

Schönster Schmuck

Bernstein

Jungfernstieg 40

MSBM

Staatliche

MSBM

Bernstein-Manufaktur

Boehland

is drawn direct from nature and not copied from a preceding sketch. The foreground is cut at a wide angle, and the drawing contains, in rapid and sure selection, only that which is essential for giving the right spatial impression; since not only the church, but also the gabled houses represent definite traditional forms, it might be labelled as decorative impressionism, which however, reproduces all the main characteristics in a straightforward and absolutely correct manner as is easily proved by comparison with a photograph which I happen to possess. The pictorial element of the subject is combined in the happiest manner with the »graphic« method of representation. To whatever use the artist may later put his sketch, its art can never be lost. — The drawing next to it »Am Dornumer Tief« presents an altogether different effect. To my mind it constitutes only another proof that the artist J. Boehland succeeds in preserving that independence of hand and eye with regard to dimensional problems which many designers, tied as they are to one plane, so often and irrevocably lose. From an absolute »blank« — for the white of the paper in the foreground serves only as the illusion of a dazzling sheet of water, — the eye is led by the lightest and most sparing touches into a considerable depth of distance. Just as the drawing of the church lane gives an impression of great height, we find here the expanse of space mastered with an assurance that makes it obvious that this artist will maintain his sovereignty as a graphic designer over a flat surface on a single plane. Again, in the third drawing, that of his dead father on page 35, we are forcibly gripped by the power of the rendering. Whoever has watched a corpse during the first hours after death knows how the physical presence withdraws itself into those mystical and unapproachable regions which mark the departure of life as final and conclusive. Just because this »other dimension« is realised here, this drawing of the son must rank as a masterpiece. Whoever can visualise and render a spiritual process so strongly, will never feel chained down by even the most stringent practical considerations.