



*A Doubtful Guest*

watercolor, gouache, and graphite on paper, 1896, courtesy Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

## RUSSELL MEETS JAKE HOOVER

In 1880, a 16-year-old Missourian by the name of Charlie Russell took on his first job in the west—tending sheep. By Charlie's own admission, he was a "bum sheepherder," and after two months he and his boss had just about had enough. Broke and hungry, Charlie wandered aimlessly up the Judith River and set up camp near there. Destiny smiled upon Charlie as Jake Hoover, a trapper, hunter and prospector, came upon his camp and took him in. For two years Charlie lived and worked with Jake, learning the ways of the mountain man, wildlife and Indians.

In the watercolor *A Doubtful Guest*, Russell depicted a hunting camp along the South Fork of the Judith where he and Jake Hoover were visited by two unfamiliar Indians. Many of the accoutrements of hunters and trappers are evident, including traps, a pack saddle, heavy blankets and a beaver skin.

