THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PUBLISHES VOLUME ON HENRI MATISSE'S DRAWINGS

The Drawings of Henri Matisse, the first definitive study of this important aspect of the artist's work, has been published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name that opens at The Museum of Modern Art on February 28, 1985. The 312-page volume features an informative and clearly written analysis of Matisse's draftsmanship by John Elderfield, Director of the Museum's Department of Drawings and co-organizer of the exhibition. In his essay Elderfield traces the various phases of the artist's long career, from his early academic studies to the bold large-scale works of his last years. British art historian John Go!ding, who collaborated with John Elderfield in the organization of the exhibition, has provided an introduction to the text. In addition, Magdalena Dabrowski, Assistant Curator in the Museum's Department of Drawings, has contributed detailed commentaries on all the works in the exhibition. Reproductions of the nearly 150 works on view figure among the volume's 220 black-and-white illustrations.

Included among the topics discussed are the artist's rare Fauve ink drawings of 1905-06, the compositionally daring works of his so-called Cubist years (1914-18), his return to naturalistic charcoal renderings in the 1920s, as well as his simplified line drawings of the 1930s. Elderfield concludes with an examination of Matisse's increasingly bold compositions from the 1940s and 1950s, which reached their fullest expression in his paper cut-outs and his designs for The Chapel of the Rosary at Vence, completed when the artist was in his eighties.

Meredith Corporation is the sponsor of the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by the Bohem Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. An indemnity for the exhibition has been provided by the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.
The Drawings of Henri Matisse has been published by The Museum of Modern Art in a softcover edition that will sell for $15.00 until June 15, $17.50 thereafter. A clothbound version will be published and distributed by Thames and Hudson, Inc. in February 1985 and will sell for $29.95.