

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR RELEASE:

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The Museum of Modern Art is offering 20 Christmas cards this year priced from five cents to twenty cents.

New cards include Three Kings, a starkly simple rendering in green, red and blue of the traditional crown symbol for the Magi, designed by Ivan Chermayeff; an elegant green and red abstract design entitled Rite by Alexander Liberman; Ben Shahn's black and white serigraph, "Where the Sword is, the Book is not", beautifully scrolled words of wisdom recalling the Hebrew heritage of the season; and Angelo Lomeo's A Tree in Winter, a photograph of a lovely, lone tree in snow.

Other new selections this year are a green and red abstract design of playful color interchanges to delight the eye by the young painter Richard Anuskiewicz; Designs for Chessmen, a folding card reproducing chess pieces from the Museum design collection, by Marcel Duchamp; Saul Steinberg's witty drawing of Santa Claus Skating; and Imaï Takeshi's The Sun, in which black Chinese characters on a green and white background depict the cycle of the winter sun.

In addition, a 32-page Christmas booklet with the text and music of the old carol "Sweet Was The Song" illustrated with black and white drawings by Shahn is available for 35 cents.

Among the reproductions of paintings in the Museum Collection used for some cards are: Laughing Gothic, a humorous invocation of a usually somber artistic mode, by Paul Klee, one of the leading artists of the 20th century; April Snow, Salem, a favorite remembrance: the innocence and gaiety of a New England winter in a vibrant watercolor, by the American artist Maurice Prendergast; Christian Rohlf's Three Kings, a woodcut printed in dark red on white; and a bookmark, Color-Rhythm I by the South American Alejandro Otero - a lively and colorful way to keep one's place in Christmas gift books.

Others taken from private collections include a luminous painting of the Flight into Egypt as imagined by Odilon Redon, one of the great precursors of modern art; and Chartres Cathedral by the leading French painter Chaim Soutine, which reveals the majesty and grandeur of a great Gothic cathedral. A red, yellow and green reproduction of Juliet Kepes' Lion M.A. is a charming and gently satiric view of the "artist in his studio."

Among black and white cards are Ernst Barlach's Angel with a Horn, a drawing reminiscent of Renaissance heralding angels; Ap Sok's Provence, an unusual view of France's much-sung and sunny Provence by the sea; and photographs of Antoni Gaudi's famous Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona and Henry Moore's Family Group photographed in the Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden.

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Although the Museum galleries will close in December for the completion of the current building program, Christmas cards will be available at a temporary book counter on the ground floor.

The cards are also available by mail. An illustrated brochure containing an order form is sent free upon request. There is a minimum mail order of 25 cards per title. Museum members are entitled to a 25 percent discount on orders of \$3.00 or more.

The Christmas cards are selected by a committee from the Museum's Junior Council. The Council is made up of about 60 volunteers who organize and direct such special activities as the Museum's Art Lending Service and publication of the annual Appointment Calendar.

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Additional information available from Linda Goldsmith, Department, Public Information, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N.Y. CI 5-8900.