

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room opened on January 25 in new quarters on the fourth floor of the recently added East Wing of The Museum of Modern Art. Part of the first phase of the Museum's extensive expansion program, the enlarged Print Room, under the direction of William S. Lieberman, Curator of the Department of Drawings and Prints, provides easily accessible study and storage space for the Museum's unsurpassed collection of 7,000 prints dating from 1880 to the present day.

Open to students, scholars, artists, collectors and interested laymen, the carpeted and walnut panelled study rooms house a pictorial card catalog, photo archives, pertinent scholarly books and specialized catalogs. Prints of all sizes are kept in special cabinets and a permanent wall easel facilitates viewing large works.

Arrangements for use of the Print Room, which is open Mondays through Fridays from 3-5 p.m., may be made at the Information Desk in the Main Lobby or at the desk located at the entrance to the new Paul J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings and Prints on the third floor, which opened last spring. A direct stairway connects the Galleries with the Print Room.

Drawings and prints, the Museum's first acquisitions when it opened in 1929, were the gifts of Professor Paul J. Sachs of Harvard University, a founder of the Museum and one of its Trustees for thirty years, who now serves as Chairman of the Committee on Drawings and Prints. The Galleries named in his honor continually display selections from the Museum's collection of prints, illustrated books, drawings and works related to theater and dance productions.

The international scope of this collection, representing 800 artists from 55 countries, is as important as the surveys of the graphic work of individual artists included. Among the Museum's most definitive collections of prints are those by such artists as Beckmann, Chagall, Johns, Klee, Picasso and Rohlfs.

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The nucleus of the collection was formed with the gift of 1,600 prints in 1940 from Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, one of the original founders of the Museum. Mrs. Rockefeller, who died in 1948 just as final plans for opening the print room were being prepared, had been responsible -- more than anyone else -- for the Museum's collection and activities in the field of fine prints. At the time of the opening of the original Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room in 1949, Mr. Lieberman, who had been with the Museum since 1943, was named Associate Curator for Prints; he was made Curator in 1953 and Curator of Drawings and Prints in 1960.

When the second phase of the Museum's building program is completed later in the '60s, a study center will be provided for the Museum's drawing collection, selections from which are continually on view in the Sachs Galleries.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.