



Rockwell Kent

Title

Beowulf

Medium

Lithograph

Date

1931

Dimensions

13 7/8 × 10 1/2 in. (35.2 × 26.7 cm)

Accession number

2009.2.3

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Credit Line

Purchased with funds given in memory of Charles Livingston Grimes, 2009

Web Description

Rockwell Kent was an independent person with a particularly private personality. Following only his inner voice, he traveled to exotic and extreme locales, where his art connected with the land, environments, people he was visiting. On his travels Kent took with him oil paint and pencils to record his experiences. The resultant images became sources for his art throughout his life. Although Kent focused on painting during most of his career, his involvement and mastery of printmaking began in the 1920s. A commission from a New York firm to produce advertising images in pen and ink stirred his interest in printmaking. For these drawings, Kent abstracted a style from his painting, using strong blacks and whites, clear shapes and precise lines. *Beowulf* is an illustration for W.E. Leonard's translation of the old English epic story of the hero Beowulf. This print is one of an edition of 150 lithographs printed from the stone in 1931. The image was canceled, and the stone reground, but the lithograph's image was reproduced by printer George Miller as an offset lithograph in reverse from zinc plates for 950 copies of *Beowulf*.