

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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**JOHN HAY WHITNEY SUCCEEDS NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
AS PRESIDENT OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

John Hay Whitney has been elected President of the Museum of Modern Art, it was announced yesterday (Thursday, January 9, 1941) by Stephen C. Clark, Chairman of the Board, following a meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Whitney, one of the country's leading collectors of modern art, has frequently lent paintings to exhibitions at the Museum and elsewhere throughout the country. As President he succeeds Nelson A. Rockefeller whose resignation the Board accepted with great regret at the same meeting.

"Mr. Rockefeller, who has served as President of the Museum since May 1939," Mr. Clark said, "finds it necessary to relinquish the presidency because of his work as Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics. The duties of that office, to which he was appointed by President Roosevelt in August of last year, require him to spend most of his time in Washington. It is for this reason, primarily, that he will not be able to continue his work as President of the Museum."

Mr. Whitney is well known in public and business life as well as through his long association with the Museum. He is serving as Chairman of the Motion Picture Division of the office of the Coordinator of Commercial and Cultural Relations between the American Republics. Since 1934 he has been Chairman of the Board of the Freeport Sulphur Company and is a director of several other corporations.

In September 1930, the year following the founding of the Museum, Mr. Whitney was elected a Trustee and in 1935 became First Vice-Chairman of the Board. In 1935 he also became the first President of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, established as a department of the Museum with the aid of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. He will retain this office, it was announced

yesterday.

"The Film Library under Mr. Whitney's guidance," Mr. Clark said, "has become one of the Museum's most widespread and important activities with the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of noteworthy motion pictures. Its collection includes 1,900 films, totalling 16,150,000 feet; 15,000 stills; and 1,875 books. The Film Library has developed an organization which circulates films on a non-profit, non-commercial basis to more than 300 universities, colleges, schools, museums and study groups throughout the United States and Canada."

In accepting the presidency Mr. Whitney said, "The Museum of Modern Art in its first eleven years has made a noteworthy record for widening public appreciation of modern art. I welcome the opportunity that has been given me to help in this work.

"The Museum believes that modern art is a living thing which belongs to all the people, and we have attempted to show how wide the range of modern art's expression is today.

"As President of the Museum I shall not, of course, diminish my interest in the Film Library, but hope rather to participate increasingly in all the Museum's other activities. But my chief objective will be to do what I can to establish the Museum even more firmly as a center for the ever increasing number of Americans who know and love the art of our time."

John Hay Whitney, born August 17, 1904, Ellsworth, Maine; graduated from Yale in 1926; President of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library; Chairman of the Board of Freeport Sulphur Company; Director, Pan American Airways; Director, Great Northern Paper Company; Board of Governors of the New York Hospital.

Clubs: Knickerbocker Club, Racquet and Tennis Club, Cloud Club.