

About Prints S.W. Hayter Oxford University Press, London, 1962

Pg. 21 The print of Louis Schanker, who since the thirties has been one of the most active teachers in this technique, shows certain peculiarities of printing which are typical of this whole school. He headed a printmaking project in W.P. A. (a relief scheme set up by Roosevelt during the depression), and from his example the great development of color woodcut in America chiefly stems.

Pg. 118 The block-printer Louis Schanker at the time of my arrival [S.W. Hayter,] in New York in 1940 was still directing a project in print-making under the Works Project Authority: a most imaginative scheme set up under the New Deal to provide subsistence for artists. Directed at the time by a general, having no doubt a thoroughly military ignorance of aesthetics, it always seemed to me the more effective in that it was completely indiscriminate, requiring from its artists nothing but the obligation to work and supplying them with materials and mere subsistence.......... Within this organization Schanker inducted a great number of young Americans into the craft of wood-cut - more especially his particular technique of printing from different blocks wet on wet, to give results approaching the richness and complexity of oil painting.