HANS TEGNER

(Copenhagen, 1853 - Fredensborg, 1932)

Benjamin Franklin and the kite experiment

inscribed on mount: *HANS TEGNER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*; label on verso: *The drawing has been loaned out for reproduction in books and periodicals* [translation]

pen and black ink and watercolour

230 x 140 mm

This drawing illustrates Benjamin Franklin's fabled kite experiment, the goal of which was to demonstrate that lightening and electricity were the result of the same phenomenon. A kite with a wire attached to the top was flown near thunder clouds in order to collect and conduct electricity. Electricity passed down the kite's string to a metal key which produced a spark when the negative charges in the key were attracted to the positive charges in Franklin's hand.

Hans Tegner was a Danish artist and illustrator best known for his illustrations of literary works, such as Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales and Stories, and his work for the Bing & Grøndahl porcelain manufacturers. Tegner's clear style and edifying tenor engendered a number of national commissions, including designs for the first 5-Danish krone note in 1898 and the postage stamp.