

The Museum of Modern Art

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

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THE LILLIE P. BLISS INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

RESOURCES OF THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

In its new quarters on the fourth floor of the north wing, The Museum of Modern Art Library serves as an archive of contemporary art. Part of The Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center, the constantly expanding material in the library supplements the Museum's collection of original works of art and makes accessible to Museum staff and members, students, and scholars a wide variety of documents dealing with the arts since the late nineteenth century.

Approximately 25,000 titles in 16 languages are in the Museum library, including many books, periodicals, and catalogues not available in general or special libraries. Examples of important research volumes range from the crucial complete catalogue of Picasso's works to the facsimile edition of Gauguin's captivating Noanoa. Voyage de Tahiti, from Eisenstein's marked copy of Dreiser's An American Tragedy to a typescript of an unpublished text by Marsden Hartley. In addition, photocopies of scarce or unique items owned by libraries in other parts of the world may be consulted in microfilm.

In addition to 125 periodicals currently published here and abroad, copies of magazines no longer in print and some journals now hard to obtain are available in the enlarged reading room of the library. Thousands of exhibition catalogues from galleries and museums throughout the world are housed in a special mezzanine section consisting of "Full-Space" units recently designed by Lundia, Inc.

The newly developed Remington Rand Lektriever, an electrically operated revolving file that brings material to the researcher when he pushes a button, holds up-to-date clipping files on individual artists. Folders contain ephemeral materials by the thousands ranging from exhibition announcements and press releases to newspaper reviews, magazine clippings, small catalogues, cross-reference notices, and other relevant items.

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Another valuable resource of the library is the collection of scrapbooks of past exhibitions, such as one on the Armory Show of 1913 which contains photographs, press reviews, cartoons; in addition, official publications, photographs, post cards, the scarce poster, and the lapel button designed by Arthur B. Davies which was worn during the exhibition. In some instances, the library holds an exhaustive or complete record of an artist's activity, for example, ten volumes of Josef Albers' catalogues and clippings.

Another important scrapbook is devoted to the collection of documents assembled by Paul Eluard and André Breton during their editorial association, including exhibition data, as well as manuscripts on the Surrealist movement in Paris. A photocopy of stenographic minutes of the famous lawsuit involving duty-free entry into the United States of Brancusi's Bird in Flight, unpublished dissertations, such as William Seitz's Abstract Expressionist Painting in America written for Princeton University; letters from artists; transcripts of tapes from museum lectures and symposia; and rare documents preserved on microfilm are other kinds of material on deposit in the Museum library.

The library has set as a major goal the significant expansion of the "non-book" area that complements the standard printed texts; i.e., archival records, photographs, lantern slides, and, with the co-operation of other departments, related audio-visual materials, such as recordings and television kinescopes. It is undertaking a continuing program of central cataloguing of all the Museum's resources to expedite the task of research. As a major contribution to the objectives of the International Study Center, the library hopes eventually to participate in a program of comprehensive documentation of the total literature on the arts of the twentieth century.

The Museum library, open Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (except from Memorial Day to Labor Day), can be reached by using the elevator to the Museum's office entrance at 21 West 53 Street. Museum members can enter from the main elevator. The library contains a reading room, a card catalogue, and reference area with encyclopedias, directories, and indexes to

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periodicals. The general stacks - housing books, periodicals, and a vast collection of ephemeral material - are not open to the general public, but a staff of professionally trained librarians is available to assist readers and to handle special requests. Library materials are not circulated but are limited to use on the premises by both staff and public; however, a photocopier is located in the reading room for the convenience of library visitors.

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