

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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The Museum of Modern Art has created a permanently endowed lectureship named in honor of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, it was announced yesterday (May 31) by A. Conger Goodyear, Trustee and former President of the Museum, at a dinner given by the trustees at the Museum. Mr. Barr will be the recipient as long as he wishes, General Goodyear said, and thereafter the lectureship will be awarded to other distinguished scholars selected by a committee appointed by the Museum trustees. The endowment fund to make the lectureship permanent was contributed by trustees and friends.

The trustee dinner was attended by more than 50 well-known collectors of modern art who have lent pictures to the exhibition PAINTINGS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS which opens to the public tomorrow (June 2). The exhibition, the final major show in the Museum's 25th Anniversary Year, was organized by Mr. Barr.

Mr. Barr has been associated with the Museum since its inception in 1929 and served as its first director from 1929 to 1943. As Director of Museum Collections he has a special responsibility for the Painting and Sculpture Collection. He is an internationally known scholar and is considered one of the foremost authorities in the field of modern art. He is the author of many outstanding Museum publications and has edited more than 30 Museum catalogs and organized more than 100 Museum exhibitions.

In announcing the Lectureship, General Goodyear said:

"We would be greatly remiss if we let this Anniversary Year go by without honoring the man who has served it with such unselfish devotion. I am very happy to tell you that many of the trustees and other of his friends have established and endowed The Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Lectureship as a continuing memorial of our esteem and affection. The trustees' committee in charge has decided that Alfred Barr shall be the recipient of the Lectureship as long as he is willing.

"Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum, and the entire staff, Alfred, join with the trustees and the donors in asking me to tell you how happy and proud they are that this lectureship has been established in your name."

General Goodyear also said,

"I think we are apt to forget some of Alfred's major contributions to the building of this institution. We all know that he is chiefly responsible for bringing together here the best collection of modern art in the world. We are well aware that he has been author and editor of over thirty of the Museum's catalogs and has written most of our other important publications. But we must recognize also that it is due to this persistent insistence that we are the first museum to admit the moving picture and photography to the company of the Fine Arts. With Philip Johnson he established our architectural department and was first to point out in exhibition the importance of design in machines and in the things with which we all have daily contact - our chairs and tables, glass ware and kitchen utensils. Under Alfred's leadership too the influence of modern art has been carried far beyond these walls through our travelling exhibitions and the circulation of major shows to other museums. The exhibition you are about to see was chosen by him and so is a tribute to him."

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The lectureship does not stipulate an annual paper, but the Museum does plan to publish the lectures as they are given.

A. Conger Goodyear was introduced by William A. M. Burden, President of the Museum, who paid tribute to his contribution as well as Mr. Barr's:

"At the end of our 25th Anniversary Year it seems appropriate to pay special tribute to two men who have been with the Museum since its inception and who have each done so much to formulate its policies. General Goodyear, advisor to the Museum's founders, its president for the first and crucial decade, has been a continually active and generous trustee, serving with distinction on more than a dozen trustee committees."

Mr. Burden also thanked the lenders for making the exhibition, PAINTINGS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS possible and said that he was happy to report that the Anniversary Year was extremely successful.
