

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

SARAH NEWMAYER, PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

May 5, 1943

TO Art Editors
City Editors

Dear Sirs:

You are invited to come or send a representative to

Press Preview of three small
exhibitions:

WAR CARICATURES
by Hoffmeister and Peel

FIVE PANELS
by Stanley Spencer

FAVORITES IN MODERN ART
an exhibition in the Young People's Gallery

Tuesday, May 11
2 to 6 P.M.

at the Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street

The exhibitions will open to the public Wednesday, May 12.

For further information please telephone me at Circle 5-8900.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Newmeyer
Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

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11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS EXHIBITION OF WAR CARICATURES
BY CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ARTISTS

Dr. Eduard Beneš, President of Czechoslovakia, will attend an exhibition of war caricatures by two of the most celebrated political cartoonists of his country, opening at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, Wednesday, May 12. The exact date of his visit to the exhibition is not settled but it will be shortly after his arrival in the United States to see President Roosevelt. The war caricatures, by Adolf Hoffmeister and A. T. Peel, are being shown at the Museum for the first time anywhere. About forty in number, they constitute a savagely brilliant attack on the Axis partners, principally the Nazis, impaling them on barbs of ridicule. The exhibition will remain on view through July 11 and will then be sent on a tour of other museums and art galleries by the Museum's Circulating Exhibitions Department.

Two other small exhibitions will also open to the public on May 12. In the auditorium gallery will be shown five large panels by Stanley Spencer, one of the foremost contemporary English painters. Paintings by New York City High School students which embody impressions of their favorite works of art in the Museum's Collection will be exhibited in the Young People's Gallery on the third floor.

War Caricatures by Hoffmeister and Peel

Adolf Hoffmeister, born in 1902 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, started to write and paint when he was sixteen. His first book of poetry was published in Prague in 1921 and his first caricatures appeared in daily papers in Czechoslovakia in 1925, the year in which he was graduated as Doctor of Laws from Charles University in Prague.

A. T. Peel, born 1895 in Czechoslovakia, was graduated in 1916 from the Academy of Arts, Prague. He also studied for two years in France and in Germany. Many of his caricatures were published in the leading newspapers and magazines of Czechoslovakia and other countries.

Both Mr. Hoffmeister and Mr. Peel were members of the Executive Board of Mánes, foremost art society in Prague. In 1934 Mr. Hoffmeister organized the first international exhibition of caricatures, in which both he and Mr. Peel exhibited. The German Ambassador

protested against several of the drawings of each of these artists and asked their removal because he considered them offensive to Hitler. Hoffmeister, in particular, was denounced in German papers as an enemy of the Nazis. Both he and Mr. Peel fled from Czechoslovakia when Hitler took it over. Hoffmeister arrived in the United States in January 1941; Peel in the same year. Mr. Peel has had exhibitions of his work in Prague, Paris, Vienna, Moscow, Venice, Liege and Verviere, Belgium, and Dusseldorf, Germany. His works have been purchased by The State Gallery of Modern Art, Prague, The City Gallery of Prague, and the Museum of Modern Western Art, Moscow.

Mr. Hoffmeister has exhibited in Prague, Paris, Brussels, Venice, Moscow, and in Louisville, Kentucky. A number of albums of his caricatures have been published as well as fifteen books both written and illustrated by him. He has also illustrated books by G. K. Chesterton, George Bernard Shaw, and other authors.

Stanley Spencer

Stanley Spencer was born 1892 in Cookham-on-the-Thames, not far from London. He studied at the Slade School in London 1909 to 1912 and throughout the war served in the British Army, chiefly in Macedonia. Since then, although he has spent the greater part of his time in Cookham, he has travelled widely in Europe. His works are owned by the Imperial War Museum in London, the University of London, the Tate Gallery, the Pietermaritzburg Museum in South Africa, and the Museum of Modern Art.

James Thrall Soby, Assistant Director of the Museum of Modern Art, says of the artist:

"Stanley Spencer is one of the foremost contemporary English painters - very possibly the finest and most original of his generation in England. His paintings of the first world war established his fame, although the village of his birth has remained the central inspiration in his work. His father was the village organist and a deeply religious man who read daily to his children from the Bible. Cookham, the Bible and music were dominating forces in Spencer's childhood and influenced him toward the secluded, visionary career he has followed as an artist. The devotional character of much of his work, the romantic intensity with which he has invested the village landscape of England - these are in the tradition, if not the style, of William Blake and Samuel Palmer respectively. His painting carries strong traces of the Pre-Raphaelite school and often shows the influence of contemporary School of Paris painters, particularly Picasso and Derain."

Three of the panels shown in the exhibition were executed for the Empire Marketing Board as designs for posters under the theme The Arts of Peace. The panel The Builders and the triptych Souvenir of Switzerland, also shown, were painted as private commissions.