

**Henry Salem Hubbell** was born at Paola, Kansas, on December 25, 1870. He began his studies at school of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1887 and worked as a magazine illustrator through the 1890s as he continued his classes. In September of 1898 Hubbell and his wife Rose sailed for France with financial backing from Lydia Avery Coonley Ward. Later that year he enrolled at the Academie Julian, studying with Jean-Paul Lauren, Jean-Joseph Benjamin-Constant, and Adolphe-William Bouguereau. In December, 1898, Hubbell began his study with Whistler at the Academie Carmen. Whistler's color theory and technique had a profound affect on the young artist. In spring of 1901, Hubbell received an honorable mention at the Paris Salon for *The Bargain*. In 1904, after an extended stay in Spain spent copying Velazquez paintings at The Prado, Hubbell served on the European jury for the St. Louis Exposition. His canvas *The Cafe Poet* received a silver medal there, and in Paris the same year he showed two paintings at the spring Salon, *Paris Cabman* and *The Brasses*. The latter was awarded a Third Class Medal.

During the remainder of his French period Hubbell lived and worked in Paris, Etaples (on the northern coast of France), and Giverny, steadily advancing his career. Hubbell's *Henry* and *Jack* received a Second Class Medal at the Paris Salon of 1906, and five of the artist's canvases were accepted into the 8th annual exhibition of the International Society of Sculptors, Painters and Gravers in London in 1907. *The Samovar* was purchased by the Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and donated to the collection of the French state. (It is presently located in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts at Lille. According to Hubbell's son, two other canvases, *Child and Cat* and *Larkspurs* were purchased outright by the French government, but these have not been located.)

At the Paris Salons of 1908 and 1909, Hubbell showed what many consider his finest paintings: *Caprice*, *By the Fireside*, and *The Orange Robe*. Hubbell returned to the United States in May, 1910, maintaining studios in New York City and Silvermine, Connecticut. After directing the School of Painting and Decoration at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh (1918-1921) Hubbell relocated to Miami. He remained in Miami from 1924 until his death in 1949. He was an active member of the boom town's cultural community. His monumental masterpiece, *The Building of the House* (1931), was commissioned for the Casa Casuarina on Miami Beach, later famous as the home of Gianni Versace. During his Miami years Hubbell painted the portraits of many well known individuals. In 1934 he successfully painted Harold Ickes, then Secretary of the Interior, which led to a grand commission for the new Interior Department building--to paint all those who had held the office earlier in history. This successful project led to Hubbell being commissioned to paint four portraits of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one of which is held in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery (dated 1940). The artist accepted many other portrait commissions between 1910 and 1946, including a number of college presidents, judges, famous business people, and others in prominent social positions. He painted numerous landscape paintings during this time for his own pleasure, although these are rarely seen at auction.

Hubbell's well-crafted paintings, celebrating the grandly simple figurative traditions of Velazquez and Whistler, may have seemed nostalgic, hopelessly romantic or even irrelevant in the two decades following his death. However, as pluralism has replaced modernism and tradition is once again informing art, it seems especially appropriate to appreciate the work of Henry Salem Hubbell



Norwalk's Henry Salem Hubbell studio stands on land purchased by Hubbell in 1912. Visitors will see the playful spirit of the place that drew other artists to Silvermine. Photo: Contributed Photo / CT

Artists have always loved Silvermine. And Norwalk's **Henry Salem Hubbell** studio stands on land purchased by Hubbell in 1912. The renowned portraitist and his wife, Rose, bought the old farmhouse and barn, and within a few years their place and presence drew other artists. According to Rose, "We made it a place in which people wanted to play." Visitors will find that playful spirit is still alive.

The portrait of FDR, the liberal leader who included healthcare in his 1944 Economic Bill of Rights, is more formal, showing the former governor with a sheaf of papers and pencil in hand. The pose declares his role as chief executive.

