LITHOGRAPHS OF WAR WORK IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA BY JOSEPH PENNELL AT THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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MARCH 11 TO MARCH 26, 1918
Letters from Mr. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy:

“28 January, 1918

My Dear Mr. Pennell:—

I wish to express to you my appreciation of how perfectly you have conceived and executed the war work in the making of great guns and ship construction. I attended the exhibition of your drawings here in Washington and, in common with all who had that privilege, felt that you had not only given pleasure but had given instruction as well by your creations.

Sincerely yours,

Josephus Daniels.”

* * * *

“February 8, 1918

Your drawings made a very strong appeal to me, and I am only too glad to commend them publicly.

Sincerely yours,

Josephus Daniels.”

From a letter from Mr. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, dated December 31, 1917:

“I have seen enough of the subjects with which Mr. Pennell's lithographs deal to bear witness to the extraordinarily vivid presentation which they make of some of the most important of our national activities at the present time.

Cordially yours,

Newton D. Baker,
Secretary of War.”
THE lithographs in this catalogue comprise a collection illustrating an aspect of the Wonder of Work other than that shown by Joseph Pennell in his exhibition at the Art Institute two years ago. This time, for the first time, there is graphic representation of the wonder of the world’s work in munition factories, shipyards, mines, camps, and various other war industries.

Before the war, Mr. Pennell saw and drew the Wonder of Work in the United States, in Belgium, Germany, and Italy. In the present series he has drawn war activities in England and America. Over a year ago he was permitted by the British premier, David Lloyd George, to make drawings in the various industrial plants in which the war work of England was being carried on, and his accomplishment was published as Lithographs of War Work in England. When these lithographs were exhibited, M. Albert Thomas, French Minister of Munitions, invited Mr. Pennell to portray similar subjects in France; but, owing to a combination of unfortunate circumstances, the artist, to his own great regret, found himself—as he confesses unable to make any pictorial record of what he saw there.

On his arrival in America, Mr. Pennell was authorized by the United States government to make records of American war work similar to what he had made in England and was given opportunity to see and portray war in the making such as no other artist has been fortunate enough to have. The government has aided and coöperated with him in every way possible, and the Secretaries of War and the Navy have expressed their approval and appreciation of his remarkable pictorial records which Mr. Pennell has made as an artist and not as a historian. He himself thinks that the Wonder of Work today is more wonderful in this
country than anywhere in the world. His gratitude he has expressed in the following words:

"I want to thank the Secretaries of the Navy and of War — Messrs. Daniels and Baker — Mr. Creel, and the other members of the board and staff of the Committee on Public Information, and the various heads of the various sub-departments of the Army and Navy, who stood my pestering and querying and obtained for me permission to visit every industrial establishment I wanted. . . . I was taken and treated with a courtesy which I shall never forget. I should like to thank and mention by name the various officials, government and civilian, who gave me every facility to see and to draw everything I wished — but we are at war, and I am not permitted to say where these drawings were made. . . . And finally, I wish to thank above all the man who made it all possible. He knows — and I know — I shall never be able to repay him. He is working, and I am trying to work, for our country — Dr. Frederick Paul Keppel."

K. W. McG.
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