The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NO. 15

RARE PHOTOGRAPHS TO GO ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALFRED CAPEL-CURE, an exhibition of calotype prints from the mid-nineteenth century, will open at The Museum of Modern Art on April 3 in the third-floor Steichen Galleries. Approximately 40 photographs by the British amateur photographer, selected from one of two known albums of his work, as well as others from two private collections, will be included in the exhibition. Directed by Samuel J. Wagstaff, Jr., former curator of 20th century painting and sculpture at the Detroit Institute of Art, this exhibition will remain on view through June 28.

Alfred Capel-Cure was born in 1826, but little else is known about his life. His uncle, Robert H. Cheney, a watercolorist and amateur photographer, taught him what he knew about the process of photography, and in 1852 Capel-Cure started out on his own. He became a colonel in the Grenadier Guards and in 1855 was wounded in the Crimean War. Army recruits were recorded by his camera, but his favorite subjects were topographical views of the English countryside, and included studies of his country houses, Blake Hall and Badger Hall, churches, cathedrals and abbeys. He also made studies of his family and the local people.

Capel-Cure has emerged as a distinct talent from among the first

continued/

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, 212-956-6100 Cable: Modernart

generation of amateur photographers whose work has come to light in recent years. His work is imbued with a recognizable personality marked by a simplicity of style and a coherent vision. He succeeded in capturing the lyricism of his native landscape and the haunting beauty of its architecture.

In 1979, the Museum's Department of Photography received on extended loan and as a promised gift, one of the two known albums of prints by Capel-Cure. The album includes 185 calotype prints, the earliest photographic paper print, made from a paper negative.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALFRED CAPEL-CURE is made possible in part through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

3/81
For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director (212) 956-2648 or Angela Wigan, 956-7294, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019