

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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No. 52

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, May 24, 1961

More than 250 photographs by Edward Steichen selected from the widely acclaimed exhibition of his work now on view at the Museum of Modern Art have been acquired for the Museum's Photography Collection, James Thrall Soby, Chairman of the Collections Committee, announced today. All are the gift of the artist.

"Long recognized throughout the civilized world as one of the major artists in the field of modern photography, Captain Steichen's full and incredibly rich expressive range is made apparent in this group of his works--the most important contribution ever made to the Photography Department's collection," Mr. Soby said in accepting the gift on the behalf of the trustees.

The exhibition, which covers more than 65 years of photography has been seen by more than 90,000 people since it opened March 27 on Steichen's 82nd birthday. It will remain on view through May 31 and then will be offered to other museums in this country and Canada.

The Photography Collection of the Museum which was started in 1940 contains 2,800 prints from 1839 to the present by more than 1,000 photographers from all over the world. One important purpose of the Photography Center which the Museum plans to incorporate in its new building, for which funds are now being raised, is to make this unique collection accessible at all times to the interested public, students, scholars and photographers. In addition, a changing selection of prints from the collection will be kept on continuous public exhibition.

In the limited space of the present Museum none of the Photography Collection is normally shown, although a small selection is on view during the 30th Anniversary Fund Drive campaign for endowment, program and additional building.

The projected center will also contain a specialized library, conference and meeting facilities and a laboratory. \$600,000 of the total goal of \$25,000,000 has been earmarked for these photographic activities, which, in addition will also benefit from expanded facilities in other departments, such as publications and traveling shows. The center will be called the Edward Steichen Photography Center in honor of Mr. Steichen's contributions to the art of photography and to the Museum, where he has been Director of the Photography Department since 1947.

For additional information and photographs contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.