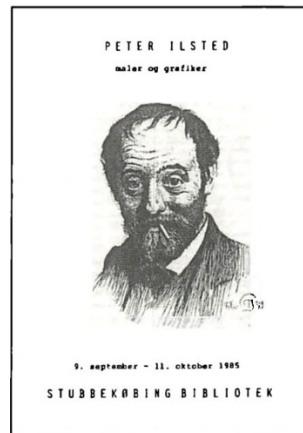


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STUBBEKØBING

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The artist Peter Ilsted

by Ulla Jensen

This depiction of Peter Ilsted, Stubbekøbing's famous son, is the result of a great admiration for his visual arts. In September 1985, Stubbekøbing had the great pleasure of presenting a large number of works by such an outstanding artist as Peter Ilsted. The exhibition was arranged by librarian Jørgen Clausen and showed, in addition to the library's own collection of Peter Ilsted's pictures and prints, and paintings that were borrowed from private owners in the local area. The exhibition was a wonderful experience, where one could admire many pictures from the artist's home region, to which he was very attached. There were also portraits of his parents, the merchant couple J. P. Ilsted and his wife Johanne Sophie, his sister Ida and his wife Ingeborg Lovisa, and paintings from Lundeskolen, Torkilstrup Church and many works from Liselund Castle on Møn.

Ilsted was a master at creating the individual fine effect between light and shadow and had a knack for capturing the expression in his subjects' faces. Peter Ilsted was born in Saksøbing on February 14, 1861, the son of merchant Jens Peter Ilsted and his wife Johanne Sophie Lund, daughter of master painter Lund in Stubbekøbing. In 1863 the family moved to Vestergade 36, Stubbekøbing, where his father took over Johan Wied's merchant farm and malting plant.

After school in Stubbekøbing, Peter Ilsted took the preliminary examination at the University of Copenhagen at the age of 16, after which he began an apprenticeship as a painter. However, this only lasted a short time, as after 8 months of apprenticeship he was admitted to the Danish Academy of Fine Arts. At the Academy, Ilsted met the painter Vilh. Hammershøi, with whom he became friends, and this friendship has undoubtedly had great significance and inspiration for Ilsted's artistic expression. In 1891, Vilh. Hammershøi was married to Peter Ilsted's sister Ida, so in addition to being friends, they are now also related. After five years, Ilsted graduated from the Academy in 1883. In 1890, he received the Academy's smaller gold medal for the painting "Psyche with the lamp in her hand approaches the sleeping Cupid to kill him", after which he traveled through Europe for two years in a row to Egypt and Palestine and back through Spain and Paris. After that, the trips became shorter, but in the following years he visited Scotland, England, Spain, France, Holland and Morocco, all documented through his sketchbooks. In November 1898, Lunde School was closed. The buildings and the accompanying plot were auctioned off by Aastrup Parish Council on 16 February 1900. The buyer was Peter Ilsted. At the parish council meeting on 14 June 1900, it was decided that parts of the old school furniture should belong to the painter Ilsted. The Ilsted family used Lundeskolen as a summer residence for a number of years, and a large part of his landscape paintings were created here.

Despite a fine production of paintings, it was the etcher and graphic artist Peter Ilsted who was truly recognized. More than fifty etchings, mainly executed between 1882 and 1904, exist from his hand, but it was especially black art (mezzotint art) that became his great interest.

With meticulous care and skillful technique, he has produced up to 100 black and white art prints, some in color. Peter Ilsted experienced great international recognition during his lifetime and has exhibited his works throughout most of Europe. His works have also attracted attention in recent times. In 1999, the Lumley Cazalet Gallery in London held a large exhibition of color graphics made with the Mezzotint technique, where Peter Ilsted was represented with several works. Fuglsang Art Museum has also used Peter Ilsted's art in its exhibitions. The artist lived on Gl. Kongevej in Copenhagen from 1889 until his death in 1933, and his grave is located in the family gravesite at Stubbekøbing cemetery.

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