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**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
FRANK E. SCHOONOVER: AN ARTIST FOR ALL SEASONS**

Wilmington, DE (October 29, 2008)—The Delaware Art Museum presents *Frank E. Schoonover: An Artist for All Seasons*, featuring over 25 paintings from every period of Schoonover's career, on view November 22, 2008 – February 1, 2009. Frank E. Schoonover (1877-1972) is recognized as one of the most beloved and prolific illustrators of his time. His contribution to American illustration spanned over 40 years and included more than 2,200 illustrations. His work appeared in most of the popular periodicals in the first half of the 20th century, including *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *American Boy*, *Country Gentleman*, and *Colliers*, as well as in over 150 books, particularly children's classics and contemporary fiction.

This retrospective exhibition is mounted to celebrate the publication of the first comprehensive catalogue of Schoonover's work. *Frank E. Schoonover: An Artist for All Seasons* includes works from private collections, some of which have never been exhibited in public, as well as one from the Wilmington Trust Company's Schoonover collection. Major paintings by Schoonover from the Delaware Art Museum's collection, including *Hopalong Takes Command* (1905) and *Hans Brinker* (1924), will be on view in nearby galleries.

Born in Oxford, New Jersey, in 1877, Schoonover attended Drexel Institute in Philadelphia where he studied with the American illustrator and Wilmington-native Howard Pyle. Pyle also invited the young artist to attend his summer school in Chadds Ford—an honor bestowed upon only the most promising students. With Pyle's help, Schoonover initiated his career in 1899 with four paintings for the book *Jersey Boy in the Revolution*. The first of these paintings, *Nearer and Nearer They Approached* (1899), is included in the exhibition.

After settling in Wilmington in 1900, Schoonover traveled widely in the United States and Canada, acquiring a unique perspective and a rich reservoir of experiences, which he incorporated into many works. He was later recognized as an expert on the indigenous tribes of the Hudson Bay area. When the popularity of illustration waned in the 1940s, Schoonover turned to landscapes and commissions, including designs for magnificent stained glass windows. One of the works in the exhibition is a preliminary watercolor cartoon that Schoonover composed for one of 13 stained-glass windows that he designed for Wilmington's Immanuel Church, Highlands.

The Delaware Art Museum is one of the few museums in the country with a major collection of American illustration, so visitors to this exhibition will be able to view Schoonover's work in the context of illustrations by his teacher, Howard Pyle, and his peers, including N. C. Wyeth, Stanley Arthurs, Gayle Hoskins, and Maxfield Parrish. Furthermore, Frank E. Schoonover was one of the founders of the Museum, along with Louisa d'Andelot du Pont Copeland, George Perkins Bissell, and Stanley Arthurs. Known originally as the Wilmington Society of the Fine Arts, the Museum was incorporated in 1912 specifically to preserve and exhibit the art of Howard Pyle and continue his commitment to art education. Schoonover served as a Trustee from 1912 through 1969, and was made an Honorary Trustee in 1970.

Organizer

Frank E. Schoonover: An Artist for All Seasons was organized by Louise Schoonover Smith, Guest Curator of the exhibition, President of the Frank E. Schoonover Fund, Inc., and granddaughter of the artist.

Sponsors

Wilmington Trust is the Exclusive Presenting Sponsor for *Frank E. Schoonover: An Artist for All Seasons*. Wilmington Trust is proud to support an exhibition devoted to a hometown artist.

This exhibition is supported, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

About the Catalogue

Written by John R. Schoonover and Louise Schoonover Smith with LeeAnn Dean, and jointly published by Oak Knoll Press and the Frank E. Schoonover Fund, Inc., the two-volume, slip-cased *Frank E. Schoonover Catalogue Raisonné* embodies Schoonover's entire *oeuvre*, from his earliest sketches to his last easel paintings. The book is chronologically organized with the numeration based on Schoonover's daybook entries. Over 3,000 images are included, many in full color, along with a detailed biography and accompanying time line, chronology, information about Schoonover's models and students, lists of

exhibitions and the magazines he illustrated, three bibliographies, and three indices. The catalogue raisonné is comprehensive in scope and will stand as the pre-eminent record of Schoonover, his life, and his work.

About the Museum

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: adults (18 – 59) \$10, seniors (60+) \$8, college students \$5, and youth (7 – 17) \$3, with children 6 and under entering for free. Admission fees are waived every Sunday thanks to support from AstraZeneca. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at www.delart.org.

Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum holds a world-renowned collection that focuses on American art and illustration from the 19th century to the present as well as the British Pre-Raphaelite movement. The Museum offers the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden, the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, studio art classes, the interactive Kids' Corner learning area, the delART Café featuring free Wi-Fi access, and the Museum Store with distinctive books and gifts.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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