

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON MONROE WHEELER

Monroe Wheeler, Director of Cezanne to Miro, a major exhibition which opens a tour of Latin America in Buenos Aires May 15 under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, was Director of Exhibitions and Publications at the Museum from 1939 until 1967, when he retired and was appointed Counsellor to the Trustees.

Mr. Wheeler has directed many major exhibitions for the Museum, including Turner: Imagination and Reality, with Lawrence Gowing, Keeper of British Painting at the Tate Gallery, and retrospectives of Rouault, Soutine, Bonnard and Matisse. He is also the author of a number of Museum publications issued in connection with exhibitions he directed, including Modern Painters and Sculptors as Illustrators, Twentieth Century Portraits, Modern Drawings, Soutine, Rouault and others.

Under Mr. Wheeler's leadership the Museum has published over 300 books on all the visual arts, which have become known throughout the world for their excellence of layout and design, high level of scholarship and faithful color reproductions. More than a score of the publications have received awards for design, and some have been translated into foreign languages including French, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Serbo-Croatian, Japanese and Russian. Exhibitions of Museum books have been held in more than 20 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Far East. These books have become an important extension of the Museum's educational services by providing a permanent record of the scholarly research fostered by the Museum.

Mr. Wheeler first became associated with the Museum in 1935, six years after the institution was founded, when he was named a member of the Advisory Committee. In 1938 he joined the staff as Director of Membership. He became Director of Publications in 1939, and in 1940 was appointed Director of Exhibitions as well. In 1945 he was elected a Trustee of the Museum, and in 1965 an Honorary Trustee. He has

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been Chairman of the Museum's Committee on Drawings and Prints since fall, 1967.

Monroe Wheeler was born in Evanston, Illinois, in 1899 and was educated in Europe. He was co-founder and partner of the publishing firm of Harrison of Paris, which commissioned various typographers and printers and artists for their limited editions. During World War II he served as Chairman of the Committee on Publications for the Office of Inter-American Affairs. He is a Trustee of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and the Katherine Anne Porter Foundation, president of the International Graphic Arts Society, and a former member of the Council of the Grolier Club, whose publication committee he headed for six years. He is a Life Member of the French Institute of the United States, and in 1950 was awarded the Order of the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, in recognition of his "outstanding services to the cause of French contemporary art in the United States." He is also a member of the Advisory Board for Research and Graduate Education at Rutgers University.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200