

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART RECONSTRUCTS ENTIRE FLOOR FOR EXHIBITION OF MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED OBJECTS

"As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I looked toward Birnam, and anon, methought,
The wood began to move."

Walls are moving on the second floor of the Museum of Modern Art--forward ten feet, back six feet, taken down altogether, or lowered to one-third their size to allow exciting vistas to open one from another in the Museum's greatest exhibition of the year Arts of the South Seas which will open on January 30. The dark green of the jungle, the clearing where the sun filters in, the yellow sand color and red rock of the Australian desertland, and the brilliant white light of the coral islands all serve as background for the 420 objects in the exhibition: ancestral figures, ceremonial masks, adzes and clubs of jade, bone and carved wood, canoes, combs, jewelry of shell and tortoise shell, and hundreds of other beautiful and fantastic objects.

An ancient and extremely rare ancestor figure has just arrived from the Solomon Islands. Other parts of Oceania represented in the exhibition are New Zealand, Hawaii, Easter Island, the Marquesas, the Admiralties, New Guinea, the Marianas, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, etc.

The largest object in the exhibition will be the cast of a gigantic (11 feet by 6 feet) Easter Island stone head. Too large to be taken up the stairs or in the elevator to the second floor, it will stand in the first floor entrance hall of the Museum.

NOTE

The small exhibition If You Want to Build a House, now on view on the Museum's first floor, will be closed four days earlier than was originally announced. Instead of closing February 3, the closing date will be Wednesday evening, January 30.