

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

531125-84

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 27, 1953

Rene d'Harnoncourt, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, will leave New York on Monday, November 30 at 11:30 a.m. for South America where he will make final arrangements for obtaining precious works of art to be sent to New York for a large exhibition ANCIENT ARTS OF THE ANDES which opens at the Museum of Modern Art the end of January. While in South America Mr. d'Harnoncourt will also install the United States section of the Biennale Art Exhibition opening at the Sao Paulo Museum of Modern Art in Brazil next month.

Mr. d'Harnoncourt will be in Lima, Peru, from December 14 through December 17 completing arrangements with the Peruvian government and private collectors for the loan of gold objects, elaborate tapestries, featherwork, delicate ceramics, painted wood and carved stone, bronze and silver objects which will be included in the exhibition.

Among the important collections Mr. d'Harnoncourt will visit is the museum on the estate of Don Rafael Larco Hoyle in Chiclin, near Lima. This museum contains more than 25,000 objects and is one of the most extensive collections of ancient Andean art in the world. Don Rafael, an expert in this field, has graciously agreed to lend some of them to the exhibition where they will be on public view for the first time.

The works of art, it is hoped, will be shipped to this country in late December and early January through the cooperation of Panagra. The exhibition will include between three and four hundred objects from Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica and Colombia as well as from Peru. In addition many of the objects are being sent to New York from public and private collections in the United States and in Europe.

More than 100 objects in the exhibition will be of gold as Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica and Colombia were the great gold producers and artisans of the ancient world in this hemisphere. An entire room will be paneled with gold plates and in another section of the galleries to be installed by Mr. d'Harnoncourt, an exhibition case 44 feet long will be filled with gold objects. Elaborate feather mantels, intricate jewelry of gold and silver, beautifully woven capes and wall hangings, headdresses, and inlaid ivory carvings are among the beautiful and priceless articles in the exhibition.