



PUZIREWSKY

Puzirewsky, a Latvian maker of wood-cuts, whose father was Russian and his mother German, unites in his work the characteristics of both races. We find, the German tendency to romance allied to a certain breadth of vision which is typically Russian. Bound by tradition to an old intellectual culture, fettered to their home by many ties, we find the interests of Latvian artists comprised in the three ideas: romance, devotion, simplicity. Puzirewsky was born in 1885 and received his first training in wood-cut graving from the writer of these lines in Riga 1921. He afterwards attended the Berlin school of arts and crafts. He was greatly influenced by Professor Hadank and Bangemann, the wood-cut graver. For a time Puzirewsky was also interested in etching — in its easiest and richest form — the dry-point. After his return to Riga in 1925, we note the influence of the Russian masters. Favorwki and Krawtschenko. Just about this time the European public began to take a well-deserved interest in these two masters of the wood-cut. Now, however, Puzirewsky's work has a distinct character of its own, his individual talent has prevailed over all outside influences. The observant will perhaps detect traces of Bewick and Gubitz in the work he is now doing, but as these masters may be considered the inventors of the coloured wood-cut, acquaintance with them not only proves that one keeps good company but may even be considered indispensable.

Trans. by E. T. Scheffauer.

