

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****The Museum of Modern Art****PICTURES OF THE TIMES: A CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES**

June 27–October 8, 1996

An exhibition that reveals the diversity, vitality, and evolution of news photography in *The New York Times* opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 27, 1996. PICTURES OF THE TIMES: A CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM *THE NEW YORK TIMES* includes 150 black-and-white photographs of major world events, human-interest stories, and natural and man-made disasters, as well as politicians, celebrities, and sports figures. In conjunction with the exhibition, The New York Times Collection at the Museum is being established with a gift of 300 photographs from *The New York Times*.

PICTURES OF THE TIMES, which continues through October 8, 1996, is one of four exhibitions being organized at New York cultural institutions to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Adolph S. Ochs's purchase of *The New York Times*. The centennial celebration, titled "Adolph S. Ochs: The Man Who Changed The Times," features concurrent shows at the American Museum of Natural History ("Scientists and Journalists—One Story, Two Voices: A Century of Science Reporting at *The New York Times*"), The New York Public Library ("Headlines, Deadlines, Bylines: A Century of *The New York Times* Morgue, 1896–1996"), and The Pierpont Morgan Library ("Documenting The Times: Adolph S. Ochs and the Early Years of *The New York Times*"). The Centennial Celebration Chairperson is Susan W. Dryfoos, Director, New York Times History Productions. The Vice Chairperson is Arthur Gelb, President, The New York Times Company Foundation, and former Managing Editor of *The New York Times*.

"We are delighted to participate in this celebration of *The New York Times*'s anniversary," states Glenn D. Lowry, Director, The Museum of Modern Art, "and we are tremendously pleased that it initiates *The New York Times* Collection at The Museum of Modern Art."

Peter Galassi, Chief Curator, and Susan Kismaric, Curator, Department of Photography, working with staff at the Museum and at *The Times*, selected images for the exhibition from more than one million photographs (of the more than five million in *The New York Times* archive). "In subject, style, and date the pictures are enormously diverse," states Mr. Galassi, "but they all share the gripping immediacy that makes photography both an indispensable presence in the daily paper and a vital part of history."

Arranged chronologically, *Pictures of the Times* explores the twentieth century and the city of New York through the eyes of a distinguished newspaper. The images capture pivotal moments in history – the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald (1963) and a footprint on the moon (1969) – as well as everyday events in the life of the city. Vivid images of such figures as Hitler, Churchill, Houdini, Einstein, Coolidge, Nixon, and LaGuardia are presented among scenes of train wrecks, murders, beauty queens, Halley's Comet, and a close play at home plate. In other photographs, the Wright brothers circle the Statue of Liberty (1909), Russia's last czar strolls with his family (1916), a gaping hole made by an errant B-25 bomber mars the facade of the Empire State Building (1945), and citizens

of Sarajevo grieve over a fallen companion (1995).

The publication accompanying the exhibition, *Pictures of the Times: A Century of Photography from The New York Times*, features full-page reproductions of all of the photographs in the exhibition. Two essays and a chronology explore the rise of newspaper photography at the turn of the century, its ever more efficient technology, its role in the news, and such initiatives of *The New York Times* as the Wide World Photo syndicate.

A symposium in conjunction with the exhibition will be held Thursday, June 27, at The Museum of Modern Art.

For further information or photographic materials please contact the Department of Communications, 212/708-9750.

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