

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 97
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Linda Gordon (212) 956-2648
William Grant (212) 956-7504

Painting and Sculpture in The Museum of Modern Art, 1929-1967. By Alfred H. Barr, Jr. 658 (plus xiv) pages, 1693 black-and-white illustrations. \$40.00 clothbound. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

On December 15 the Museum published Painting and Sculpture in The Museum of Modern Art, 1929-1967, edited by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., founding Director of the Museum. A veritable survey of twentieth-century art, this richly illustrated volume--with 1693 black-and-white illustrations on more than 500 pages--is a complete catalog of the Museum's holdings at the time of Mr. Barr's retirement in 1967 and an invaluable chronicle of the formation and growth of its painting and sculpture collection.

Like the Museum he shaped and guided for thirty-eight years, this volume is a monument to Alfred Barr's imagination, scholarship, catholicity, perseverance, and his passion for what he once called "the conscientious, continuous, resolute distinction of quality from mediocrity."

A major work of fine arts scholarship and the first such catalog to be issued by the Museum since 1958, Painting and Sculpture in The Museum of Modern Art, 1929-1967 lists 2,622 works of art by 999 artists. The listing is arranged alphabetically by artist and provides title, date, medium, dimensions, name of donor, date of accession, and titles of Museum publications in which a work is illustrated. Separate lists of promised gifts and "life-interest" gifts complete the Catalog.

The volume concludes with Mr. Barr's Chronicle of the Collection of Painting and Sculpture recounting its beginnings and growth, year by year, against the general background of the Museum's history. The Chronicle traces the early plans for forming a collection and indicates how and when works of

(more)

art were acquired and purchase funds obtained. It records the work of various committees, statements of policy, special exhibitions of the collection, problems of space for continuous exhibition, studies of the collection in relation to other New York museums, and similar problems and their solutions during the Museum's first thirty-eight years.

In his Foreword to Painting and Sculpture in The Museum of Modern Art, 1929-1967, Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of the Museum, sums up Alfred Barr's achievement and the significance of this book: "When, in 1930, he unsuccessfully proposed to the Trustees that a room be provided for showing the collection, it comprised only thirteen paintings and sculptures. This catalog of holdings in 1967 contains entries for 2,622 works....The collection grows on the basis, and follows the principles, that Mr. Barr established. Its standards, and the standards of the Museum's publications--both those devoted to the collection and those accompanying temporary exhibitions--have to match those that Mr. Barr set. And they were formidable standards indeed."

Also being published this month is a paperback supplementary catalog of the Museum's holdings as of the beginning of 1977, incorporating 550 new acquisitions since 1967: PAINTING AND SCULPTURE IN THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART: Catalog of the Collection, January 1, 1977 edited by Alicia Legg. 110 pages. \$6.96 paperbound.