

Artistic Movements of the Victorian Era Pertaining to the Age of Discovery

By Zadie/educationalporpoises



Victorian Art (1837-1901)

- Realism and 'classical' painting styles remained popular through the first part of the Victorian age the "Romantic Era"
- Eventually, bold, bright colors that portrayed emotion were favored over more realistic but duller colors
- Pastoral scenes of the countryside were also favored over scenes of British high society
- As the Industrial Revolution raged the popular artistic movements shied away from depicting it, instead focusing on peaceful scenes with moral virtues



“Man Proposes, God Disposes”



- Sir Edwin Landseer, 1864
- Landseer's painting shows the perceived fate of the Franklin expedition
- He depicts a classical landscape in bright, gory detail
- The title references a Biblical proverb, inciting moral judgment
- Landseer's other work includes portrayals of the English countryside, portraiture, and depictions of historical events



Fredrick Edwin Church, 1865

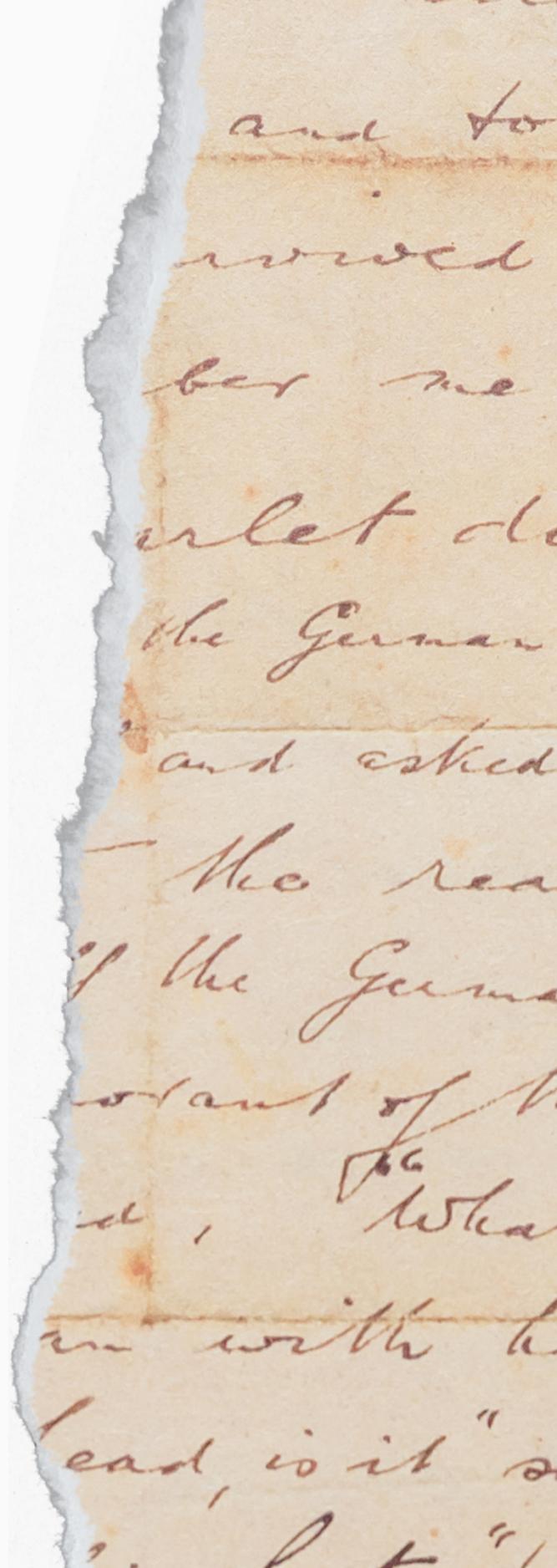
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“Aurora Borealis”

- In contrast to Landseer’s moral indictment of the Franklin Expedition, Church offers a view of the polar region as something beautiful and otherworldly
- The orange glow of the Aurora is still somewhat frightening, but less so than Landseer’s polar bears ripping at sailcloth
- In Church’s work the Western-style ship is small, dark, almost forgotten in the awe of nature
- Church, as an American painter, would not be as connected to the Franklin expedition. He was well-known in New England as a travel-artist, making trips across the United States, as well as two journeys to South America and, of course, to Newfoundland and Labrador, where he created a series of polar landscapes

Notes

- Church and Landseer provide two different perspectives on the polar landscape from the same time period
- As an American painter Church is less connected to the British explorers and also was able to paint from life, visiting the polar region himself
- Landseer brings a moral tone to his work, and his emotional connection is clear through the piece. He uses Biblical references to make his points.
- Both artists were well regarded nationally and had political or social influence from their art-- Church created pro-Union art during the Civil War and Landseer's art reflects a timeless British sensibility
- Also both named Edwin, probably important



Works Cited

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George Marston, *Aurora Australis*, 1908



William Bradford, *Sealers Crushed by Icebergs*, 1866



Rockwell Kent, *First Snow, Greenland*, 1931