

**CONTEMPORARY
SOVIET
GRAPHICS**

A LOAN EXHIBITION FROM THE UNION OF SOVIET ARTISTS, MOSCOW

March 3 - April 5, 1968

University Art Gallery
State University of New York at Binghamton

CONTEMPORARY SOVIET GRAPHICS



UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY • STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON

FOREWORD

The University Art Gallery is pleased to present a group of graphic works by contemporary Soviet artists and to expose their artistic achievement to the American public. We hope this exhibition, one of the very few shown outside the Soviet Union, will open the door for further exchanges and help to build a bridge for better understanding between our two nations.

This project was initiated by Dr. Amy Gilbert, Professor Emeritus, during her visit to the Soviet Union in 1966, and we are grateful for all her efforts and enthusiasm in making this exhibition a reality.

We extend our gratitude to the Institute of Soviet-American Relations and the Union of Soviet Artists, both in Moscow, for their collaboration in the securing of the present exhibition; and to the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in Washington, D. C., particularly to Mr. Alexei Stepunin, Counselor of the Embassy, for its unfailing support of this undertaking.

President Dearing and the Administration of the State University of New York at Binghamton encouraged this project from the beginning with the genuine hope that in the future we may establish an exchange of the artistic achievements of our two countries on a broader scope.

Our thanks are due to Mr. William W. Derbyshire, Chairman of the Department of Russian, for his linguistic and financial aid; also to our Division of Humanities for its contribution toward the expense of publishing this catalogue.

We thank Mr. Bernard Kerpel, Librarian of The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and his staff members for their help and kindness in allowing me to use the material on Russian art in the Museum Library.

To Mrs. Mary Webster, our staff member, we owe special thanks for her wholehearted participation in various aspects of this exhibition, both technical and curatorial.

Michael Milkovich
Director
University Art Gallery

INTRODUCTION

The impact of the October Revolution of 1917 and the immediate changes in the political and social structure of the Bolshevik state registered a turning point in the cultural development in the Soviet Union. The creation of the Socialist society and the official statements by Lenin directed the artists to support the people's struggle for a better future and to raise the cultural level of the working class. To this call the Soviet artists responded by glorifying the building of Socialism as reflected in the daily activities of the Russian people. To make the arts available to the public, the State nationalized all museums and art treasures in 1918 and took complete control of all artistic sources on Soviet soil.

As in the rest of Europe the Russian artists in the last years of the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century participated in the development of realism. The early years of the new century saw a growing awareness of the inequities of society and the approach of revolutionary explosion, which gave rise to an extraordinary complexity of artistic manifestations. The movement *Mir Iskusstva* (World of Art), founded in 1898, rejected democratic realism and turned its eyes to the more sophisticated cult of the aristocratic past; another group of artists, mostly working with landscape, fell under the influence of the Impressionists. In 1910, a number of artists known as *Cezannists* were organized under the name of *Bobnovi Valet* (Jack of Diamonds). They too rebelled against the past established rules and experimented with new ways of expression.

The effect of Cubism and other new movements was felt on the Russian scene, and on Soviet soil were found the most influential artists in the development of the new art. Kandinsky created, as early as 1910, the first abstract painting in Europe; Malevich, Lissitzky, Chagall, Pevsner, and Gabo, to mention the most important, were fathers of the modern art. In the first post-Revolution years, until about 1922, it seemed that this group would survive the official line of socialist realism and continue to search for new forms of expression, but the new art was incomprehensible to the Bolsheviks. The influence of these artists affected the development of modern art far more outside Russia than in their native land.

The present exhibition consists of works by thirty-four artists from different Soviet Republics and shows the current trends in graphic arts in the Soviet Union.

That printmaking is one of the best and most successful artistic products in Russia does not come as a surprise. The long tradition of book illustration and the promotion of revolutionary and post-revolutionary ideas in the form of posters and newspaper illustrations achieved a great popularity among the Soviet citizens.

During World War II and after 1945 the Soviet artists translated the tragic experience and the hope of triumph in their works and again identified themselves closely with the Soviet people in their struggle against the enemy.

The works included in our exhibition date mostly from the 1960's. The artists, representing different generations, schools, and nationalities (Russian, Latvian, Kirghizian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan), are linked by the warmth with which they portray everyday scenes, beauties of their native lands, historical events, children's storybook scenes, and the rich Soviet folklore.

