



## **Nora Lavrin 1897-1985**

### **Artist, engraver**

Born in Liverpool, Nora was the daughter of Ambrose Fry and Lily Thompson, she was an accomplished artist and dry point illustrator who also used oil and water colours. She exhibited in England and became well known as children's books and literary work's illustrator. She was married to Janko Lavrin (Slovene) a well-known literary critic, a professor at the University of Nottingham and was the sister of Maxwell Fry, a distinguished architect and urban planner.

She began her career as a children's books illustrator in 1938. She collaborated with Elisabeth Kyle, Averil Demuth, and Nottingham's Hilda Lewis - 'A Ship that Flew' being perhaps her best known illustration collaborations.

The most accomplished of her children's books is 'The Hop Dog', written with Molly Thorp and fully illustrated by Nora. This book was used as the base for a film by the same name. Her 'Jugoslav Scenes' Dry Points, was published in 1935 and contains 45 original dry points of the country's coastline, churches, towns and people at the time. The Imperial War Museum holds two of her works, done during the second World War years. Diaries and sketches of her visits to Yugoslavia are held at the Ashmolean Museum. In her late years she illustrated works by Yugoslav authors and translations of Thomas Hardy into Slovene.

Nora is also the author of 'D.H. Lawrence: Nottingham Connections', a personal memoir of her friendship with Jessie Chambers, a friend from his youth and one of D.H Lawrence's characters portrayed in '*Sons and Lovers*', and Frieda Weekley (née Baroness von Richthofen), his mistress and wife. She illustrated this book, which appeared in 1986 one year after her death. A full bibliography of her works was compiled by W. Connelly and appeared in *Ibis*, a publication of the Imaginative Book Society in Vol. 13 (Winter) 1999-2000.