

C. G. BOERNER

DEALERS IN FINE ART SINCE 1826

Distraction / Abwechslung

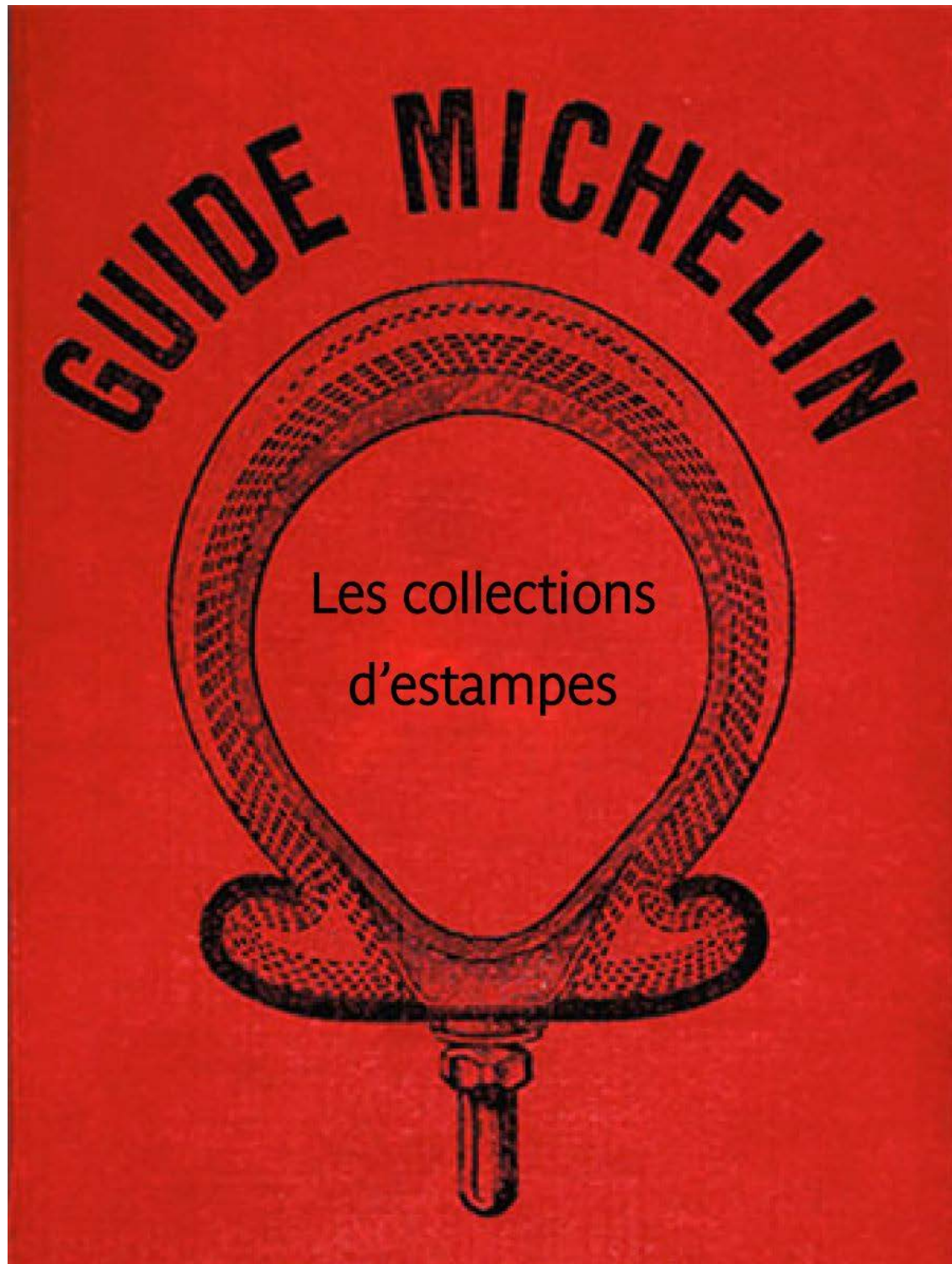
3 November 2021

Some of my *Abwechslungen* that clogged up your inbox over the last year and a half hoped to entice you to visit print fairs. Given the circumstances, all of them had to be online events. Sending an invitation via email to look at non-digital artworks on an online platform was hence somewhat a double contradiction in terms. The situation was especially egregious for old master prints since there is hardly any other area of the art market that is so very dependent on the personal inspection of the original. A shout-out is due, therefore, to our colleagues Lesley Hill and Alan Stone who, back in the spring, had the foresight to rally like-minded dealers together to join them in renting rooms or small suites at New York's Pierre Hotel.



The timing was somewhat predetermined by The Art Show, organized by the Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) and the only art fair taking place I[n] R[eal] L[ife] on Manhattan's tony Upper East Side this fall. Sadly, nobody could predict when the US government, in its eternal wisdom, would lift the travel ban for Europeans. When the date of November 8 was finally announced, this turned out to be a week too late to allow, among others, Brigitta Laube from Zurich, Didier and Anne Martinez from Paris, and Petra Rumbler and Michael Weis from Frankfurt to come, all of whom had been eager to join us and will be much missed.

The seventeen print dealers that will ultimately set up shop this week can still provide a fair representation of the old master and secondary market sector. For this, we hope to be awarded the equivalent of Michelin stars in the "print nerd's delight" rankings.



Surely, the absence of online viewing rooms alone will automatically earn us a first star (*); for everyone who happens to be in town, *Prints at the Pierre* definitely deserves a detour (**=*vaut le detour*); for all others, we promise to try our best to make our gathering actually worth your trip (**=*vaut le voyage*). And instead of logging into a virtual booth (and then being pestered with algorithmically generated offers for decades to come), all you need to do is step into one of New York's most august hotels. However, in case anyone still feels hesitant or suffers from some *Schwellenangst* to do so—you may be able to easily overcome this by switching the alliteration in the event's title in your mind to *Haggling at the Hotel...*

The onus is on us dealers now to get ready and make our beds (which here means covering them with prints) so that we can welcome all of you starting Thursday, November 4, from 11 am. "Visiting hours" are 11 am to 6 pm through Sunday, November 7, and, to accommodate the rush of art-starved print lovers on the first day, until 9 pm on Thursday.



... as seen in (and clipped from) the New York the Times ... (so it must be true)

We all look forward to seeing you soon, and please make sure to bring proof of your vaccination and wear a mask—to protect yourself and as a sign of respect for others.

