

ALAN WOFSY FINE ARTS



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AMERICAN PRINTS IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

A Catalogue of the Collection. Karen F. Beall. Second edition. 592 pages. 1,600 illustrations. San Francisco: Alan Wofsy Fine Arts, 1991. ISBN 1-55660-088-7

The Library of Congress found itself concerned with the fine arts early in its history, when the library- of Thomas Jefferson was purchased in 1815 to replace the books lost during the War of 1812. Jefferson's interest in architecture and the arts is well known, and his collection reflected the breadth of intellectual concerns one would expect of a well-traveled and cultured man." So begins this volume's introduction, Alan Fern's absorbing account of the background of the vast graphic arts collection in the Library of Congress.

The first published record of the library's holdings of prints by American artists, this is also the first comprehensive catalogue of any major graphic arts collection special-izing in American prints. It was originally published in 1970 and is now reprinted for the first time. Approximately 12,000 prints from colonial times to the present representing the work of 1,250 artists are listed alphabetically- by the artists' last names. Over 1,600 illustrations- are included. The library's extensive collections of prints by Whistler, Pennell, John Sloan, John Taylor Arms, and Ernest Haskell are catalogued as well as the work of such masters as George Bellows, Arthur B. Davies, Mary Cassatt, Childe Hassam, and Reginald Marsh. Prints by many forgotten artists are also included, since they constitute important records of our earlier aesthetics and provide valuable historical documentation which few museums can offer-.

Included under each entry is a brief biographical note on the artist and an alphabetical list of his prints, with the date of execution-, place of publication, medium, measurements, and series- and analytical notes. Reproductive prints, book and magazine illustrations-, posters, and commercial lithographic prints have been omitted.

Compiled by Karen F. Beall and the staff of the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress, this will serve as a welcome reference tool for artists, collectors, dealers, scholars and students.