



# CALIFORNIA IN RELIEF

THIRTY WOOD ENGRAVINGS BY

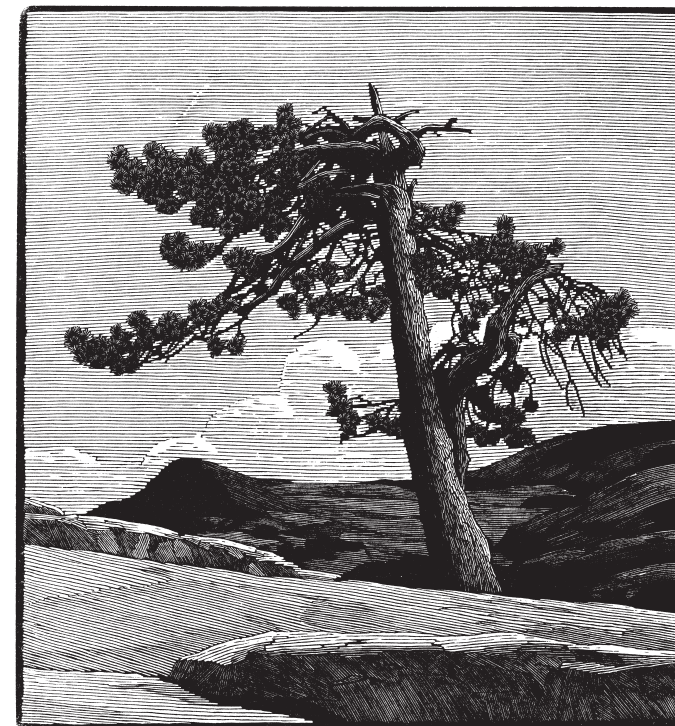
*Richard Wagener*

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO 2009

Working in the demanding medium of wood engraving, artist Richard Wagener has created a visual itinerary of his wanderings throughout California in his brilliant new work, *California in Relief*. Composed of thirty original prints and Wagener's short prose pieces describing them, *California in Relief* begins and ends in Los Angeles, with stops in the San Jacinto Mountains, the Antelope Valley, Sonoma County and the Sierra Nevada. Like John Muir and Gary Snyder, Richard Wagener is a wanderer, explorer and observer of California, creating a poetry of place through both words and images, all born of actual experience.

Not since Paul Landacre mastered the aesthetic and technical challenges of wood engraving in the early twentieth-century has any California artist achieved prominence in the medium until Richard Wagener began to explore it in the 1980s. His previously published illustrated books have won wide acclaim for their ingenuity and beauty, and The Book Club of California is pleased to be the publisher of this magnificent work. Wagener's images of nature—his stately Sierra trees, stark peaks and rocky crags—and his urban architectural monuments—the Pantages Theater and the Griffith Observatory—combine to make this work a deeply personal record of distinctive California locations. Wagener's technical skill is such that the images shimmer, jewel-like, concise renditions in black and white of sunlight and shadow, landscape and sky.

Renowned letterpress printer Peter Rutledge Koch designed, and produced the work, and Richard Wagener has printed the wood engravings himself. The edition is limited to 300 copies and each copy is signed and numbered by the artist.



*California in Relief* was designed and produced in an edition of three hundred numbered copies by Peter Rutledge Koch with the assistance of Jonathan Gerken and Shanna Mahan for the Book Club of California. The introduction is by Victoria Dailey. Five artist's proofs, designated A/P and five printer's proofs designated P/P are reserved. The wood engravings were printed by Richard Wagener. The typeface, DTL Elzevir, designed by Gerard Daniëls, is a 20th century version of a 17th century Dutch design cut by Christoffel van Dijck (1601-1669). The text is printed letterpress from polymer plates by Peter Koch on Zerkall Büttenpapier. The binding is by BookLab II with slipcases provided by Cloverleaf Studio. Each book is numbered and signed by the artist.

The price is \$375 plus applicable California sales tax and shipping charges. Please fill out the enclosed form to place an order, or you may call, fax or email the club.

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