*
22. IN THE PITTSBURGH POST OFFICE  
(painted between 1856-1861) ..... Oil 25 x 30  
*Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,  
M. M. Karolik Collection*





3. SILAS GAULT (1858)



26. THE HIDEOUT (painted between 1850-1860)





17. THE OVERTURNED CARRIAGE (date unknown)



19. STREET URCHINS (date unknown)





24. BOY PLAYING MARBLES (date unknown)

- |     |  |           |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 23. | BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG<br>(painted between 1863-1865) . . . . . Oil                | 26 x 34½  |
|     | <i>Museum of Fine Arts, Boston,<br/>Bequest of Maxim Karolik</i>                 |           |
| 24. | BOY PLAYING MARBLES (date unknown) . . . Oil                                     | 21¼ x 25¾ |
|     | <i>Robert Schoelkopf Gallery, New York</i>                                       |           |
| 25. | THE SHOREMEN<br>(painted between 1850-1860) . . . . . Oil                        | 17 x 13   |
|     | <i>William H. Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio</i>                                   |           |
| 26. | THE HIDEOUT<br>(painted between 1850-1860) . Oil on Panel                        | 22 x 26½  |
|     | <i>Joseph Kelly Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio</i>                                 |           |
| 27. | MAN PUTTING ON SOCKS<br>(UNION SOLDIER WASHING HIS FEET)<br>(1861) . . . . . Oil | 22 x 26   |
|     | <i>Jackman S. Vodrey, East Liverpool, Ohio</i>                                   |           |

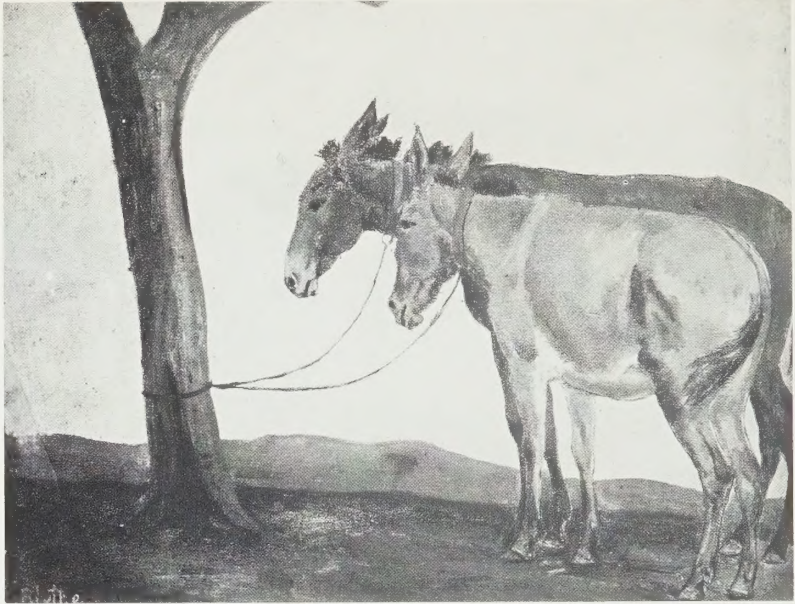


28. CIVIL WAR MULES (1861) ..... Oil 11½ x 14½  
*Dorothy Vodrey Zepernick, East Liverpool, Ohio*
29. THE RELUCTANT SCHOLAR  
 (painted between 1850-1860) ..... Oil 27 x 21½  
*Mary Josephine Boyd, Portsmouth, Ohio*
30. UNION SOLDIERS CROSSING  
 MOUNTAINS IN THE SOUTH  
 (1861) ..... Oil 21 x 31½  
*Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Vodrey Boyd,  
 Shaker Heights, Ohio*
31. COBBLER'S SHOP  
 (painted between 1850-1860) ..... Oil 17 x 22  
*Mr. and Mrs. William K. Wamelink, Cleveland, Ohio*



13. LAWYER'S DREAM (date unknown)





28. CIVIL WAR MULES (1861)



11. FOREIGN LOANS (date unknown)



- |     |   |     |           |
|-----|---|-----|-----------|
| 32. | SMASH-UP OF THE CONFEDERACY<br>(date unknown) .....                         | Oil | 22 x 40   |
|     | <i>The Ohio Historical Society, Columbus</i>                                |     |           |
| 33. | GENERAL DOUBLEDAY CROSSING THE<br>POTOMAC (date unknown) .....              | Oil | 38 x 48   |
|     | <i>National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum,<br/>Cooperstown, New York</i> |     |           |
| 34. | THE HALF WAY HOUSE (date unknown) .....                                     | Oil | 21½ x 39½ |
|     | <i>Kennedy Galleries, Inc., New York</i>                                    |     |           |
| 35. | THE EGG SNATCHER (date unknown) .....                                       | Oil | 24 x 20   |
|     | <i>Kennedy Galleries, Inc., New York</i>                                    |     |           |
| 36. | PROSPECTING (date unknown) .....  | Oil | 12 x 9    |
|     | <i>Mrs. Alexander Nimick, Sewickley, Pennsylvania</i>                       |     |           |
| 37. | RECRUITS WANTED (date unknown) .....  | Oil | 11 x 8½   |
|     | <i>Mrs. Alexander Nimick, Sewickley, Pennsylvania</i>                       |     |           |
| 38. | THE BOUNTY JUMPER (date unknown) .....                                      | Oil | 14 x 11½  |
|     | <i>Mrs. Alexander Nimick, Sewickley, Pennsylvania</i>                       |     |           |



Photographs and picture source credits:

- 6. (cover) *Post Office*: Henry Beville, Time-Life Books, *The World of Winslow Homer*, c 1966, Time, Inc.
- 18. *Art Versus Law*: Frank Lerner, Time-Life Books, *The World of Winslow Homer*, c 1966, Time, Inc.
- 21. *Lincoln Crushing the Dragon of Rebellion*: Robert S. Crandall, Time-Life Books, *The World of Winslow Homer*, c 1966, Time, Inc.





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