

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Fourteen pieces of sports equipment from various parts of the world have been added to the Museum of Modern Art's design collection. The recently acquired objects include a bow, racing helmet and shield, skis and a surfboard from the United States, a cross-bow and pistol with target from Switzerland, a jai alai cesta from Spain, an Italian ice axe and an English cricket bat and knives for fishing, sailing, throwing and hunting from Italy, England, West Germany and Nova Scotia. All were exhibited at the Museum last summer in the Design for Sport exhibition presented in cooperation with Sports Illustrated and the National Sporting Goods Association.

These are the first examples of sports equipment to enter the Museum's collection of well-designed artifacts which includes household and office equipment, tableware, tools, furniture and textiles.

"Sports equipment, like tools, cannot be used without effort," Arthur Drexler, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, says. "It demands active participation and the cultivation of skill. The design of such equipment is therefore evaluated by a public that takes pride in its abilities and receives an even more critical evaluation by professionals in every sport.

"The high standard of performance serves to discipline the designer. He is largely free of those irrelevant considerations which guide the development of what are called consumer objects: artificial obsolescence and dubious innovations created for merchandising purposes. He is expected to use good and durable materials, and is able to devote his time and talents to improving his work. The designs that emerge from this continuous process are characterized by intensely developed forms which directly contribute to proper use."

Although most of the objects were designed by groups of technicians, some are the work of individuals such as Bill Stewart, who designed the bow; Roy Richter and Frank Heacox, the racing helmet; Deane Russell, the hunting knife; Howard Head, the skis and Hobie Alter, the surfboard.

All of the objects were given to the Museum by the manufacturers or distributors: Bear Archery Co.; Anton Ruegg, Steinhausen, Switzerland; Bell-Toptex, Inc., Bell, California; Paulson Mfg., Co., Fallbrook, California; Fratelli Grivel, Italy; José Echave, Guernica, Spain; Grohmann Knives, Ltd., Pictou, Nova Scotia; Angelo Patin, Maniago, Italy; The Crow's Nest, New York City; Edwin Jay Co., Solingen, West Germany; Hammerli Ltd., Lenzburg, Switzerland; Head Ski Company; Hobie Surfboards, Dana Point, California; Slazengers Ltd., London.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.