

# The Museum of Modern Art

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For the first time in its history, The Museum of Modern Art will establish three curatorial chairs and a number of fellowships in honor of three distinguished retired staff members: René d'Harnoncourt, who will be succeeded as Director of the Museum on July 1 by Bates Lowry; Alfred H. Barr, Jr., The Museum's first Director and then Director of Museum Collections; and Monroe Wheeler, Director of Exhibitions and Publications. Both Mr. Barr and Mr. Wheeler retired July 1, 1967. A detailed program for the chairs and fellowships, familiar in universities but unusual in museums, is being developed and will be announced at a later date.

All three men have been elected Honorary Trustees for Life and have also been appointed Counsellors to the Trustees.

René d'Harnoncourt joined the Museum staff in 1944. In 1947, he became Director of Curatorial Departments and, in 1949, Director of the Museum. During his term of office, the Museum's annual attendance grew from 600,000 to more than one million, membership rose from 8,500 to more than 35,000, and the physical facilities of the Museum were expanded six times. Such important affiliates as the Junior Council, the International Council, and the Institute of Modern Art were also established during this period. The Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center, dedicated last month, was his concept.

Among the exhibitions Mr. d'Harnoncourt directed for the Museum were: Indian Art of the United States, Art of the South Seas, Modern Art in Your Life, Timeless Aspects of Modern Art, and Ancient Art of the Andes. He is world-famous as an expert on installation techniques, and his last show for The Museum of Modern Art was The Sculpture of Picasso which drew record-breaking crowds.

Mr. d'Harnoncourt has been a member of the National Council on the Arts since its founding in 1965, Vice President of the Museum of Primitive Art, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Inter-American Relations. He is also Artistic Consultant to the Department of the Interior, and a Trustee of the Amon

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Carter Museum of Western Art in Fort Worth, of the Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C., of the American Craftsmen's Council, and of the American Federation of the Arts.

Alfred H. Barr, Jr., who was recently awarded the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in the Arts by the Institute of Arts and Letters, was primarily responsible for building the Museum's now unique collection of painting and sculpture. An internationally acclaimed scholar, he is the author of Matisse: His Art and His Public, Picasso: Fifty Years of His Art, and such pioneering works as Cubism and Abstract Art and Dada, Surrealism and Fantastic Art published 30 years ago. He served as Director of the Museum from 1929 until 1944. After a three-year interim, he was appointed Director of the Museum Collections, a post he held until his retirement on July 1, 1967. Last month, the Advisory Board of The Lillie P. Bliss International Study Center of The Museum of Modern Art elected him an Honorary Member.

Monroe Wheeler headed the Museum's Department of Exhibitions and Publications from 1940 until his retirement in 1967. He directed more than a dozen major exhibitions such as Turner: Imagination and Reality (with Lawrence Gowing), and was the author of a number of Museum publications issued in connection with other exhibitions he directed, including Ignatz Wiemeler: Modern Bookbinder, Twentieth Century Portraits, Modern Drawing, Soutine, and Rouault: Retrospective. He recently directed a major show, Cézanne to Miró, now traveling in Latin America where it is being visited by record-breaking crowds. Under his leadership, the Museum published more than 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 for their faithful color reproductions.

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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.