

Scottish Colourist sketches sold at auction

A collection of sketches by the leading Scottish Colourist painter, John Duncan Fergusson, sold for nearly £12,000 at auction in Edinburgh.

The 11 sketches in conté pencil were created by Fergusson between 1897 and 1921, and kept by the artist in books.

They included a sketch which is believed to show the artist and his muse, the American illustrator Anne Estelle Rice, and a late 19th century portrait of his mother, Christina Fergusson.

Others depicted elegant women in wide-brimmed hats, a man smoking, a couple "promenading" and dancers, sketched around 1907-10 during Fergusson's time living and painting in Paris.

The studies went under the hammer at Bonhams Edinburgh, where they fetched £11,968.

Leo Webster, picture specialist at Bonhams in Edinburgh, said: "Fergusson always had a sketch book with him. He would often draw cafe scenes and fashionable ladies in their hats.

"In these sketches, made over a period of around 20 years, we can see the artist's progression from the more traditional techniques in the portrait of his mother Christina around 1897 to his later sketches after he had settled in France and channelled the modern influences that were around him."

J.D. Fergusson was born in Edinburgh in 1874, the eldest of four children in a family of successful wine merchants originally. He spent long periods living and working in Paris, perfecting his craft and developing his own modern style.

Fergusson met Anne Estelle Rice in Paris in 1907, two years after she was posted to the city to illustrate the latest chic Parisian fashions for a magazine.

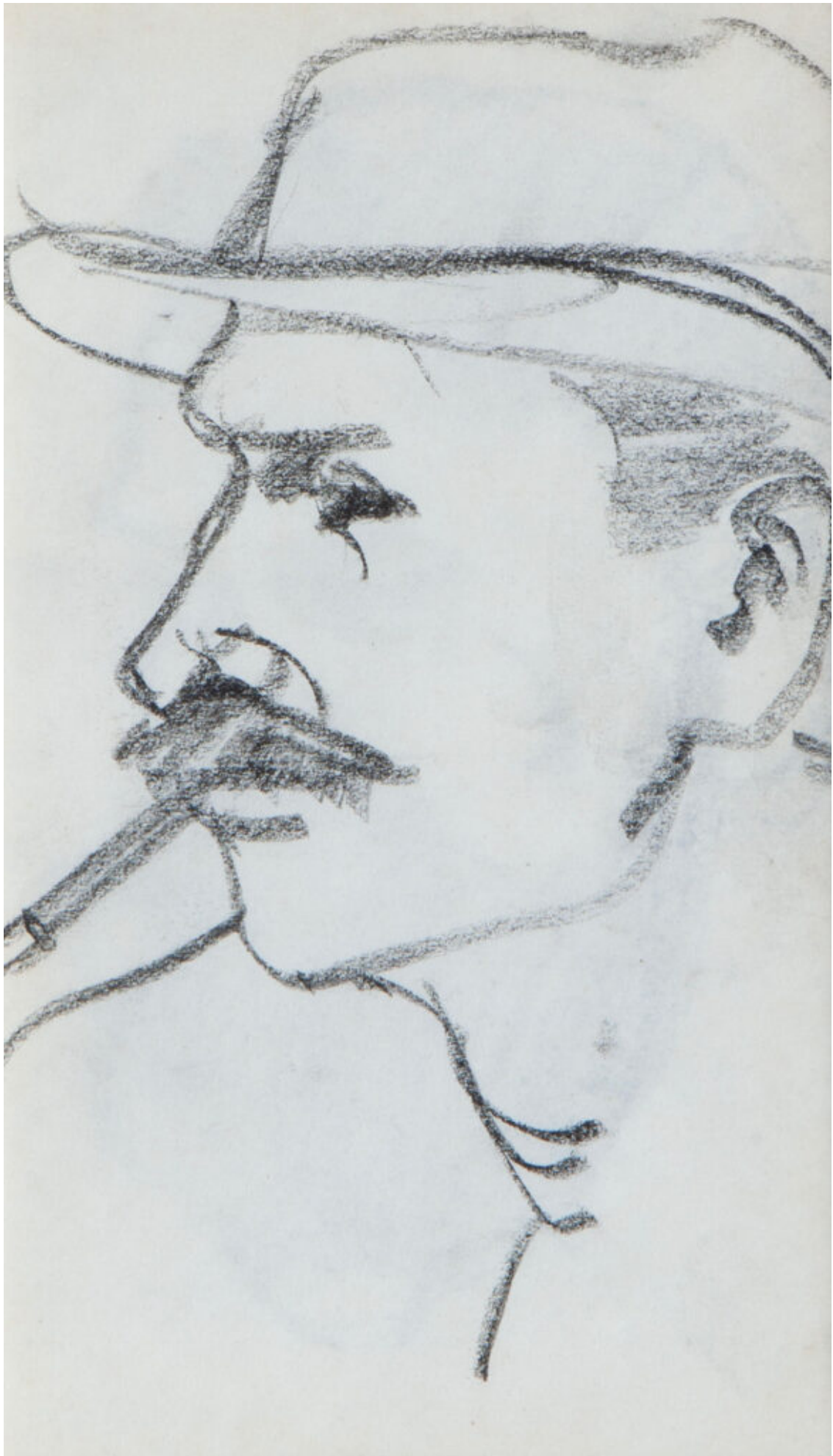
Fergusson, who died in 1961, left the sketches to his long term partner, the dancer and choreographer Margaret Morris, and they later formed part of a private collection.