Although not identified on the White House website, the portrait's painter appears to be Henry Salem Hubbell (1870-1949), an American Impressionist who often painted in the style of Whistler. In addition to several Roosevelt portraits, he painted a portrait of Harold Ickes, FDR's secretary of the Interior, who was charged with implementing much of the New Deal







**FDR**



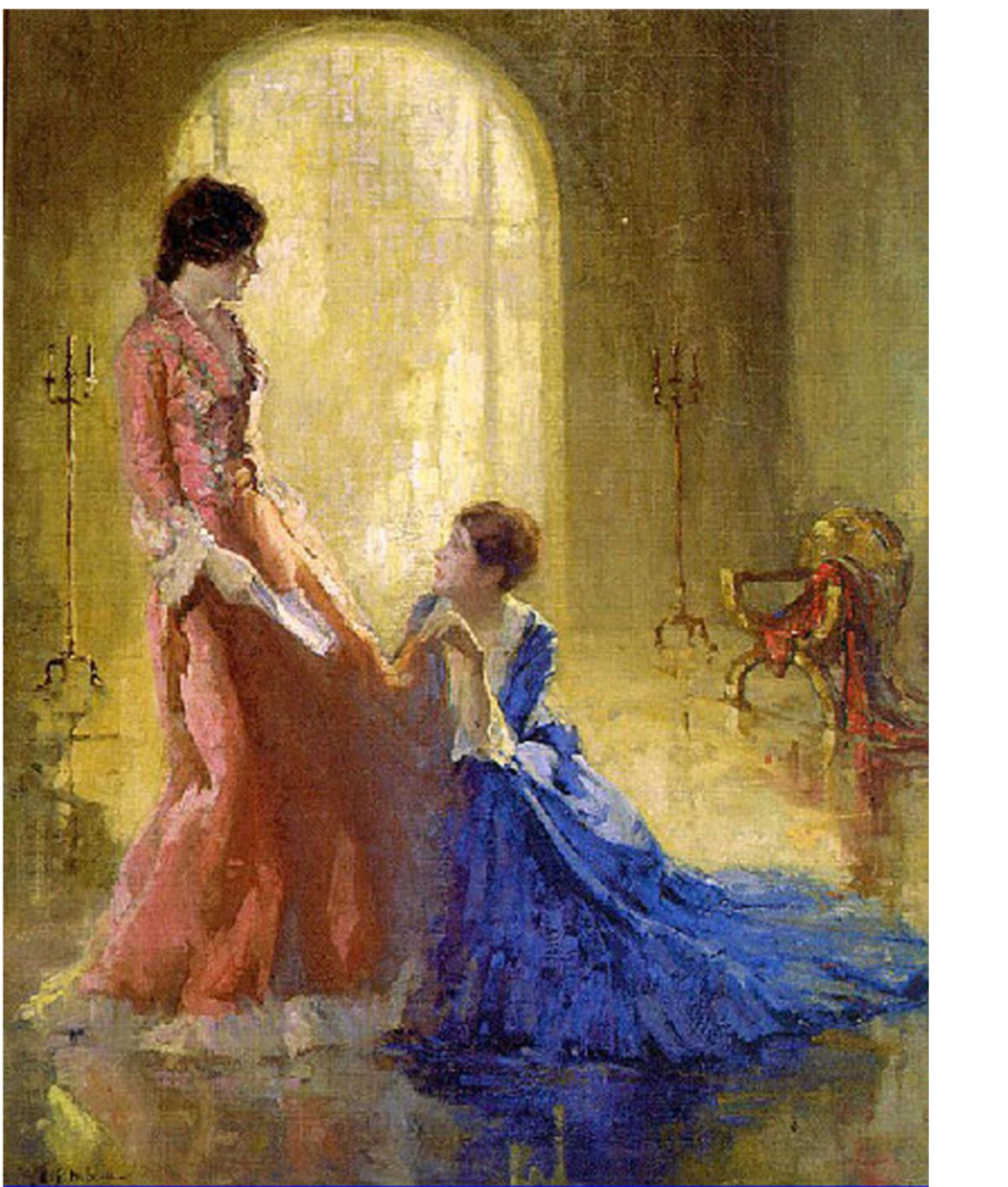
**Tea Time: sold at auction in 2010 for \$83,000**





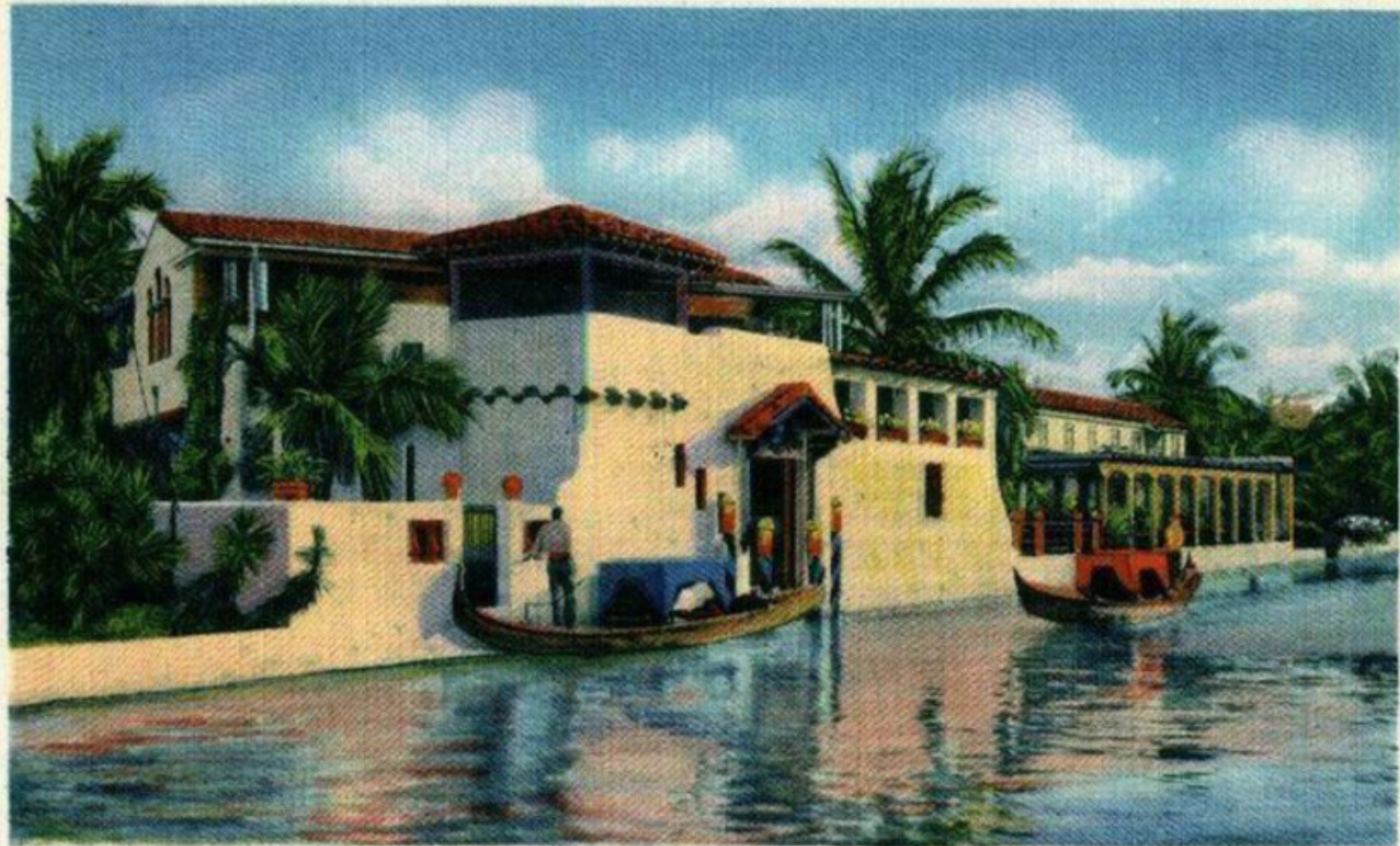
**Morning- 1902**







M-240 RESIDENCE AND STUDIO OF HENRY SALEM HUBBELL, MIAMI BEACH, FLA.



