

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 60 B

UNITED STATES PAVILION XXVII Biennale, Venice

PRESS PREVIEW: FRIDAY June 18, 1954

FOR RELEASE: SATURDAY June 19, 1954

JAMES THRALL SOBY, who selected the exhibition of paintings, drawings and posters by Ben Shahn for the United States Pavilion at the 27th Biennale, is a well-known art scholar and critic. He has been a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art since 1943 and has directed several major exhibitions, including Salvador Dali, Tchelitchew, Georges Rouault and Ben Shahn. At the present time he is Chairman of the Trustee Committee on Museum Collections.

Mr. Soby was a member of the International Committee of Experts for the 26th Biennale in 1952.

Among the books Mr. Soby has written are "Romantic Painting in America," "Prints of Paul Klee," "Ben Shahn," "Contemporary Painters," and "Modigliani." He is coauthor with Alfred H. Barr, Jr. of "Twentieth Century Italian Art," and with Mr. Barr directed that exhibition at the Museum in 1949. The Museum of Modern Art will publish in the Fall his monograph on the early works of Giorgio de Chirico.

Mr. Soby is a contributing editor for the <u>Saturday Review of Literature</u>, an important publication in America dealing with letters and the arts, and a trustee of the Yale University Art Gallery. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1906.