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(Mr. d'Amico took to Brussels) 68

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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CHILDREN'S CREATIVE CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES PAVILION AT THE BRUSSELS WORLD'S FAIR

The Children's Creative Center, one of the main features of the U.S. Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair, is a duplicate of the Children's Holiday Carnival which has been enjoyed by thousands of children at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, for the past sixteen years. It is presented at the Fair to demonstrate one of the most successful activities of the Museum's Department of Education and to illustrate the advanced teaching methods used in the United States today.

Under the direction of Victor d'Amico, Director of the Department of Education at the Museum of Modern Art and originator of the Holiday Carnivals, the Center's fundamental concept is to use dramatic play to stimulate the child to creative activity. Specially-designed toys, beyond merely amusing or occupying the child, call upon the visual, tactile or kinaesthetic reactions vital to his true creative expression. Two areas are included in the Center's plan: a play area with its variety of toys encourages the child to experiment with color, motion and design through the operation of buttons, switches or pedals; and a workshop area equipped with individual easels and collage tables enables him to express ideas stimulated by the toys.

Two staffs of art teachers, selected for their training and distinction in educating children from four to twelve, were sent to the Center from the Museum of Modern Art. During the first three months, the staff, under the supervision of Miss Lois Lord, includes J. Eugene Grigsby, Jr. and Miss Susan Lynn; Charles Alston and Miss Margaret Stark, supervised by Mrs. Jane Cooper Bland, take over during the second three months. Two teachers from Brussels are assisting.

Mr. D'Amico and Mrs. Mabel D'Amico, director of art at the Rye High School, Rye, New York, installed the Center and opened it to the public on April 17.

The Children's Carnival was introduced to Europe last year at the Trade Fairs in Milan, Italy, and Barcelona, Spain. A feature of the United States exhibitions of the Department of Commerce, it was tremendously successful.

An Italian reporter perhaps best expressed the aim of sending the Carnival abroad when he wrote: "In a world where there are so many devices being invented and tremendous machines built for destroying both people and property, what better way can there be to foster a feeling of brotherhood between nations than to develop the creative possibilities of their children."