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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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The public has disagreed with the judges in the vote for the most beautiful object in the Exhibition of Machine Art which opened at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, six weeks ago. On the opening day of the Exhibition, a committee of three distinguished judges--Miss Amelia Earhart, Professor John Dewey, and Professor Charles R. Richards, met at the Museum to select the three objects which, in their opinion, most completely exemplified Plato's definition of beauty, around which the entire Exhibition was built. The definition, which is posted in a conspicuous place in the Museum, reads: "By beauty of shapes I do not mean, as most people would suppose, the beauty of living figures or of pictures, but, to make my point clear, I mean straight lines and circles, and shapes, plane or solid, made from them by lathe, ruler and square. These are not, like other things, beautiful relatively, but always and absolutely."

The objects chosen by the committee of judges were: first choice, section of a large steel spring made by the American Steel & Wire Company.; second choice, aluminum outboard propeller made by the Aluminum Company of America; third choice, self-aligning ball-bearing made by S K F Industries. Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, judged the Exhibition by catalog from Washington. Her choices were a smaller spring made by the American Steel & Wire Co., the outboard propeller that was also the second choice of the other judges, and a brass plumb bob manufactured by Eugene Dietzgen Co., Inc.

Balloting was then opened to the public, which responded with enthusiasm. Individual decision was apparently uninfluenced by the choice of the judges, for the aluminum outboard propeller second in the judges' list was eighth in the estimation of the public, and the third choice of the judges --the self-aligning ball-bearing-- placed fourth in the popular vote.

The object highest in public favor was a triple mirror for light signals manufactured by Carl Zeiss, Inc. It is eleven inches in height and looks like a slightly irregular triangular prism, amber-

toned and notched at three corners. The construction is such that when one looks into the exact center a beautiful and intricate pattern appears which is, however, merely a multiple reflection of the notched corners. The triple mirror is used as a safety device at sea. It is placed on buoys in dangerous channels and as the ship's lights play over the water they are caught by the mirror and reflected back to the bridge, warning of danger. The mirror is also used as a safety measure on railroads. In the public balloting the mirror received nearly seven hundred votes, the women's votes outnumbering the men's in ratio of three to two.

The second choice was a large boat propeller of highly polished bronze, made by the Electric Boat Co. With a spread of twenty-eight inches, its three shining metal blades give it the semblance of a huge golden shamrock. The ballots cast for it were 350, the women outnumber the men nearly two to one.

The third choice was voted largely by men -- an aluminum aeroplane propeller made by the Hamilton-Standard Propeller Corp. Men again outnumbered women in the fourth choice, the self-aligning ball-bearing which was the third choice of the judges. The ratio of four women to one man, however, held in the fifth choice, a lavatory panel of the Arco Panel Unit System manufactured by the American Radiator Co. The sixth choice, an electrochef range made by Electromaster Inc., and the seventh choice, a Streamline Monel metal sink made by the International Nickel Co., Inc., had twice as many feminine as masculine votes.

On the eighth choice men and women united, with an even vote; it was the aluminum outboard propeller that was second choice of the judges. Women again predominated in the ninth selection-- an electric clock by the Herman Miller Clock Co. But the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth choices were overwhelmingly masculine. They were respectively a binocular microscope by Carl Zeiss, Inc., steel balls for ball bearings by S K F Industries, and a porcelain wall bushing made by the Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co.

The Exhibition of Machine Art closes April 30 and the winners of the "beauty contest" will be on special display until then.