

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Taste of a Connoisseur: The Paul J. Sachs Collection, a memorial exhibition of 100 drawings and 25 prints, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from December 21 through February 26. Presented in cooperation with the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts, the exhibition is a tribute to the late Professor and his long association with The Museum of Modern Art.

The works shown will include drawings by 15th and 16th century masters such as Pollaiuolo, Mantegna, Dürer, Holbein and Clouet, as well as by Rubens, Rembrandt, Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard, Tiepolo, Goya, Gericault, Delacroix and Corot. Three painters, Degas, Ingres and Picasso, will be represented by larger groups of drawings. Contemporary masters in the show include Matisse, Moore, Rivera, Shahn and Sheeler.

Professor Sachs, one of seven founders of The Museum of Modern Art in 1929, died at the age of 86 in February, 1965. His first service to The Museum of Modern Art was to nominate as its first Director a young man, Alfred H. Barr, Jr., whose chief scholarly work lay in the field of quattrocento drawings, among them the Fighting Nudes by Pollaiuolo included in the exhibition.

For three decades Professor Sachs continued to be Trustee, wise counsellor and generous friend to the Museum. In 1929 he gave the Museum its first acquisitions which were drawings and prints. Ten years later when the Museum opened its main building on 53rd Street, Professor Sachs delivered the principal address. He stressed the importance of scholarship, connoisseurship and standards. He also conceived that "the Museum of the Future ... a treasure house ... should embrace in addition to traditional and well understood museum functions those of study, teaching, reference and research."

In 1962 a special committee was named in honor of Professor Sachs to be specifically concerned with the complex of drawings and prints and in 1964, the

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Museum named its new galleries for drawings and prints in his honor.

At his death, Paul Sachs was Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Harvard University. He had been Associate Director for more than 20 years at Harvard's Fogg Museum, where he initiated and taught a notable museum course whose purpose was to produce what he described as the connoisseur-scholar. His students now serve as directors and curators in museums across the country including the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The recent accelerated development of the drawing collection of The Museum of Modern Art was advanced, in great measure, by the late John S. Newberry, a graduate of Harvard University where he studied art history under Paul J. Sachs. William S. Lieberman, Director of Drawings and Prints at The Museum of Modern Art was also a graduate student of Professor Sachs before joining the Museum staff in 1944.

Paul Sachs began to acquire drawings and prints before he entered Harvard in 1896. After graduation, he became a partner in one of the country's leading banking houses, but retired after a few years to become a professor of fine arts at Harvard. Eventually he built a famous private collection, most of it destined for the Fogg Art Museum. At his death he was an internationally renowned authority on drawings and prints.

Since 1928 Agnes Mongan, now Assistant Director as well as Curator of Drawings of the Fogg Art Museum, was intimately associated with Professor Sachs, his collection of drawings and their publication. A catalog of a memorial exhibition prepared by Miss Mongan for the Fogg Museum is now on sale at The Museum of Modern Art Bookstore.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director,
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