

John Macallan Swan was born at Old Brestford, England, in 1847. He began to study at the Worcester School of Art, and passed to Mr. Sparkes at Lambeth, and later to the Royal Academy, as a student. In 1874 he went to Paris, where he remained about five years. During these years he pursued an eclectic course; he worked with Gérôme, with Fremiet, with Bastien le Page, Henecker, and Dagnan-Bouveret. At this time he was also influenced by Barye, Delacroix, and Millet. Later he was probably influenced by the Marées, especially by Matthew. In 1884 Mr. Swan was elected a member of the Dutch Water-Colour Society; in 1885 was awarded honourable mention at the Paris Salon; and in 1894 was elected an associate of the Royal Academy. With Barye and Delacroix, Swan has devoted himself especially to the study of wild animals. During his Paris days he spent much of his time in the Jardin des Plantes, and now in London he is to be found almost every day in the Zoological Gardens. To competence as a painter he adds intimate knowledge of comparative anatomy, with due recognition of the limitations of scientific fact, and the need, for purposes of the artist, of always regarding it in its artistic relations. It is especially to lions that Swan has directed his attention. The dignity of line in the lion, variety of pose due to the likeness of the body, and notably the colour, have attracted the artist, no less than the reticent strength of the beast, in which last he found a sympathetic reflex of his own prevailing mood. The sculptural element in Swan's painting arises from his studies in clay, rivalling, as they do, the works of Barye in knowledge of anatomical structure. Swan would certainly have achieved fame as a sculptor, even had he not been a master in colour. By no means limited to mere anatomical precision, Swan invests his animals with the breath of life, and gives to his background of wilderness frequently a grave charm, which is the outcome of a large imagination. Himself a lion—a master of the desert; large, rugged; the personification of virility, magnanimity, and effective exercise of power, Swan "is allied rather to Raffaele" than to Delacroix, rather "to Nicholas Poussin than to Landseer."

37. *Seeking the Evening Meal* . . . Owner, E. B. Osler