

ODILON REDON
Les Estampes — The Graphic Work
Catalogue Raisonné

By André Mellerio
Edited by Alan Hyman

Publication Notice

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Odilon Redon was born in Bordeaux in 1840 and died in Paris in 1916. He was the artist who was able to transform symbolist texts into powerful images. He produced several series of lithographs to illuminate the works of the fin-de-siècle symbolist poets such as Gustave Flaubert, Stéphane Mallarmé, Emile Verhaeren Charles Baudelaire and the American Edgar Allan Poe. Redon also produced a number of portfolios and individual etchings and lithographs unrelated to other thinkers and based solely on his own imagination. His imagery often focuses on the individual's mental and spiritual turmoil and presages the Surrealists.

The first edition of this catalogue was published in 1913. André Mellerio supplemented his graphics catalogue ten years later in his monograph on Redon from 1923. In 1920 the Art Institute of Chicago purchased the artist's own collection of his graphic works from his widow. The Art Institute published a catalogue of this collection in 1929 with texts by Daniel Catton Rich and William McKee, cataloguing some prints and states that were unknown to Mellerio. In 1961, Harold Joachim wrote an essay on the artist's prints on the occasion of an exhibition at MoMA, New York and the Chicago Art Institute. In 1969, Alfred Werner wrote an essay and translated the Mellerio titles into English in a summary catalogue of the graphic work. In 1986, Sharon Harrison produced an English language edition of Redon's thirty-three etchings. This new edition of Mellerio incorporates all of the scholarship subsequent to the 1913 edition.

This catalogue preserves Mellerio's original French text with supplementary information mainly in English. Every work is illustrated, several in more than one state. There is detailed information on the three versions of *The Temptation of St. Anthony* (*Tentation de Saint-Antoine*) as well as on the first and second printings of the popular third version that was published by Ambroise Vollard. In addition to 33 etchings, Redon also produced about 171 lithographs as well as 9 reproductive etchings for an edition of Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal*.

This new catalogue provides six essays, on the artist's graphic work as well as a bibliography and an index of titles in French and English. The image on the cover is Redon's celebrated color lithograph, *Béatrice* from 1897 (M. 168).

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