

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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RENE D'HARNONCOURT ELECTED DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Mr. John Hay Whitney, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Modern Art, announced that at the meeting of the Board yesterday, Mr. Rene d'Harnoncourt was unanimously elected Director of the Museum. Mr. d'Harnoncourt has been Chairman of the Museum's Co-ordination Committee and Director of its Curatorial Departments since 1947 and has thus held since that time a position analogous to that of Director.

The Co-ordination Committee, which has been the executive body of the Museum consisting of the heads of the Museum's six divisions, will continue to function under Mr. d'Harnoncourt's direction with Mr. Monroe Wheeler, Director of the Museum's Exhibitions and Publications, as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. d'Harnoncourt is widely known both here and abroad for his outstanding work as director of such exhibitions as "Indian Art of the United States" at the Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco, 1939, and numerous exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art such as "Arts of the South Seas" in 1946; the exhibitions of sculpture by Henry Moore, Gabo and Pevsner, and Nadelman, and the Museum's recent 20th Anniversary exhibitions "Timeless Aspects of Modern Art" and "Modern Art in Your Life."

Mr. d'Harnoncourt was born in Vienna in 1901 and came to the United States in 1933 after several years in Mexico. From 1937 to 1944 he served as Manager, and later as Chairman, of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the U. S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D. C., and also as Acting Director of the Art Section of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, and was a member of the Advisory Committee on Art of the Department of State.

Since joining the Museum of Modern Art in January 1944 as Vice-President in Charge of Foreign Activities and Director of the Department of Manual Industries, he has also helped to organize in 1946 the arts section of UNESCO and again in 1947 has served as Adviser on the U. S. Delegation to the Second Session of the General Conference on UNESCO in Mexico City, and as Chairman of the Committee of Museums and Industry of the International Council of Museums in 1948. He is the author and co-author of several books including Mexicana, Indian Art of the United States, Arts of the South Seas, and has given art courses at Sarah Lawrence College and at the New School for Social Research.

Mr. d'Harnoncourt has traveled extensively in both North and South America as well as Europe, and is considered one of the outstanding authorities on museum installation technique.