MAURICE DENIS

Catalogue Raisonné of the Graphic Work

By Pierre Cailler

Maurice Denis was born in 1870 in Granville, Normandy and died in 1943 in St.Germain-en-Laye, outside of Paris. While a student at the Académie Julian he became a member of the preeminent modernist art movement, the *Nabis*. This group of young Parisian artists developed through Gauguin's influence at the Group of Pont-Aven, a haven for artists on the coast of Brittany. It was Sérusier who brought back Gauguin's theories and techniques to his fellow students at the end of 1888.

The members of the Nabis included Bonnard, Vuillard, Vallotton, Maillol, Roussel and Redon. Denis himself became a theoretician of the group, which combines a decorative expressionism with planes of color, distorted perspective and symbolism. All of these modes of expression triumphed in the fin-de siècle Parisian cultural cauldron and led from 19th century impressionism to 20th century expressionism.

Denis and his fellow Nabis produced some of the great graphic works, artist books and posters at the turn of the century. Denis's major symbolist illustrated works are *Le Voyage d'Urien,* lithographs illustrating the poem of André Gide (1893) and *Sagesse*, lithographs created in 1889 to illustrate Paul Verlaine's poem, and published as color woodcuts by Ambroise Vollard in 1911.

Vollard published many of Denis's most captivating symbolist graphic works as color lithographs during the last decade of the 19th and first of the 20th centuries. These and others are illustrated in color in this revised edition of Pierre Cailler's catalogue raisonné of the artist's graphic work.

The original edition of Cailler's catalogue from 1968 did not contain color reproductions. The original French text has been retained.