

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart
MRS. DONALD B. STRAUS -- BIOGRAPHY

NO. 129
FOR RELEASE:
NOVEMBER 10, 1971

Mrs. Donald B. Straus, outgoing President of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, will continue her service to the Council in a new capacity as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee. A Trustee of The Museum of Modern Art since 1959, Mrs. Straus became a member of The International Council in 1958 and assumed the post of President in 1965. In 1966 she travelled to Japan for the opening at the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo of Two Decades of American Painting, the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of contemporary American painting ever to be shown in Japan. The exhibition was organized in New York by The Museum of Modern Art under the auspices of The International Council. During that period, Mrs. Straus lived in Japan for a month and travelled extensively throughout the country. Under her leadership, The International Council began to place more emphasis on bringing exhibitions from abroad to this country and on the dissemination of American art beyond Europe to Latin America, India, Japan, Australia and Africa. During the latter part of her tenure as President, the thrust for the 1970s was established with increasing emphasis on exhibitions and other projects which are international in content, and on the exchange of artists, curators and other professionals.

Mrs. Straus is a member of the following Museum Trustee Committees: Membership, Prints and Illustrated Books, Education, Committee to Study Afro-American, Hispanic and other Ethnic Art and Chairman of the House Committee.

In addition to her interest in the arts, Mrs. Straus is a member of the Board of Managers and Chairman of the Grounds Committee for the New York Botanical Garden. In 1970 she was appointed by Mayor Lindsay to the New York Cultural Council and is also on the Advisory Committee for the Arts for

(more)

NO. 129

Bennington College and the Bank Street School. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Arts of the New Jersey State Museum, and was appointed last year to the American Committee of the Instituto Torcuato di Tella.

Mr. and Mrs. Straus live in a New York town house filled with flowers, antique furniture and modern paintings, sculpture and prints. Weekends they spend in the country in New Jersey. The Strauses have travelled extensively in the Far East, Europe and Latin America.

Born in San Francisco, California, Elizabeth Allen Straus was graduated from Stamford University magna cum laude and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She is married to Donald B. Straus, President of The American Arbitration Association. They have three children, David, Robert and Sally.

* * * * *

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY, 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7504

* * * * *