J D Fergusson Portrait of mother Christina Fergusson PHOTO
Saltire News



J D Fergusson Sketch standing figure and head study PHOTO
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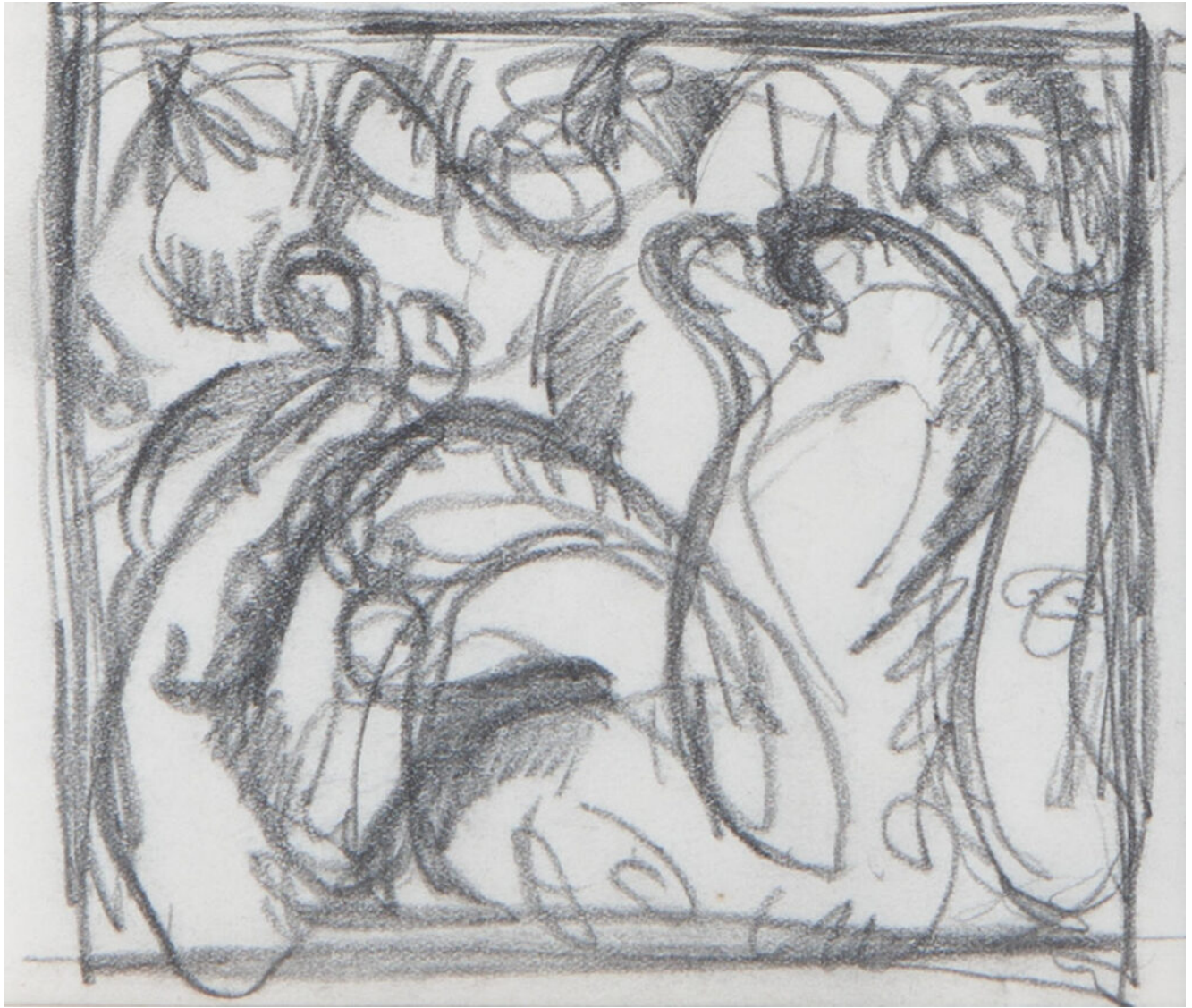
J D Fergusson Portrait of a man smoking PHOTO Saltire News



J D Fergusson Portrait of a lady in a wide-brimmed hat PHOTO
Saltire News



J D Fergusson figures promenading in Paris Photo Saltire News



J D Fergusson Fantasy Dance sketch PHOTO Saltire News



J D Fergusson and Anne Estelle Rice sketch Pic Saltire News