



LEFT TOP: Robert Louis Stevenson (1887; oil on canvas, 20x24½) shows that the distinctions between commissioned and personal portraits are not always clear. The demeanor adopted by Stevenson suggests a relaxed intimacy between artist and sitter. The canvas was, in fact, commissioned by a banker in Boston. It was considered more successful than an earlier painting, long since destroyed, which Stevenson said made him look like a "chicken-boned figure-head."

Bequest of Charles Phelps and Anna Sinton Taft; Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, Ohio



LEFT BOTTOM: Robert Louis Stevenson wrote of **Robert Louis Stevenson and His Wife** (1885; oil on canvas, 20½x24½): "Sargent was down again and painted a portrait of me walking about in my own dining room, in my own velveteen jacket, and twisting, as I go, my own moustache; at one corner a glimpse of my wife, in an Indian dress, and seated in a chair that was once my grandfather's."

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas