

November 30, 2023



To: Lowestoft Town Council  
Hamilton House  
Battery Green Road  
Lowestoft  
Suffolk  
NR32 1DE

Subject: Request for Return of Loaned Oil Painting by Anton Otto Fischer on loan from John Youell

Dear Lowestoft Town Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to bring to your attention a matter of personal significance and familial importance. In essence, a request for return of the oil painting "Bound for the fishing grounds" by Anton Otto Fischer which was loaned to the Lowestoft Public Library by my uncle, John Youell.

The painting in question was one of a set of 20 created as illustrations for a novel written and published by my great-grandfather George Youell in 1938. It depicts a fishing trawler with the Lowestoft port centered between the two masts of the trawler. The collection of these paintings holds immense sentimental value to me and our family, as they represent not only a unique artistic legacy but also the literary and cultural contributions of our ancestor.

We are currently in possession of 19 of the 20 A.O.F. paintings that were passed down in our family over generations, and have been actively searching for this missing piece for many years. Given the historical and familial significance of these artworks, they are cherished heirlooms that we will preserve for our current and future ancestry.

The book written by Anton Otto Fischer's daughter about her father's life and art documents that the oil painting in question was loaned to the Lowestoft Public Library in the 1970s. It has recently come to my attention that this painting is now in the possession of the Lowestoft Town Council and possibly displayed within your building.

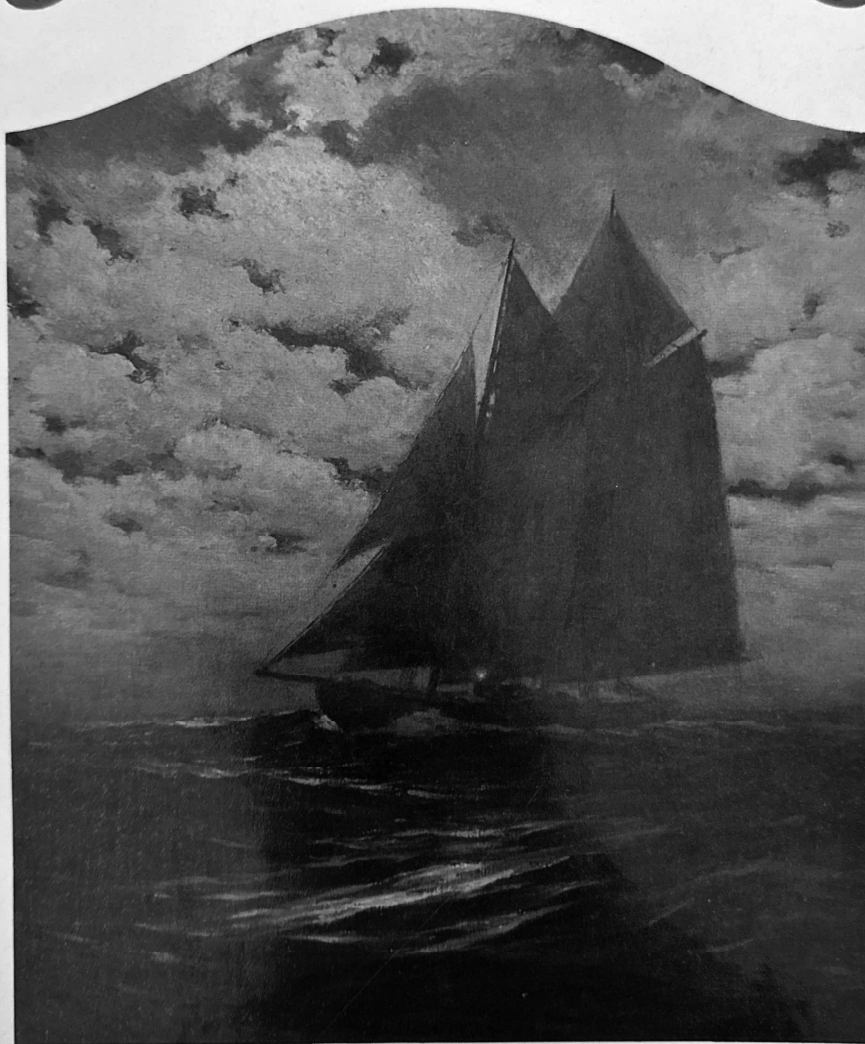
We kindly request your assistance in locating and returning this specific oil painting to our family. Please find attached a passage from the book about Anton Otto Fischer regarding the loan of the missing painting to The Library. Also attached are pages from my Great-grandfather's book Lower Class with illustrations (20) by A.O.F.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We look forward to a positive resolution that ensures the return of the painting to its rightful place within our family's heritage.

Sincerely,



*Anton Otto*  
**FISCHER**



*MARINE ARTIST*

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Other books by Alex. A. Hurst:

Ghosts on the Sea-Line.  
The Call of High Canvas.  
The Music of Five Oceans.  
The Sailing School-Ships.  
Square-Riggers – The Final Epoch, 1921-1958.  
Arthur Briscoe – Marine Artist.

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Katrina S. Fischer 1977  
Alex. A. Hurst 1977

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190. *Bound for the fishing grounds.*

In Plate 190 one of the lug-sailed fishing trawlers leaves Lowestoft. This picture is presently on loan from Mr. John Youell to the Lowestoft Public Library, and no-one familiar with the port will fail to recognise it when looking between the two masts of the trawler at the other end of the entrance. A.O.F. had done his homework!

This particular trawler was manned by a Salvation Army crew and, when she sailed, their colleagues gathered on the pierhead to wave them farewell and to sing hymns. I was also called upon to do a number of poses for this picture, for which my father had hired the costumes from a firm in New York, which he used a good deal.

On returning from his initial trip to the United States, Youell was persuaded, perhaps against his better judgement, to take passage in a cattle ship. His experiences make interesting reading, to say the least, but the vessel, of some 2100 tons, had originally been of about half that size when employed as a Western Ocean passenger ship. After coming out of that service, she had been lengthened. That, in itself, should not have affected her transverse stability but, whatever the reason, she was most unconscionably tender and started long, slow rolls from the moment that she left her berth. It seemed to be a moot point to those aboard her, until they had got used to her idiosyncracies, whether she would roll over altogether!

In Plate 191 A.O.F. had portrayed this vessel as she was making her departure

# **Lower Class**

**By George Youell**







The Author at Age Twenty-seven.

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# LOWER CLASS

*By*

GEORGE YUELL

Illustrations by Anton Otto Fischer

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1938

GEORGE YUELL

Seattle, Washington

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