

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON: September 4, 1946. The National Gallery of Art announces the opening on September 11th of an exhibition of American etchings, woodcuts and lithographs in memory of Addie Burr Clark. The prints are all from the Addie Burr Clark Collection recently bequeathed to the National Gallery of Art.

Mrs. Clark, wife of a former Justice of the New York State Supreme Court and Head of the New York State Civil Service Commission, died on March 8th last. Justice Clark did not long survive her. He died on June 28th. They had been married for fifty-two years.

Mrs. Clark was born in Washington but passed most of her life in New York City. Justice and Mrs. Clark were prominent in Methodist circles and he was President of the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University for many years. For twenty-five years Mrs. Clark was manager of the New York City Young Women's Christian Association and Treasurer of Saint Christopher's School, Dobbs Ferry for thirty years.

As a collector Mrs. Clark was particularly interested in forming a critical appraisal of the work done in etching

and lithography by contemporary American print makers. Although her tastes as a whole might be described as conservative, during the latter years of her collecting she became interested in the graphic work of the modern French School.

The etchings of Joseph Pennell, of which there are sixty-eight in the collection, formed the strongest group. Mrs. Clark selected the impressions with the greatest care. Pennell had adopted Whistler's later method of printing in which a considerable film of ink is left on the plate, varying in depth according to the requirements of the composition. It thus came about no two impressions are exactly alike, and in forming a Pennell Collection the selection of the impressions becomes very important. Mrs. Clark's collection of Pennell etchings was considered one of the best, if not the best existing.

In the remainder of the collection, other distinguished etchers, such as John Taylor Arms, Kerr Eby, Child Hassam, D. Shaw MacLaughlan, G. F. W. Mielatz, Ernest Roth, Levon West and J. Alden Weir are well represented among the Americans, as are Robert Austin, Muirhead Bone, Arthur Briscoe and James McBey in the British School. In all the collection numbers 259 prints.