

BLANCHE LAZZELL

pg. 37, 38, 48, 49

OCTOBER 1940

SCHOOL ARTS

NATURE & CONSERVATION

VOLUME 40 • NUMBER 2

40

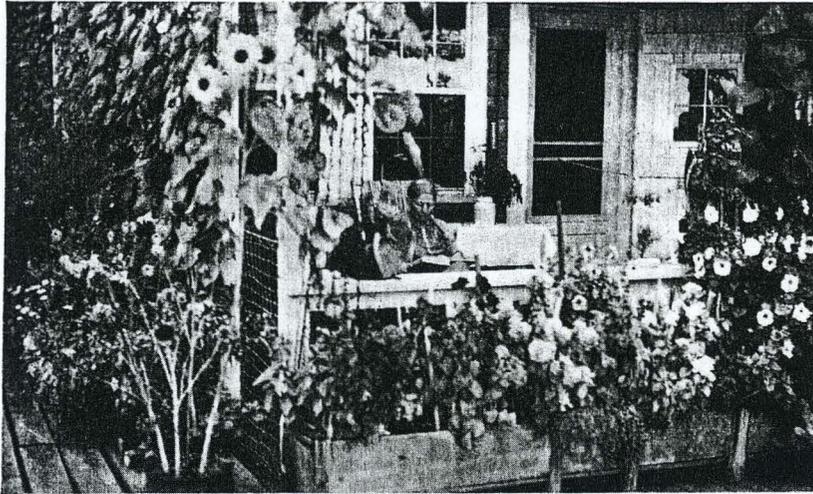
PEDRO J. LEMOS, EDITOR

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA



WOOD BLOCK PRINTS ❖ ❖ BLANCHE E. LAZZELL, Artist

Provincetown
Massachusetts



Blanche Lazzell
in her Studio,
Provincetown, Massachusetts

IN Blanche Lazzell's color wood block prints, the one-block method is employed. The design is carved in the wood and each shape on the block is covered with color and printed one shape at a time until the print is complete. Each shape being treated according to its needs, in relation to the whole, gives the finished work the quality of painting.

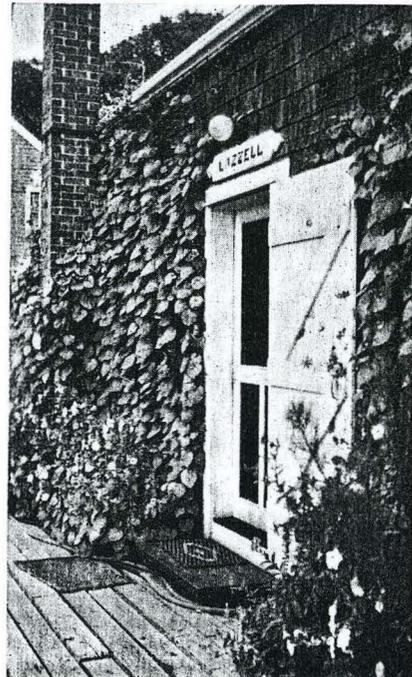
• "Wood Block printing in color, by its resources and its limitations, is a beautiful medium to which the true artist responds with the best that is in him. The peculiar pleasure of seeing the same design take on a different character with each printing must ever be a source of fascination to the artist. No two prints need ever be exactly alike. The variation of color arrangement is inexhaustible. But the limitations of wood block printing are no less fascinating. The composition must of necessity be simple. There must be a great deal of elimination in drawing. A few tones must be suggestive of all the artist wishes to convey in the way of gradation of color and values. It is as important for him to know what to leave out as what to put in. This develops in him a rare facility of design. By his own manual dexterity in cutting the blocks the artist must learn to adapt his sketch to the possibilities of the block. He is both artist and craftsman and every print taken from his blocks is entirely a product of his own creation.

