Modern paintings and sculpture from the collection of James Thrall Soby, internationally known art scholar and author, will be shown at M. Knoedler and Company, 11 East 57th Street, from February 1 through 25 for the benefit of the Museum of Modern Art's Library. A gala preview will be held at Knoedler's on Tuesday evening, January 31.

Mrs. C. Sterling Bunnell is Chairman of the committee organizing the benefit, one of many events in the Museum's 30th Anniversary Drive. Mrs. Victor W. Gans, Mrs. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Mrs. Donald B. Straus and Mrs. Samuel C. Taylor are Vice-Chairmen of the committee.

An unusual aspect of the benefit exhibition is that the 70 works of art have been pledged, or in a few cases already given, to the Museum. Paintings by Picasso, Miro, de Chirico, Balthus, Bacon, and sculptures by Marini, Maillol, and Alexander Calder are among the works in the show.

Mr. Soby has designated the Museum Library as beneficiary of the exhibition because of the assistance and help he has found there in researching his books, which have included "After Picasso," "Salvador Dali," "Joan Miro," "Modern Art and the New Past," "Juan Gris," "Ben Shahn: His Graphic Art," "Giorgio de Chirico" and "Yves Tanguy."

A trustee of the Museum of Modern Art since 1942, Mr. Soby is Chairman of the Department of Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions and of the Committee on the Museum Collections. He lives in New Canaan, Conn.

Committee members include: Mrs. Hubert S. Aldrich, Mrs. Clark Andrews, Mrs. Ernest Angell, Mrs. Douglas Auchincloss, Mrs. Harding F. Bancroft, Mrs. Alvan L. Sarah, Mrs. George F. Berlinger, Mrs. Norbert A. Bogdan, Mrs. Milton Breslauer, Mrs. Randi K. Bull, Mrs. H. S. Mackenzie Burns, Mrs. Frederic E. Camp, Mrs. Winslow Carlton, Mrs. Albert H. Clayburgh, Miss Pamela T. Colin, Mrs. Meyer Davis, Countess Bernard d'Escayrac, Mrs. Jane Nevin Dickson, Mrs. Wallis Bleecker Dunckel, Mrs. Allan D. Emil, Mrs. James H. M. Ewart, Mrs. Sherman Ewing, Mrs. Lynn Farnol, Mrs. William Ward Foshay, Mrs. Bruce Gimbel, Mrs. Robert D. Graff, Mrs. David Granger, Mrs. Henry McCormick Gross, Mrs. August Hackescher, Mrs. Anthony Hoagland, Mrs. Eleanor Israel, Mrs. Kenneth A. Ives, Mrs. Alfred Jaretski, Jr., Mrs. Robert Edmonds Kitner, Mrs. Adrian Lambert, Mrs. Edmundo Lassalle, Mrs. Richard F. Leach, Mrs. V. Theodore Low, Mrs. Gordon W. Mallatrat, Mrs. Graham D. Mattison, Mrs. Gertrud A. Mellon, Mrs. Richard Mets, Mrs. Matthew A. Meyer, Mrs. Minot K. Milliken, Mrs. Alex Mitchell, Mrs. Edward S. Moore, Jr., Mrs. Patterson Morgan, New Canaan, Conn., Mrs. Dimitri Negroponte, Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, Mrs. Richard S. Perkins, Mrs. Donald H.

For further information and photographs contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y. CI 5-8900.