

Art Appreciation Group – July 2020

I am very sorry that I have neglected the Art Appreciation Group recently as I have been working hard to complete a book that I am writing with Pete Norton, about my grandfather Charles Willis who was a portrait painter, illustrator and commercial artist. It has now been sent to the printer and I have written a short article about him for the Forum.

The National Gallery has accepted for the nation in lieu of inheritance tax the Camille Pissarro's luminous painting *Late Afternoon in our Meadow* (1887) which has an interesting background.

The picture was owned by William Waldorf Astor, the 3rd Viscount Astor, who owned the Cliveden estate and in 1961 hosted the gathering at which Christine Keeler and John Profumo met. He was also caught up in the ensuing scandal with Mandy Rice-Davies alleging in court that she had slept with him. Challenged over his denial of the affair she uttered the famous sentence: "He would, wouldn't he".

Roger Stanyon



Detail from Camille Pissarro's *Late Afternoon in our Meadow* (1887). The National Gallery, London