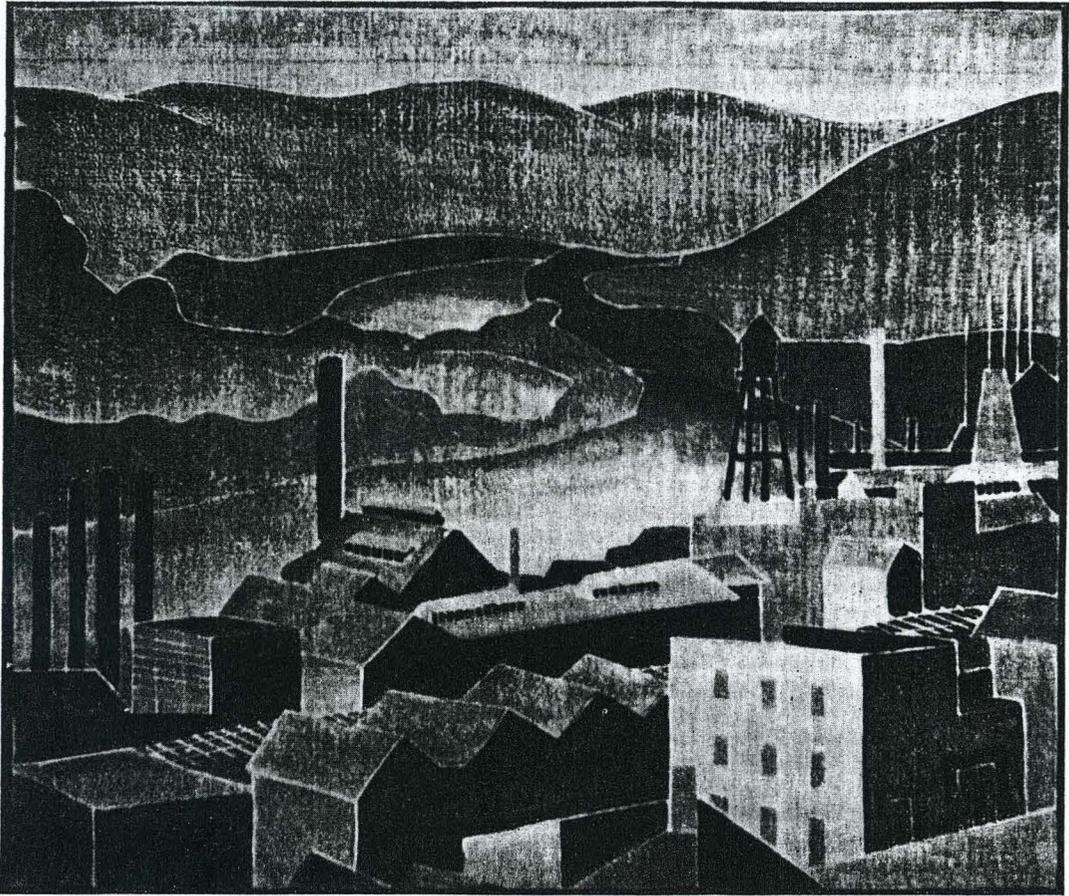
• "Wood block printing in color is becoming an ever-increasing medium of artistic expression with American artists, and happily so. Prints of this character fill a long-felt need of a very large number of people of discernment and taste who desire to possess the work of artists, but whose material means do not admit of large expenditures. The painter-graver is making an important contribution in making art democratic so that it may be shared by a large number of people."¹

• "A very remarkable quality in wood block printing is its lasting interest. It has endured for seven centuries and has never aroused such interest as at the present moment. The reason is similar to that which keeps each eternally fresh in interest and message; it is autographic. The artist is responsible for every line and effect and so very quaint and personal things happen. A group of color block printers has developed at Provincetown, Mass. These artists have created a genuine impression through their honesty and originality of viewpoint."²

¹Clyde H. Burroughs in "The Bulletin of The Detroit Institute of Arts."

²Dr. Ellsworth Woodward in *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans.





The Monongahela at Morgantown by Blanche Lazzell

• "Blanche Lazzell's prints take us into realms of joy. All are skillfully executed, colorful and cheerful—there is no confusion; she uses the very simplest form of block printing, and never attempts to imitate. Her exhibition is a splendid lesson in the technique of block printing."¹

• "The gaiety and brilliancy of the flowers sur-



rounding the studio of Blanche Lazzell attract and hold our attention whether we glimpse it from the waterside or through its narrow approach down an unnamed alley. Gay as these surroundings are they find a rival in the fascinating interior of this former fish house, now one of the most attractive spots in Provincetown. It is here that more than a thousand visitors have this summer seen Miss Lazzell's work: an exhibition of wood block prints, which would draw attention anywhere and in this town with its variety of production stands distinctive by reason of its honest strength and genuine character.

• "Miss Lazzell has always been the enthusiastic student that the sincere artist must ever remain. She last spring returned from a sojourn among the primitives in Italy and the museums and ateliers of Paris. The artist, Albert Gleizes, well known as an exponent of abstract art, gave criticism and instruction to Miss Lazzell while in that city. For several years her block prints and paintings have been exhibited there and another opportunity has lately been offered to her to show her work at a special Exposition of Abstract Art."²

¹Oakland Tribune California.

²The Advocate. Provincetown, Mass



Wood block by Blanche Lazelle
of Provincetown, Massachusetts

"The spirit of the subject is conveyed through design and color, realistic objects and abstract forms juxtaposed into pattern, for this is the side of art which considers neither appearances of things nor imitation; it is the side which constitutes art in its most modern form."



This color wood block, executed by Miss Blanche Lazzell of Provincetown, Massachusetts, has great depth of color and is a very fine expression of the artist's originality

During the fall make sketches of flowers, trees, birds, seed pods and animals to use for wood block compositions