Prints demonstrating the success of Soviet technology occupy a prominent place in this exhibition. Three by Nekrasov from the series "Starry Sky" (cat. nos. 26-28) glorify the achievements of the Soviet cosmonauts, and are an indication of the integral part the artists play in Soviet life.

Landscapes and townscapes are numerous and infused with air and lyricism. *Moscow University in the Distance* by Fedyaevskaya (cat. no. 5) and *Vilnius* by Gibavichius (cat. no. 7) reflect individual approaches, both executed with a great skill. The vigor of the northern nature is powerfully expressed in Ushin's linocut, *Polar Night* (cat. no. 56); calmness and dignity are emphasized in the work of Konstantinov, *Caucasian Landscape* (cat. no. 15), and in the radiant nocturno *Kotelnichesky Embankment* (cat. no. 65) by Zakharov.

Still life is represented by several prints; *Primrose* by German (cat. no. 6) and *The Flowers* by Vedernikov (cat. no. 61) are powerfully executed. The influence of Western art is evident in the work of Vedernikov, as well as in the *Art* by Vardizigulyants (cat. no. 60).

The most charming group in this show is without doubt the prints inspired by Soviet folklore. Kuzinski's two colored woodcuts, *On that Side of the Lake* and *Oh, A Flock of Swans is Flying* (cat. nos. 19, 20), convey in a strong individual way the joy and beauty of Lithuanian folk songs. Two colored lithographs by Rachev, *Vixen-Sister* (cat. no. 39) and *The Crane and the Heron* (cat. no. 40) represent the most popular aspect of the Soviet graphics, book illustration, particularly for the children.

The propaganda character of the present Soviet graphics is much less than we would expect. One of the most outspoken is Aksenov's *Long Live the Socialist Revolution* (cat. no. 1).

It is also interesting to note that portraiture is completely missing; since the destruction of the "cult of personality," this kind of work has almost disappeared.

The complete absence of abstraction in this show reflects the prejudice against it which runs deep in the minds of Soviet artists. The creative aspect of the Soviet printmakers has been confined to the predominantly traditional conventions of themes firmly based on reality and literature. In Western arts the individual prevails over the national, in Soviet, vice versa. Nevertheless, within the boundaries of a single trend, this exhibition offers a considerable variety of styles.

Michael Milkovich



ВДАЛИ МОСКОВСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

CATALOGUE

- AKSENOV Konstantin, Moscow, 1919-
1 *Long Live the Socialist Revolution*, 1967
Color linocut, 20 x 32 1/2 inches

- ARONOV Lev, Moscow, 1909-
2 *Motherhood*
Linocut, 18 x 14 7/8 inches

- FATEEVA Irina, Moscow, 1908-
3 *The Fleet of Tsar Sultan*, 1967
Color linocut, 21 1/8 x 16 3/8 inches

- FEDYAEVSKAYA Vera K., Moscow, 1911-
4 *Eternal Glory to the Heroes*
Color linocut, 18 x 29 inches
5 *Moscow University in the Distance*, 1959
Linocut, 16 x 20 1/2 inches

- GERMAN Naftaliy, Moscow, 1914-
6 *Primrose*, 1966
Linocut, 16 3/4 x 11 inches

- GIBAVICHIOUS Rimtautas, Vilnius, 1935-
7 *Vilnius*, 1964
Woodcut, 19 1/2 x 19 1/2 inches

- GOLITSYN Illarion V., Moscow, 1928-
8 *Graduates*
Linocut, 19 x 27 1/2 inches

- 9 *In the Laboratory*
Linocut, 16 5/8 x 26 3/4 inches
10 *Morning at Favorsky's*
Linocut, 15 1/2 x 24 3/4 inches

- ILYINA Lidiya A., Ryazan, 1915-
11 *Song*
Linocut, 18 1/4 x 26 inches
12 *Women of the World*
Linocut, 23 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches

- KALINYCHEVA Klara, Moscow, 1933-
13 *The Finish*
Color lithograph, 18 x 20 1/2 inches

- KONSTANTINOV Fedor D., Moscow, 1910-
14 *Early Spring*, 1966
Linocut, 11 7/8 x 19 3/4 inches
15 *Caucasian Landscape*, 1967
Color linocut, 16 x 21 1/4 inches

- KROLLIS Gunar, Riga, 1932-
From the cycle "Poem of Latvia"
16 *Childhood*, 1965
Linocut, 27 1/4 x 24 1/4 inches
17 *Youth*, 1965
Linocut, 28 x 23 1/2 inches
18 *Maturity*, 1965
Linocut, 27 1/4 x 24 1/4 inches

