

# The Museum of Modern Art

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

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MONROE WHEELER

Monroe Wheeler, Counsellor to the Trustees of The Museum of Modern Art, was a Trustee himself for twenty years, and is now an Honorary Trustee for Life. He was the Museum's Director of Exhibitions and Publications from 1940 until 1967.

Mr. Wheeler has directed or co-directed many major exhibitions for the Museum, including retrospectives of Rouault, Soutine, Bonnard, Matisse and Turner. He is also the author of a number of publications issued in connection with these and other exhibitions directed by him, notably Modern Painters and Sculptors as Illustrators, Modern Drawings, and Twentieth Century Portraits.

Under Mr. Wheeler's direction, the Museum published over 350 books on all the visual arts, known throughout the world for their excellence of layout and design, high level of scholarship, and faithful color reproductions. More than a score of these have received awards for design, and some have been translated into various foreign languages: French, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Serbo-Croatian, Japanese, and Russian. Exhibitions of Museum books have been held in more than 20 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Far East.

In 1967, Mr. Wheeler undertook the Chairmanship of the Museum's Committee on Drawings and Prints. As a member of the Museum's International Council, he directed the exhibition Cézanne to Miró, which the Council sent to Buenos Aires, Santiago, and Caracas, in the summer of 1968. The exhibition, the highest in attendance ever attained by a Museum exhibition in New York or elsewhere, was seen by 500,000 visitors during a period of ten weeks.

Monroe Wheeler was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1899, and was educated in Europe. He was co-founder and partner of the publishing firm of Harrison of Paris, which commissioned various writers and artists for its limited editions. He began directing exhibitions for The Museum of Modern Art in 1935, and during World War II he served as

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Chairman of the Committee on Publications for the Office of Inter-American Affairs under Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Mr. Wheeler is President of the International Graphic Arts Society, 1st Vice-president of the New York Genological and Biographical Society, and a Trustee of the Katherine Anne Porter Foundation. A former member of the Council of The Grolier Club, he headed its Publications Committee for six years. He is a Life Member of the French Institute of the United States, and in 1950 was awarded the Order of Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, in recognition of his "outstanding services to the cause of French contemporary art in the United States." He is also a member of the Advisory Board for Research and Graduate Education at Rutgers University, and a Trustee of the Association for the Arts of the New Jersey State Museum. He resides in Rosemont, New Jersey.

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