

ALAN WOFSY FINE ARTS



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JOSEPH PENNELL. Catalogue of the Lithographs.

Louis A. Wuerth. With an introduction by Elizabeth Robins Pennell. 272 pages. 621 illustrations. San Francisco: Alan Wofsy Fine Arts, 1991. ISBN 1-55660-142-5

Pennell produced almost all of his 621 lithographs between 1896 and 1921. He travelled through Spain in order to produce his first series of lithographs for a new edition of Washington Irving's *Alhambra*. It was exhibited by the Fine Arts Society of London in 1896. He created comparable series of lithographs in 1897 during bicycle trips through Holland, Devon and Cornwall. In 1898 he made lithographs of abbeys and churches in Yorkshire. These reveal both an increasing freedom and a growing mastery of technique, particularly in the use of the scraper.

Pennell's lithographs of the modern metropolis and heavy industry are celebrated, and have never been surpassed. In 1904, he created his first series on New York skyscrapers. His most renowned lithographs depict the construction of the Panama Canal. He travelled to San Francisco, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon. When he returned to Philadelphia in 1912, he assisted in the printing of his Panama and Western lithographs, and produced lithographs of Washington, D.C. In 1914, just prior to World War I, he worked on lithographs of Berlin which were published in 1921. During World War I, he created his celebrated series on War Work in England and America which were published in 1916–1917. After the war he produced only a few further lithographs, in St. Louis and Atlantic City.