

The Lithographs of
Thomas Hart Benton
Third Edition
By Creekmore Fath

Publication Notice

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This catalogue raisonné was first published in 1969 and was a collaboration between the author and artist. Benton was then 80 years old and he provided manuscript annotations for catalogue descriptions, which are reproduced in facsimile at the catalogue entries. Over the next 6 years, almost up until his death in January, 1975, the artist produced another 12 lithographs. These, together with a previously undescribed print, were added to the second edition of the catalogue, which appeared in 1979.

This third edition adds descriptions and illustrations of a series of reproductive prints of drawings relative to the telephone. Both the original drawings and the Loomis Advertising prints from the early 1950s have been reproduced in this new edition, since the artist signed the prints and some have taken them to be original lithographs, which they are not. They are reproduced in an appendix to alert the unwary collector. Thomas Hart Benton produced most of his lithographs during the 1930s and 1940s and they chronicle the Prairie School concerns of the time: the Great Depression, the family farm and heroic tales of the Nineteenth Century. Benton's lithographs for the movie version of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* have also become the iconographic vision of that seminal work and those times.

The author of this catalogue raisonné began his career as an aide to FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. He began collecting American prints in the 1940s. After the War, Creekmore Fath became a celebrated figure in the world of Texas politics, art and law, while increasing the depth of his collection. He became friendly with the artist who provided handwritten primary documentation for this catalogue.

The late Peter Morse was a curator of graphic arts at the Smithsonian Institution. Jacob Kainen was formerly curator of prints and drawings, National Collection of Art, Washington, D.C.

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