- KUZMINSKIS Ionas, 1906-
Subjects from Lithuanian folk songs
19 *On that Side of the Lake*, 1965
Color woodcut, 15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches
20 *Oh, a Flock of Swans is Flying*, 1963
Color woodcut, 15 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches

- LINCHIN Vitaliy, Kharkov, 1940-
From the series "Year 1917"
21 *Proleteriat*
Color linocut, 20 x 31 1/4 inches
22 *Aurora*
Color linocut, 20 3/8 x 31 1/4 inches

- NAZAROV Konstantin B., Moscow, 1933-
From the series "Great Chemistry"
23 *Laboratory Assistants*
Lithograph, 17 x 21 inches
24 *Girls from the Chemical Factory*
Lithograph, 26 x 21 inches
25 *Head of the Laboratory*
Lithograph, 22 x 17 1/2 inches

- NEKRASOV Illarion G., Porotnikovo, 1929-
From the series "Starry Sky"
26 *First Russian Flier*, 1966
Linocut, 26 1/4 x 18 1/2 inches
27 *To Another Galaxy*, 1966
Linocut, 25 3/8 x 18 5/8 inches
28 *First Flight to the Stars*, 1966
Linocut, 18 1/2 x 28 1/2 inches

- NENADO Vladimir, Kharkov, 1935-
From the series "Africa for the Africans"
29 *Prometheus*, 1965
Linocut, 27 1/2 x 19 1/4 inches
30 *Victims*, 1965
Linocut, 16 1/4 x 33 3/8 inches
31 *Sorrow*, 1965
Linocut, 30 3/4 x 19 3/4 inches

- NIKIREEV Stanislav, Podolsk
32 *Boats*, 1963
Color lithograph, 12 x 17 3/4 inches

- OBROSOV Igor P., Moscow, 1930-
33 *Mayakovsky Square, Moscow*
Lithograph, 16 x 21 1/2 inches
34 *Milkmaids*
Lithograph, 15 1/8 x 19 5/8 inches
35 *Village Mailwomen*, 1960
Color lithograph, 14 1/8 x 20 1/4 inches

- PETROV Vitaliy, Smolensk, 1936-
36 *Pravda Building, Moscow*
Linocut, 17 1/4 x 24 3/4 inches
From the series "Kamchatka"
37 *The Sendoff*, 1966
Linocut, 16 3/8 x 23 1/8 inches
38 *Hunting*, 1966
Linocut, 16 x 23 inches

RACHEV Evgeniy M., Tomski, 1906-
39 *Vixen-sister*, 1960
Color lithograph, 19 1/4 x 15 inches

40 *The Crane and the Heron*
Color lithograph, 21 x 16 inches

ROYTER Mikhail, Moscow, 1912-
41 *In the Gymnasium*, 1966
Lithograph, 18 1/4 x 14 3/8 inches

RZAKULIEV Alekper, 1903-
From the series "Old Baku"
42 *Chizbyznaya*
Linocut, 17 3/4 x 20 inches

43 *Buffaloes in the Water*, 1964
Linocut, 14 3/4 x 18 inches

SARYAN Martiros S., 1880-
44 *Woman Walking*, 1965
Color lithograph, 20 x 12 inches

45 *Head of a Persian Girl*, 1965
Color lithograph, 15 3/8 x 13 3/8 inches

46 *A Street in Constantinople*, 1965
Color lithograph, 17 3/4 x 13 1/2 inches

SIDORKIN Evgeniy M., Lebyazhye, 1930-
From the series "Reading Saken Seyfullina"
47 *Sorrow*
Lithograph, 29 x 21 1/2 inches

48 *Shepherds, Three Generations*
Lithograph, 23 1/2 x 27 1/2 inches

49 *Lullaby*
Lithograph, 18 x 27 1/2 inches

SKIRUTITE Aldona, Vilnius, 1932-
From the cycle "My Country in Songs and Legends"
50 *Neringa and Naglis*, 1965
Linocut, 18 1/2 x 27 1/2 inches

From the cycle "Amber Country"
51 *People from Courland*, (Latvia) 1965
Linocut, 17 1/4 x 28 1/2 inches

52 *The Flounder*, 1965
Linocut, 17 x 29 1/2 inches

SMIRNOV Marat, Moscow, 1938-
53 *The Kremlin, Moscow*, 1967
Color linocut, 11 1/8 x 16 inches

