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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

142
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGEST LIBRARY IN COUNTRY DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO MODERN
ART OPENED TO PUBLIC

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that its Library will be opened to the public for the first time November 1. Library hours will be from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. every day except Sundays and holidays. The Librarian is Beaumont Newhall.

The entire Library comprises more than 6,500 books and pamphlets in many languages and is the largest in this country devoted exclusively to modern art, including the art and history of the motion picture. It was founded in 1932 by a gift from A. Conger Goodyear of a collection of books, pamphlets, exhibition catalogs and periodicals on modern art. Subsequent gifts from Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr., in the field of architecture, and from Edward M. M. Warburg were sufficient to guarantee the importance of the Library and to give it a claim to uniqueness. In 1936 Walter P. Chrysler, Jr., gave the Library the rarest and most complete collection of literature pertaining to the Surrealist movement.

The section of the Library devoted to motion pictures includes almost 1,500 titles of books and pamphlets in every major language. There are also files of some 50 film journals, including technical, trade and "fan" magazines. Of particular interest is the Library's collection of early Biograph and Griffith material. This includes such important documents as the original Biograph release notices and a complete collection of D. W. Griffith's scrap-books of press clippings on all his films after 1914. This section also has a large collection of stills, including a very extensive set from Thomas H. Ince productions and books of production shots and stills in the Douglas Fairbanks collection.

In announcing the opening of the Library to the public, John E. Abbott, Executive Vice-President of the Museum, said: "For seven years our Library has been an important department of the

Museum, invaluable to curatorial members of the staff who do constant research work there. Although it has heretofore not been open to the general public, its material and services have been used by a great number of special students, editors, authors, publishers, collectors, college professors, radio commentators and people in other occupations who want information on various aspects of modern art. Innumerable questions are answered daily by telephone, personal interview and letter, some requiring several days of research before the answer can be obtained.

"It is therefore very gratifying to be able to open our Library to the public. Until we moved into our new home, this was not possible as our previous quarters had always been too crowded. Now, however, we have long, well-lighted tables for general readers and several cubicles for serious research students. Each of these cubicles is fitted up with a small desk, drawer and shelf space and individual light. There it is possible for the research worker to use his own typewriter and arrange his material, secure in the knowledge that he will neither be disturbed nor disturb others. By making our Library available to anyone interested in modern art, the Museum is fulfilling its double purpose of being not only a place of interest to the great public but a source of inspiration and knowledge to the scholar."

The Library covers the following classifications of 20th Century art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Drawing, Prints, Photography, Moving Pictures, Typography, Illustrated books, Theatre Arts, and Industrial Art, including furniture, rugs and interior decoration. The Library contains 349 periodical titles including many runs of rare magazines such as "De Stijl," "Bauhaus," "i 10," "Das Neue Frankfurt," "391," "Camera Work," "Esprit Nouveau," "La Révolution Surréaliste," and "Dada." It also includes extensive files of clippings, gallery leaflets, photographs and other documents on above fields.

It has more than 140 books on Photography including the only copy in America of Andrew Elliott's publication of carbon prints of famous negatives by David Octavius Hill, pioneer portrait photographer. Biographies of modern artists in the Library include:

- 36 books on Picasso
- 30 books on van Gogh
- 30 books on Cézanne
- 24 books on Gauguin, including the facsimile of his Noa Noa
- 20 books on Matisse

144

One of the Library's most popular services is the rental of lantern-slides. More than 3,100 slides, largely of painting and architecture, have been acquired and are available to teachers and lecturers in New York City at the moderate fee of one dollar a week per 50 slides.

In the film section of the Library the largest single classification is Technical, with some 200 books and 50 pamphlets devoted to the theoretical and practical aspects of film making. Biography is second in size, including about 150 books. The individual in moving pictures most often written of is apparently Charlie Chaplin. There are 16 books on him, in English, French, Russian, Spanish and German.

One unusual feature of the film section of the Library is a large collection of novels: those with a film studio or film industry background, and those that have been written from films. There is also an interesting section containing novels written by people who have made films. The greatest number of foreign titles are in Russian, with French second. Russia publishes a great quantity of pamphlets on the film, principally theoretical and critical. France's contributions are predominantly in the field of critical biography.

New acquisitions of books and magazines on modern art will be announced from time to time. The Library is fortunate in having many friends interested in the Museum who contribute valuable material from their own libraries. Even a single copy of some art magazine that has suspended publication will sometimes prove invaluable by completing a run of the magazine. Mr. Newhall, the Librarian, urges people to think twice before they throw away out-of-date periodicals or books on modern art.