

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Sent by messenger with  
tickets to society page  
editors in New York City*

More than 30 dinner parties will precede the benefit preview at M. Knoedler and Co. on Tuesday, January 31, 1961 of paintings and sculptures from the Collection of James Thrall Soby. Mr. Soby, well-known scholar and trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, has pledged or already given all the 80 works in the show to the Museum. The preview and the exhibition, which will be on view through February 25, will benefit the Museum's Library whose resources Mr. Soby has used in writing more than 31 books.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd will entertain at dinner in honor of Mr. Soby at the Museum Guest House, 242 East 52nd Street. Other hostesses entertaining that evening include: Mrs. Hulbert Aldrich, Mrs. Clark Andrews, Mrs. Harding F. Bancroft, Mrs. Alvan L. Barach, Mrs. George F. Berlinger, Mrs. Winslow Carlton, Mrs. Albert H. Clayburgh, Mrs. Meyer Davis, Countess Bernard d'Escayrac, Mrs. Wallis Bleecker Dunckel, Mrs. Allan D. Emil, Mrs. Victor W. Ganz, Mrs. Bruce Gimbel, Mrs. Robert D. Graff, Mrs. David Granger, Mrs. August Heckscher, Mrs. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Mrs. Alfred Jaretski, Jr., M<sup>R</sup>s. Robert Edmonds Kintner, Mrs. Graham D. Mattison, Mrs. Minot K. Milliken, Mrs. Dimitri Negroponte, Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, Mrs. Donald H. Peters, Mrs. Volney F. Righter, Mrs. Sterling Rockefeller, Mrs. Frederick Sheffield, Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Mrs. George W. Staempfli, Mrs. Charles Stillman, Mrs. Donald B. Straus, Mrs. J. MacNaughton Thompson, Mrs. Harold Uris, Mrs. Frances Whitney, Mrs. Frederick Windisch and Mrs. Harry A. Woodruff.

Mrs. C. Sterling Bunnell is Chairman of the Benefit Committee. Mrs. Victor W. Ganz, Mrs. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Mrs. Donald B. Straus and Mrs. Samuel C. Taylor are Vice-Chairmen.

Tickets are available at the Museum and will be sold at M. Knoedler and Co. the night of the preview.

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 7

FOR RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 9, 1961

The Library of the Museum of Modern Art is benefiting from an art exhibition at M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., New York City, through February 25 of paintings and sculptures from the collection of James Thrall Soby, well-known art scholar and author of 31 books in the field. A selection of these books is being shown along with more than 80 works of art which Mr. Soby, long a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, has pledged or already given to the Museum Collections.

In his foreward to the exhibition catalog, Mr. Soby says that the purpose of the exhibition is to raise money for the Library and--perhaps more important--to focus public attention on the Library's past achievements, present needs, and hopes for additional resources to make possible imaginative exploration of new methods of documentation and research.

As an example of one need, he points out that although the Museum Library has tripled its holdings since it was established in 1932, it now has less space than when the Museum building on West 53 Street was opened in 1939. The Museum Library has an unrivaled collection of research material in the Museum's special field--the visual arts from roughly 1875 to the present. Its shelves hold over 15,000 books, catalogs and periodicals; its files contain thousands of clippings and documents; its pictorial archives of photographs and slides cover about 100,000 subjects.

Mr. Soby pays special tribute to the "extraordinary efficiency and knowledgeable-ness of the Library's staff, headed by Bernard Karpel." "The Museum's bibliographies are held in very high esteem throughout the world; the Librarian himself is respected as one of modern art's most perceptive and diligent bibliographers."

Funds for the Library are part of the Museum's current drive for \$25,000,000 for an additional building and for program and endowment funds. The Museum, founded in 1929, receives no federal, state or city subsidy.

Mr. Soby himself has made many contributions to the books in the Museum Library including the following:

Twentieth Century Italian Art. Museum of Modern Art, 1949 (With Alfred H. Barr, Jr.)

The documentation of facts obtained from the artists themselves, or from private letters, most of which have never before been published, is balanced by a brief but remarkably succinct and telling analysis of individual styles.... a work that performs a notable service for those who wish to know of the fresh and authentic talent, the variety and vitality of contemporary Italian artists.

-The United States Quarterly Book List-

more...

Giorgio de Chirico. Museum of Modern Art. 1955

...the need of a really enlightening monograph on (de Chirico) and on his work....has been supplied at last by James Thrall Soby, who has documented de Chirico's life in an exemplary fashion...

-New York Times-

...one of the most absorbing and scholarly art books to appear in some time.

-Syracuse Post Standard-

...the foremost American art book of the year...wonderfully well-written, complete and authoritative.

-San Francisco Chronicle-

This definitive and penetrating study...fills a vital need for a fresh look at his (de Chirico's) early career.

-St. Louis Globe-Democrat-

A studious biography....handles all the details of painter's upbringing...has Soby's careful and sometimes ingenious analysis of the Italian's high years of his surrealist career 1913-1920.

-Los Angeles Examiner-

Juan Gris. Museum of Modern Art, 1958

...studiously compiled and considered volume of contemporary art history...

-Saturday Review-

Soby's account of Gris' development as an artist is definitive and comprehensive. His critical analyses of the various drawings and paintings are succinct and understandable. Where Soby feels differences with other authorities, he invariably presents all points of view.--This book is good enough to be a must for any art library.

-New Orleans Times Picayune-States-

Arp. Museum of Modern Art, 1958

James Thrall Soby...has turned out another of his celebrated books on modern art....The book will prove an invaluable source reference on the man who has been called a one-man laboratory for the discovering of new form, as well as a fascinating study of a genius.

-Picture and Gift Journal-

Joan Miro. Museum of Modern Art, New York. 1959

Because the explanatory comment by the author of many expert art criticisms is so lucid, this study of one contemporary artist's work provides helpful insights on many of the problems and accomplishments of modern art.

-The Booklist-