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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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The gift of the Louis E. Stern Collection of Illustrated Books to The Museum of Modern Art, announced today by the trustees of the Louis E. Stern Foundation, is one of the most important ever made to the Museum's Department of Drawings and Prints, according to Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Museum Collections, and William S. Lieberman, Curator of Drawings and Prints.

Consisting of 117 books, 50 illustrated by Picasso, 16 by Chagall, 15 by Braque, 11 each by Bonnard, Derain, Dufy and Rouault, and 10 each by Maillol and Matisse, the Collection is one of the finest libraries in the world of books illustrated with original etchings, lithographs and drawings by modern artists.

The Collection will be housed as a memorial to the great interest of Mr. Stern in this field. Mr. Stern was a close friend of the Museum since its founding, and lender to many of its exhibitions.

"Gathered over three decades, the Collection concentrates particularly, though not exclusively, upon editions de luxe by painters and sculptors of the School of Paris. The Collection, moreover, is remarkable for the care that has been taken in the binding and casing of the publications, respecting the entity of the original work, and invariably, the mint condition of the edition," Mr. Lieberman says.

"In the Museum, the Collection will retain Mr. Stern's emphasis of primary intention: the harmonious integration of the artist and writer, the integrity of image and word.

"In the enlarged Museum with its complex of galleries and study rooms devoted to drawings, prints and illustrated books, the Louis E. Stern Collection will serve as a cornerstone. The Museum's holdings of original single prints are already comprehensive; indeed they have been described by Professor Paul J. Sachs of Harvard, as 'the finest collection of modern prints in the world.' The bequest of the Louis E. Stern Collection of fine books will establish The Museum of Modern Art as a key location in the United States for the study and appreciation of the printed image as conceived by the leading artists of our time. Such a collection is of special value to New York City, the art and publishing center of the country.

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