SOKOLOVA Kseniya, Moscow 1941-
54 *Carrousel*, 1966
Color linocut, 13 3/4 x 18 inches

USHIN Andrey A., Leningrad, 1927-
55 *Morning in the Woods*, 1966
Linocut, 18 x 24 1/4 inches
56 *Polar Night*
Linocut, 22 1/2 x 29 1/4 inches

VALTSERER Viktor, Leningrad, 1928-
57 *Going Skiing*, 1963
Lithograph, 13 x 19 1/2 inches

58 *Skiers*, 1966
Lithograph, 13 x 17 3/8 inches

VARDZIGULYANTS Ruben, Moscow, 1919-
59 *War*
Lithograph, 14 x 20 1/4 inches

60 *Art*
Lithograph, 17 x 23 inches

VEDERNIKOV Alexandr S., Gorodets, 1898-
61 *The Flowers*, 1960
Color lithograph, 21 x 14 7/8 inches

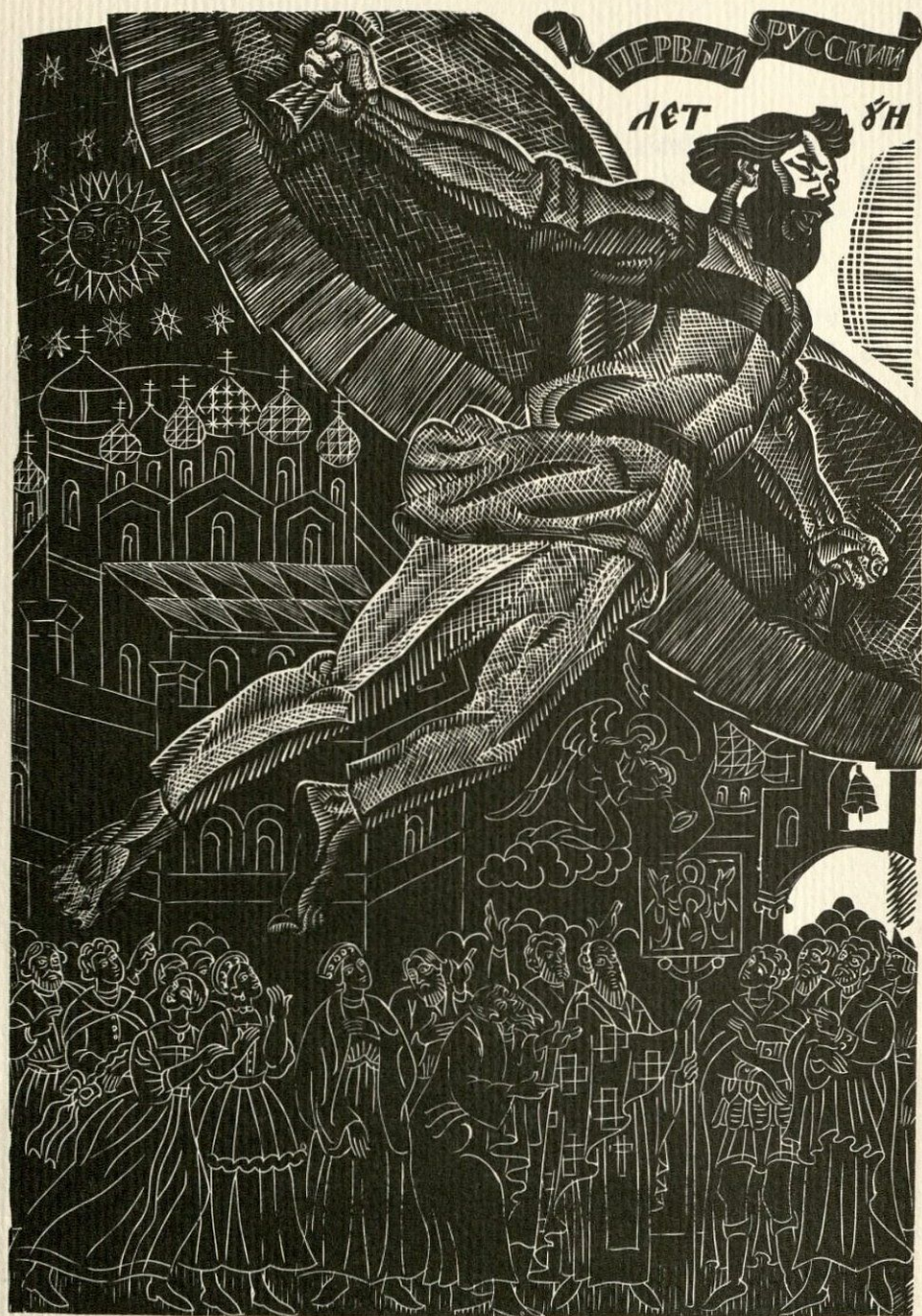
VITING Nikolay, Moscow, 1910-
62 *The Rainbow*, 1967
Color lithograph, 13 3/8 x 19 1/2 inches

