

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARTIGUE, an exhibition of 46 recently re-discovered works (1905-1922) by the French artist, will be on view at the Museum of Modern Art from July 1 through the summer. The photographs of Jacques Henri Lartigue record scenes of Paris, the nearby race tracks, resorts, early automobiles and aeronautics, and the fashionable costumes and pastimes of the World War I period. The exhibition was selected from the Museum Collection by John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography.

Lartigue, who lives and paints in Paris and in Opio, near Grasse, was born outside Paris in 1896. He made his first photographs at the age of six with a tripod camera a head taller than himself. The next year he was given a new high-speed hand camera, and by 1905 was making unposed photographs of his prosperous and stylish family. His father Henri was a banker; his grandfather Alfred (called Delacour) was one of the inventors of the monorail system, and also a dramatist; his brother Maurice designed and built gliders and powered aircraft as early as 1908.

On the exhibition wall label, Mr. Szarkowski writes that Lartigue's work "is remarkable both as a document of the time and as a photographic achievement. Lartigue intuitively grasped the new potentials of the hand camera. His pictures, concerned with movement and the continually changing image it creates, suggest the work done a quarter century later by Cartier-Bresson, yet they were done during the same years in which Eugene Atget documented Paris with the techniques and photographic approach of the nineteenth century."

Lartigue's photographic style was fully defined before he began his formal art training, at the Academie Julian. By the end of World War I, painting had become his primary interest, and his work in this medium was widely exhibited in France between the two wars, most notably in 1939 at the Galerie Charpentier.

"Today," Mr. Szarkowski says, "Lartigue's photographs seem an astounding prediction of things that were to come. With an artist's eye, and a mind free of artistic theories, he made photographs with the graphic directness and the poetic observation which characterize the best miniature camera work of a generation later."

The exhibition was installed in the Museum's second-floor photography alcove by Joseph Del Valle. The photographs were acquired by the Museum Collection with the cooperation of Charles Rado of Rapho-Guillumette.

Photographs and additional information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Director, Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, New York. CI 5-8900.