

## Whistler etchings come to LACMA

By Hunter Drohojowska

A group of 53 etchings by the 19th century American artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler has been acquired by the L.A. County Museum of Art. The etchings were given by Julius L. and Anita Zelman, bringing the museum's total to 77 — one of the finest collections of Whistler etchings in the country. Julius Zelman is chairman of the Graphic Arts Council.

More than half the donated etchings were on view in the museum's summer exhibition "Drawing Near: Whistler Etchings From the Zelman Collection," which is now traveling around the nation.

Among the finest examples in the group is an expressive dry-point study of Whistler's model, Jo, titled "Weary," and a classical rendering, "The Model Resting." "Under Old Battersee Bridge" reveals Whistler to be influenced by aspects of Japanese prints. "The Palaces" is the largest etching the artist ever made.

Dr. Earl A. Powell III, director of the museum, said Whistler has been the primary focus of the Zelmans' activity as collectors. "They bought only the finest impressions they could get their hands on at any point in time. The etchings are of extraordinary quality and represent all phases of his career. We now have one of finest collections of Whistler graphics anywhere in the country — indeed, in the world. I think it's nice to see that a collection formed in L.A. is coming to L.A."