

DOROTHEA LANGE, with a critical essay by George P. Elliott. 112 pages, 91 illustrations. Hardbound, \$6.95; paperbound, \$3.50. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc.

The Museum of Modern Art has published DOROTHEA LANGE, with a critical essay by George P. Elliott, in conjunction with the major retrospective exhibition of the late documentary photographer's work. The exhibition, on view at the Museum through March 27, was prepared in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Oakland Museum, and the Worcester Art Museum, and will be shown in these institutions in 1966 and 1967.

Dorothea Lange has long been considered one of the seminal influences in modern documentary photography. In the early 1930's, Miss Lange moved away from formal portraits to seek her subjects outside of her studio. Her belief in people, in the significance of the ordinary, and her need to communicate what she observed have become fundamental to the philosophy of the modern documentary. She is best known for her immensely influential work for the Farm Security Administration which called attention to the needs of rural America during the tragedy of the dust bowl years.

Miss Lange's work was directed not toward esthetic delight, but toward social relevance. The beauty in her photographs was not a goal, but a proof of success-- a demonstration that something of importance had been clearly seen and graphically fixed. A beautiful picture, because of its rightness, demanded contemplation, and that was the success she wished.

The book's 91 illustrations cover a period of over 30 years, including her famous documentation of the thirties as well as the relatively unfamiliar work done mostly in the last 15 years, such as her photographic essays devoted to Asia, Ireland, Egypt, "The New California," and photographs of her own home and family. John Szarkowski, Director of the Museum's Department of Photography, worked in close collaboration with Miss Lange before her death last October in the selection

(more)

of photographs for the exhibition and publication.

George P. Elliott, novelist, critic, and long-time friend of the photographer, has written a critical essay examining Miss Lange's methods and aspirations and analyzing the impact and meaning of many individual works. Mr. Elliott is Professor of English at Syracuse University (on leave 1965-66) and is the author of several novels including David Knudsen and In the World. He has also published a collection of essays, A Piece of Lettuce, and numerous poems and short stories. A chronology, bibliography, and working notes by Miss Lange on some of the photographs supplement Mr. Elliott's essay.

DOROTHEA LANGE is published in two editions: paperbound, \$3.50, available by mail from the Museum and at the Museum Bookstore, and hardbound, \$6.95, distributed by Doubleday and Co., Inc., and at the Museum.

Review copies, photographs, and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Patricia B. Kaplan, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.