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THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Three United States Ambassadors are among the new members of the International Council at the Museum of Modern Art, Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President, announced today following the group's spring meeting held in New York last week. John Hay Whitney, Ambassador to Great Britain, Amory Houghton, Ambassador to France, and James D. Zellerbach, Ambassador to Italy, are among a dozen new members who have joined the Council, the only agency in the country created exclusively for the purpose of sending exhibitions of art overseas and presenting to the public of the United States exhibitions of art from abroad. Total membership consists of about 65 art patrons and community leaders from various parts of the country. Mr. August Heckscher is Chairman of the Board.

Plans for two new exhibitions to be sent abroad were announced at the same time. They are an exhibition of modern Italian works of art in American collections, to open in Milan in 1959 and circulate to other major cities, and a show of graphic work by the American artist Ben Shahn to open in Amsterdam in the same year.

This brings to 20 the number of exhibitions circulating overseas or in preparation under the auspices of the International Council, including The New American Painting and Jackson Pollock: 1912 - 1956. In addition, the Council is also sponsoring the United States representation at the 29th Venice Biennale which will open on June 14.

Reports were also made on progress of other current activities including the furnishing of the main conference room in the new UNESCO headquarters, now under construction in Paris, and a large exhibition of design objects scheduled to open in India in the autumn.

The Council also announced it had received a grant of \$25,000 from the Avalon Foundation.

Other new members announced at the meeting are: Mme Philippe de Croisset (Paris), Mr. John S. Newberry (New York, Detroit), Mrs. Robert D. Graff (Far Hills, N. J.), Mrs. G. Macculloch Miller (New York), Mr. Duncan Phillips (Washington, D.C.), Mrs. Donald B. Straus (New York), Mrs. C. Law Watkins (Rockville, Md.) and Mr. Robert Woods Bliss (Washington, D. C.)

The International Council at the Museum of Modern Art was incorporated in 1956. In 1957 it assumed sponsorship of the International Program of the Museum of Modern Art, established in 1952 by a 5-year grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. In accordance with another 5-year agreement, signed by the Council, the Museum and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the International Program will continue and be expanded under the Council's sponsorship. Activities of the Council are supported by donations

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from individuals and organizations.

Under the direction of Porter A. McCray 51 exhibitions of painting, sculpture, prints, architecture and design have been prepared for international circulation in the period July 1, 1952 - December 31, 1957 by the International Program.

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, --
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