VOLOVIK Taisiya, Moscow, 1914-
63 *Earthware*
Color lithograph, 15 x 18 1/2 inches

ZAKHAROV Guriy F., Moscow, 1926-
64 *Off to the Hunt*
Woodcut, 19 x 18 inches

65 *Kotelnichesky Embankment*
Woodcut, 15 1/8 x 21 1/2 inches

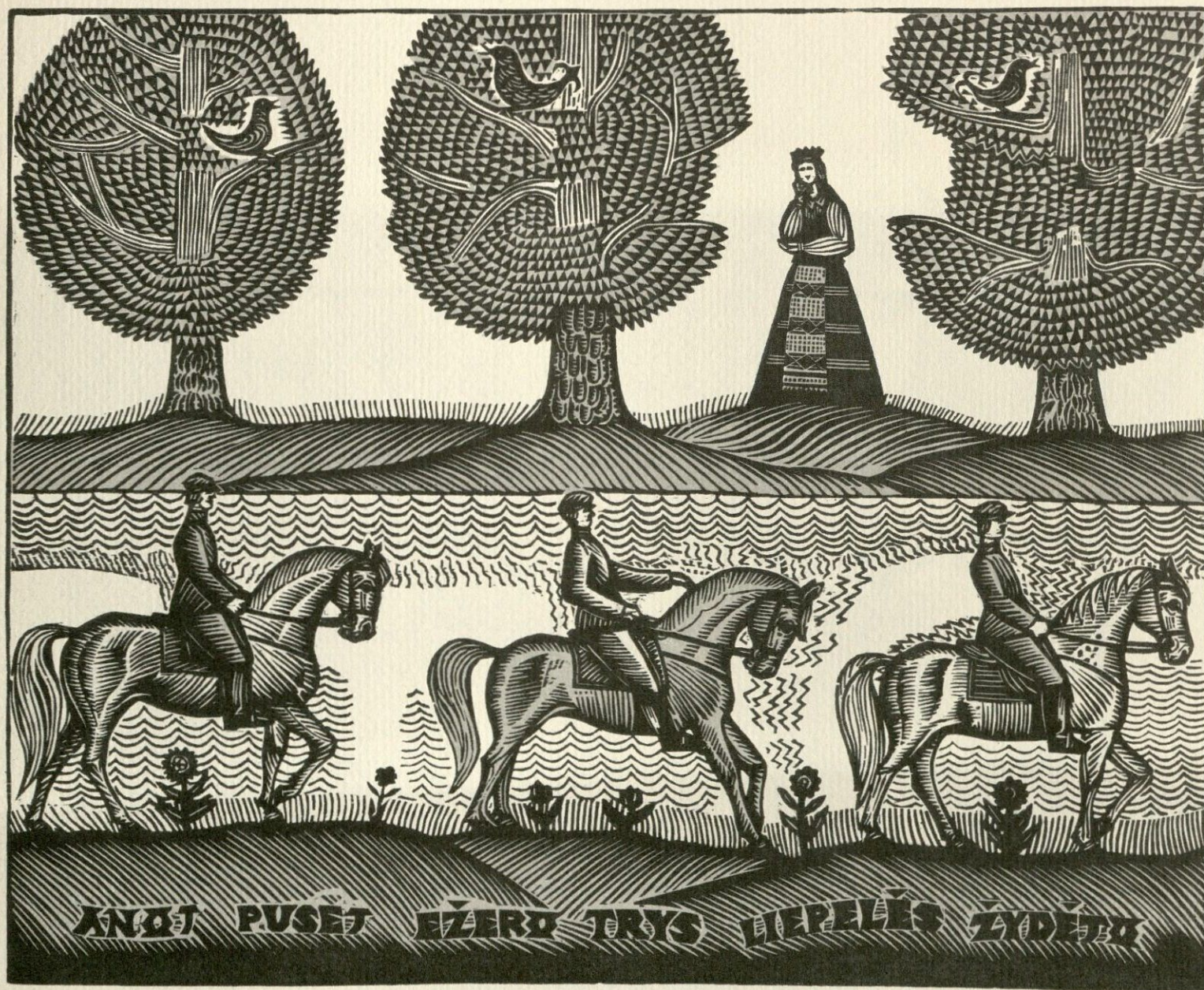
66 *August in Izborsk*
Color linocut, 24 1/2 x 20 1/2 inches

















