

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900



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FOR WEDNESDAY RELEASE

LOBMEYR GLASS EXHIBITION

More than 100 examples of Czechoslovakian glassware of modern design, manufactured by J. & L. Lobmeyr, will be exhibited on the first floor of the Museum of Modern, 11 West 53 Street, from April 27 to June 26. Selected by Philip C. Johnson, Director of the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design, the exhibition emphasizes designs since 1920, some of which are so new that they have never before been shown publicly.

Included in the group is one early set of glasses designed in 1856 by Ludwig Lobmeyr, son of the firm's founder. It was he who initiated the policy of engaging leading living artists to design glassware and who also promoted a close relationship between artist and manufacturer of a kind not known in the early stages of the industrial revolution. These early Lobmeyr designs are included because they are as perfectly simple and unadorned as the most recent shapes by this exceptional glass firm.

Among the pieces to be shown is a set designed in 1920 by Josef Hoffmann, one of the leaders of the Austrian Sezession movement, who has for years been creating his delicately curved designs for Lobmeyr. Work by the Austrian Adolf Loos, one of the most important modern architects, illustrates a contrasting concept of design: its beauty depends primarily on the high quality of materials and the austere dignity of proportions.

The most recent work to be shown was designed in 1948 by Vera Liskova, a graduate of the Prague Academy for Decorative Arts. Her dishes, bowls, flasks and glasses are as subtle in shape and as superb in proportion as anything Lobmeyr has ever produced. Other designers include Professor Oswald Haerdtl, Viennese architect, and Vally Wieselthier, Viennese ceramic designer.

Mr. Johnson, whose design for the installation enhances the beauty of the glass, comments as follows:

"The Museum is fulfilling an important duty in showing a selection of Lobmeyr glass to the public, for it illustrates to a high degree contemporary principles of design combining quality of form with quality of material. The beautiful shapes shown are the result of a long history of consistent co-operation between an enterprising manufacturer and the best available artists, architects and designers."