



Charles Bergman

(1856 - 1946) Astoria, OR

Charles Bergman, perhaps Oregon's finest master carver, was a man of enormous stature both in his physical appearance and community presence. Numerous local carvers emulated Bergman's carving style. A boat builder and fisherman by trade, he produced hundreds if not thousands of finely carved decoys for personal use and for sale. Born in Finland to Swedish parents, he emigrated to the San Francisco Bay Area and then to Astoria, Oregon, where a large Swedish population resided. After he retired in 1929 at the age of seventy, he focused on waterfowl carving full-time, crafting about a dozen decoys a week, which he sold for \$1.25 each. He carved canvasbacks, green-winged teal, mallards, pintails, wigeon, a special order rig of scaup. His total output comes out to more than four thousand decoys during the late 1920's and early 1930's

Charles Pice also lived in Astoria, Oregon, and carved decoys. Pice painted many of Bergman's decoys. His exceptional painting style, both elegant and bold, with its delightfully scalloped edges, makes his work easy to identify.

Bergman and a dozen whistling swans. These five-piece swans were made the same year swan shooting became illegal, so they were relegated to storage until Bergman's grandson, Chuck, was old enough to play with them. After tripping over the swans one too many times, Grandma Bergman hacked apart all but two of the swans and used the rest for kindling.

