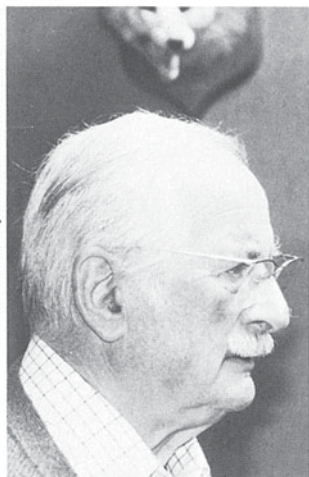


**Michael Lyne**

**American and English Field Sports  
A Retrospective**





**Michael Lyne**

Cover Painting: "The Meet"  
o/c, 40" x 50"

Recently I acquired a group of paintings by Michael Lyne, whom although familiar with, I actually knew little about. My research, through the help of Peter Winants, led me to Anna Francis who is now compiling a major book on Lyne and whose March 29th, 1986 article in *The Blood Horse* about the artist is available in the gallery. Further help came from Robert Perham, an English dealer to the trade, whose previous association was with Frost and Reed during the sixties and early seventies when Lyne was represented by that dealer. The real push for this exhibition came from a conversation with Alex

Mackay-Smith who pointed me in the direction of Lyne's American connection, which started before I was born and much of which occurred in my own backyard. I learned most about this connection through Mrs. Wilma Warburg whose late husband was really responsible for it.

How did Lyne first come to America? In 1948, after the War, the Frederick Warburgs went to London to visit Frederick's brother, Paul, who was then Special Assistant to Lewis Douglas, our Ambassador to Great Britain. In Paul's office hung a watercolor that caught Freddy's eye. Paul had originally acquired it as a gift for his brother, but had grown too attached to it to let it go. Alas, if Freddy wanted one he'd have to get one for himself. The artist, of course, was Michael Lyne, then 36 years old, and represented by the London dealer, Ackermann.

Mr. and Mrs. Warburg went to Ackermann's in Old Bond Street to look at all the Lynes on view and were impressed. So much so that they learned that Michael Lyne lived and painted in Gloucestershire. Coincidentally, their trip was to take them

to the west country for a weekend with Richard Fleming, brother of the celebrated author, Ian Fleming. During that visit to the Flemings, Freddy and Wilma arranged to see the Lynes, where Jessie was pregnant with their second child. Mrs. Warburg recalls Michael Lyne as a slight, shy and provincial young man, who her husband took to immediately and whom he invited to the states to paint as soon as he was able.

The Warburgs returned home without any paintings or watercolors and with only a fox hunting book illustrated by Lyne. Nevertheless these illustrations and Freddy's enthusiasm sold the idea of commissions by Lyne to Fred Bonticou of Millbrook, Mr. Paul Mellon of Upperville, George Ohrstrom, Snr. of The Plains, Russell Arundel, Snr. of Warrenton, The Newell J. Wards, Jr. of Middleburg, Bob Wyntrop of Myopia and John Schiff of Long Island.

In October of 1949, Michael Lyne made his first journey to America on a trip arranged by Mr. Warburg, where he was able to visit America's finest hunting country. Although the artist didn't actually do the finished paintings while in the states, he filled a large portfolio with sketches that would later become about two dozen finished works for those original patrons from the East.

Last fall, under the auspices of the Friends of British Sporting Art Trust, I hosted an exhibition and lecture on John Ferneley by Stella Walker, celebrated British authoress, which was well attended and well received. In an effort to maintain this tradition, I felt that a Lyne exhibition was a good opportunity to carry on. I hope you will enjoy the exhibition which was made possible by the generosity of an anonymous lender and Mrs. Russell Arundel, Snr.; Mrs. J.C. Herbert Bryant; Bertram Firestone, M.F.H.; Margaret Gardner, M.F.H.; Mr. & Mrs. Howard Joynt; Mr. Paul Mellon, The Mellon Collection; Dennis Osbourne; Joseph Stuart, D.V.M.; Mrs. Wilma Warburg; Mrs. Newell J. Ward, Jr. and James L. Young, M.F.H.

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