

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

No. 7

FOR RELEASE:

Saturday, January 13, 1968

David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Board of The Museum of Modern Art, announced today that William S. Paley has been elected President of the Museum as of September 1, 1968, succeeding Mrs. Bliss Parkinson.

At the same meeting Mrs. Parkinson, a Trustee since 1939, was elected a Vice Chairman of the Board, a post she held from 1962 until her election as President in 1965. Mrs. Parkinson will retain her membership on numerous committees and her chairmanship of the Personnel Committee.

"During Mrs. Parkinson's term of office," Mr. Rockefeller said, "Museum attendance and membership reached new heights. Among the accomplishments during this time were the transformation of the former Whitney Building adjacent to the Museum on 54th Street into an International Study Center, due to open this year, the successful search for a new Director, Bates Lowry, who will succeed René d'Harnoncourt July 1, and a vastly improved salary structure and pension plan for the Museum staff.

"Her willingness to continue in this job for another eight months and work with Mr. Paley and the Board on plans for the future is extremely gratifying to the Trustees and to the staff," Mr. Rockefeller said.

Mr. Paley, a Trustee of the Museum for thirty years and Vice Chairman of the Museum's Board for the past nine years, has been Chairman of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., since 1946. He is a Life Trustee of Columbia University, Chairman of the Board of Resources for the Future, Inc., Chairman of The Urban Design Council of the City of New York, established by Mayor Lindsay last year, Chairman of the Columbia University Committee of the Joint Administrative Board of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, a Director of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Development and Services Corporation and of the International Executive Service Corps, and a member of the Committee to Visit the Graduate School of Education of Harvard University. He is also a Director of The First Boston Corporation.

(more)

Since Mr. Paley became a Trustee of the Museum in 1937, he has served on the Museum's Finance and Executive Committees, the Program Committee, the 30th Anniversary Steering Committee and the Film Advisory Committee. He is currently Chairman of the Building Committee and a member of the Development and Membership Committee.

Mrs. Parkinson is a niece of Lillie P. Bliss, one of the original founders of the Museum in 1929 with Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Mrs. Cornelius Sullivan. Her stepfather, the late A. Conger Goodyear, was the first President of the Museum from 1929 until 1939. Mrs. Parkinson was the second woman in the Museum's history to hold that office; her predecessor was Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, who was President from 1959 until 1961.

Mrs. Parkinson was a charter member of the International Council of the Museum and served as its President from 1957 until 1965. As a Trustee she has served on numerous committees including, since 1958, the Collections Committee. Her own collection of modern art includes works by such well-known artists as Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, Josef Albers, Mark Tobey, Mark Rothko, Philip Guston and Loren MacIver.

In her letter of resignation, Mrs. Parkinson said that she had only intended to remain in the post for two years, but was happy to extend the term to three years and remain through the beginning of the reorganization of the Museum. "My association with the Museum began with the Advisory Committee in the late 30's," she said, "and will continue to be one of the most important parts of my life. I expect to participate in its future growth in every way I can."

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1922, during World War II Mr. Paley served overseas first with the Office of War Information, then, as a Colonel, he became Deputy Chief of the Psychological Warfare Division of General Eisenhower's Headquarters. Later he served with the occupation forces in Germany. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Medal for Merit and the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

(more)

In 1966 Mayor John V. Lindsay asked Mr. Paley to head a Task Force on Urban Design to help him "develop ways and means to create a more beautiful and habitable city." The Task Force report, entitled "The Threatened City," submitted in 1967, has resulted in a number of innovations in the city's approach to questions of design, including the creation of the Urban Design Council of the City of New York.

A recent contribution of Mr. Paley to the City is the Paley Park on East 53 Street, a memorial to his father, the late Samuel Paley.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.