

STATELY 'ELK BUFFALO' BRONZE COMMANDS \$276,000 AT ELDRED'S AMERICANA SALE

EAST DENNIS, MASS. — Henry Merwin Shradý's (American, 1871–1922) stately bronze "Elk Buffalo" emerged from a South Shore home basement to command \$276,000, including buyer's premium, at Eldred's Americana, painting and sporting art sale conducted April 3–4.



The bronze had been acquired by the consignor's family around 1955. "When we found it in the basement of a South Shore home," said Josh Eldred, "we knew it was good, but gave it a conservative [\$30/50,000] estimate."

The bronze is inscribed on base "H.M Shrady 1900" and "Copyright 1900 Theodore B. Starr," with a foundry mark for Roman Bronze Works under the base. Inscribed in chalk on the underside of the base is "R.B.W. No 9[?]." It measures 22½ inches high and 29 inches long.

"Elk Buffalo" is a fine example of Shrady's skills at creating highly realistic sculpture that conveys a vivid sense of animation. He in fact studied biology at the Museum of Natural History to better understand anatomy as it would apply to his skills at modeling, according to catalog notes. With its highly textural shedding coat and expressive eyes, "Elk Buffalo" also portrays the animal's inherent nobility as well as the artist's respect for his subject.

“We had eight phones line up for it, with three significant bidders involved in taking it to its final price,” said Eldred. “The underbidder opened it at \$50,000 and the other two stayed involved into the high hundreds of thousands.” Eldred said that while the

bronze went on the phone to trade, he was not certain whether it was for dealer stock or on behalf of a private client.

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