

Peggy Bacon's Prints

A Checklist of the Prints

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The first edition of this work was entitled *Peggy Bacon, Personalities and Places*. It was published by the National Collection of Fine Arts in Washington, DC in 1975 and has long been out of print. This new edition reprints the fully illustrated Checklist of the 192 etchings, drypoints and lithographs, which the artist created between 1918 and 1952. It also extracts historical and biographical information relevant to the artist's prints and adds some larger format illustrations. The original edition was paperbound whereas this edition is bound in boards, illustrated with Peggy Bacon's celebrated drypoint from 1920, entitled *The Promenade Deck*.

Peggy Bacon was born on May 2, 1895 in Ridgefield, Connecticut. During 1904-6 she lived in France, most of the time in Montreuil-Sur-Mer, but also in Pas de Calais and briefly in London. She wrote her first book, *The True Philosopher and Other Cat Tales*, while she was quarantined with the measles at her home during 1915 in Ridgefield.

She studied painting at the Art Students League with Kenneth Hayes Miller, George Bellows, John Sloan, and Andrew Dasburg, and briefly with George Bridgman and Max Weber, from 1915-20. In 1917, she made her first drypoint. In 1919, she was the Assistant Editor of *Bad News*, a spoof publication edited by Edmund Duffy at the Art Students League. She published drypoints in the *World Magazine*. Peggy Bacon published her first book in 1919, *The True Philosopher and Other Cat Tales*, which included thirteen of her early drypoints. She then exhibited drypoints at the Society of Independent Artists and at the Painter-Gravers of America, both in New York.

In 1922 she had her first major exhibition of her drypoints, at the Joseph Brummer Gallery. Her son, Alexander Brook, Jr. (Sandy) was also born that year and *Peggy Bacon* by William Murrell, the first and only monograph on the artist, until 1975, appeared. In 1925, she had two one-person shows at the Montross Galleries. Her poems and drypoints appeared in *Funerealities*, her second book. In 1926, she was awarded the bronze medal at the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition, Department of Fine Arts. In 1927, *The Lion-Hearted Kitten and Other Stories*, which she had written and illustrated, was published and she began to draw satirical portraits in pastel.

In 1928, she had a one-person show at Alfred Stieglitz's *The Intimate Gallery* and she published *Mercy and the Mouse and Other Stories*, which she had written and illustrated. The artist executed first lithographs the same year. The next year she produced her first etchings. In 1931 she wrote and illustrated *The Terrible Nuisance, and Other Tales* and *Animosities*

In 1934, she was awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and used funds to work on the drawings for *Off With Their Heads!* She then began a series of caricatures of prominent people in Washington, D.C., for the *New Republic*. In 1935, she wrote and illustrated *Cat-Calls* and taught at the Art Students League. During 1942 a major retrospective of her work held by Associated American Artists and she was awarded a grant of \$1,000 by the National Academy of Arts and Letters to further her creative work. During 1942-44, she taught at the School of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and at Birch Wathen, a progressive preparatory school in New York.

In 1945, she published *Starting from Scratch*, which she had written and illustrated. At the 36th annual exhibition of the Society of American Graphic Artists in 1952, she received the American Artists Group Alan Dunn Prize for her drypoint *All Together*, 1951. In 1953 she stopped printmaking, publishing one final lithograph in 1975. Peggy Bacon died January 4, 1987 at Cape Porpoise, Maine.

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