HOT OFF THE PRESS:
Announcing the Revised 3rd Edition of
The Prints of J. N. Darling by Amy N. Worthen

Ames, IA – University Museums is pleased to announce the newly printed 3rd Edition of The Prints of J. N. Darling by Amy N. Worthen. This 2014 edition features expanded content, new photography, further interpretation on Darling’s etchings, and has been redesigned.

Jay N. Darling made at least 84 etchings, photoetchings, aquatints, and drypoints between 1925 and 1960. Publicly known to the world as “Ding,” he was an editorial cartoonist of great wit and fine pictorial ability who won two Pulitzer Prizes. Through his syndicated cartoons, he had a national audience and was one of the first mass media celebrities in an era before network radio and television. A man of keen intelligence and unbelievable energy, he was the leading ecologist and conservationist of his generation, and although a loyal Republican, he served in Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s administration as head of the U.S. Biological Survey. He also designed the first Federal Duck Stamp.

His work as an etcher filled an important role in his personal creative life. His substantial body of work in this medium was the product of a deeply involved artist. Etching allowed Darling to truly become an artist – one who worked in a fully “respectable” medium, unlike cartooning. The subject matter of his prints dealt almost exclusively with wildlife, hunters, and fishermen. Darling’s etchings were made at a time before wildlife art became an industry, which has ignored some of the traditional distinctions of printmaking. The clichés and practices of much of contemporary wildlife art seriously impede appreciation of Darling’s images that were made, not for profit, but for love. One of the aims of this publication is to introduce Jay N. Darling’s etchings to a new and wider audience interested, as was he, in the art of the print.

The Prints of J. N. Darling discusses Darling’s development as an artist and etcher, and traces his evolving conception and depiction of wildlife in his cartoons as well as his etchings. It provides information on his studio practices, techniques, and his relationship with his assistants. The fine art prints, including questioned and reattributed works, are fully catalogued. The
inspiration and drive for a third edition of this publication is easily attributed to Christopher “Kip” Koss (1935-2013), Darling’s grandson and long-time supporter of the University Museums, to whom this edition is dedicated.

As one of the most popular of University Museums’ publications, it is befitting that we not only re-print this publication after 24 years since the last edition, but update, add new content and interpretations, and redesign in Kip’s memory. The most substantial addition is the inclusion of selected interpretations commissioned from renowned professionals, both scientists and naturalists, in the fields of ecology, animal science, and wildlife management. New contributions are from: Erwin Klaas, Professor Emeritus, Animal Ecology; James Pease, Associate Professor Emeritus, Natural Resource Ecology and Management; Steve Lekwa, former director, Story County Conservation, Iowa; and Tom Davis, award-winning writer, Green Bay, Wisconsin. In addition, never before seen images selected from the Koss’ family archives illustrate Darling’s life, work, and passion for all things wildlife.

This 208 page soft cover publication, including over 150 images, is available for purchase now from the University Museums Office, 290 Scheman Bldg., Ames, IA, by calling 515.294.3342 or email sklarson@iastate.edu.

Cost: $27.50 (+ shipping if applicable, tax exempt)

Media Information
For additional information please contact Allison Sheridan (515-294-3342 aclone@iastate.edu).

Images available upon request.

For more information on University Museums, call 515-294-9500 or visit our web site at www.museums.iastate.edu.

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