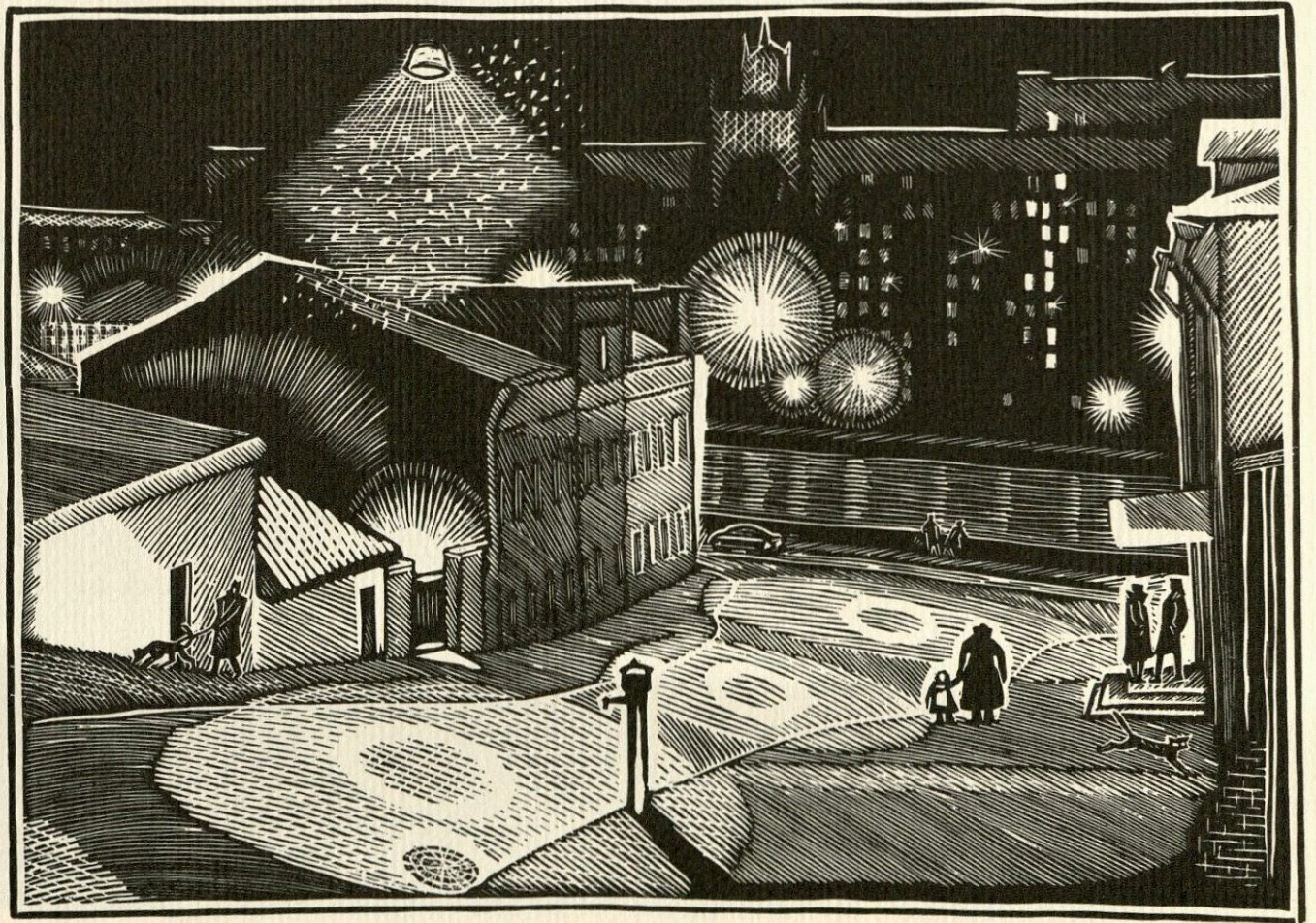
















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