

### **Norman Rockwell 1894-1978**

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Norman Percevel Rockwell's greatest desire from an early age was to be an illustrator. In 1909, at the age of 15, he left high school to begin his studies at the National Academy of Design and, later, the Art Students League. There he worked under George Bridgman who taught a rigorous series of technical skills that Rockwell relied on throughout his long career. Rockwell found success early. He painted his first commission, four Christmas cards, before his sixteenth birthday. While still in his teens, Rockwell was hired as art director for *Boys' Life* magazine and began a successful freelance career working for a variety of young people's publications. In 1916, at the age of 22, Rockwell's first cover for *The Saturday Evening Post* appeared, a commission then considered to be the pinnacle of achievement for an illustrator. Over the next 47 years, Rockwell produced 322 covers for the *Post*. He died peacefully at home in Stockbridge on November 8, 1978.

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