EA-H278



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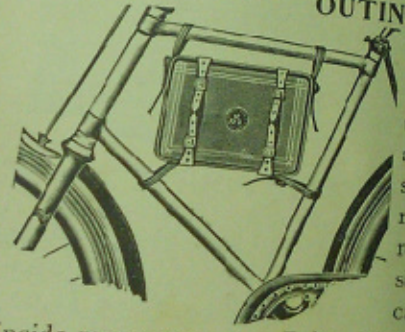
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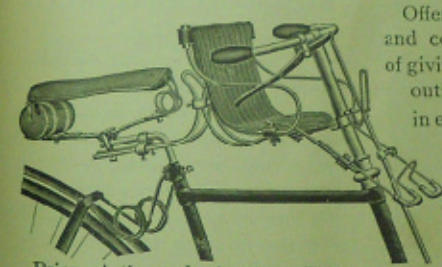
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H.S. Hubbell

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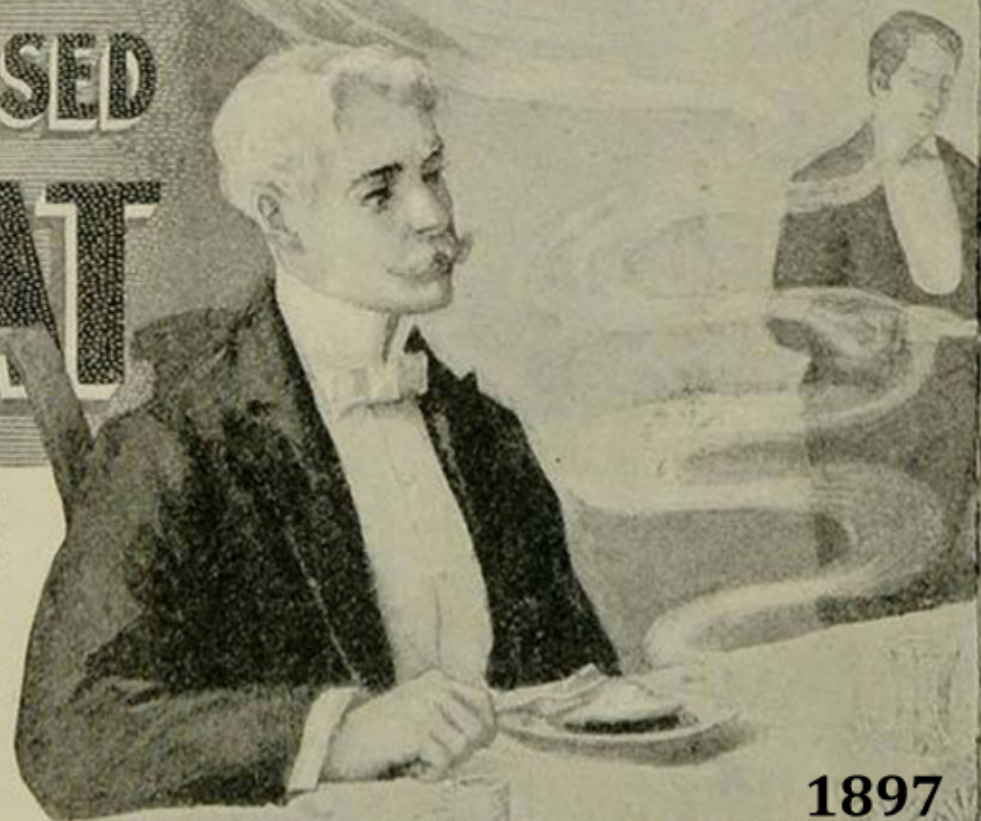
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