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THE WORK OF
ATGET

NO. 26
FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

THE ART OF OLD PARIS

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 14, 1982-JANUARY 4, 1983

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: THE WORK OF ATGET: THE ART OF OLD PARIS

DATES: October 14, 1982---January 4, 1983

SPONSOR: This exhibition is part of the Springs Industries Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art.

DIRECTOR: John Szarkowski, Director of the Department of Photography

CONTENTS: THE WORK OF ATGET: THE ART OF OLD PARIS will present 117 prints by the French photographer Eugène Atget (1857-1927). It is the second in a four-part series of exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art (the first was THE WORK OF ATGET: OLD FRANCE) that will explore the life work of this unique artist--the photographic documentation of French culture. Atget made perhaps 10,000 pictures during his lifetime; three thousand of these were of Old Paris.

The photographs in THE ART OF OLD PARIS, taken between 1898 and 1927, describe a city that had nearly vanished. They offer a portrait of the several demeanors and styles of life in the capital as it appeared prior to its transformation in the 19th century by social and economic revolutions and by the urban renewal projects of Baron Georges Haussmann.

To produce his portrait of Old Paris, Atget photographed famous sites and monuments, such as the banks and bridges of the Seine, Notre-Dame, the Pantheon and the Luxembourg Palace, and photographed districts such as Montmartre, Passy and the Gobelins area that had retained an atmosphere characteristic of the epoch when they had been villages outside of Old Paris. He also recorded little-known corners and little-noticed artifacts such as private townhouses, quiet courtyards, humble shops and worn stairs.

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This exhibition is part of the Springs Industries Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art.

All the works selected for this exhibition are drawn from the Museum's collection of 5,000 prints and 1,000 negatives by Atget which Berenice Abbott had purchased from the photographer's estate in 1928.

Besides OLD FRANCE and THE ART OF OLD PARIS, the Atget series will include THE ANCIEN REGIME, scheduled for 1983, and MODERN TIMES, in 1984. Each of these four exhibitions is being accompanied by a volume of The Work of Atget.

TRAVEL:

After closing at the Museum, THE WORK OF ATGET: THE ART OF OLD PARIS will travel to:

Dallas Museum of Fine Arts
Dallas, Texas

February 21-April 3, 1983

Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati, Ohio

April 28-June 12, 1983

The Minneapolis Institute
of Arts
Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 13-November 7, 1983

The Saint Louis Museum
St. Louis, Missouri

November 29, 1983-
January 29, 1984

The Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit, Michigan

February 20-April 1, 1984

McKissick Museums
The University of South
Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

April 23-June 3, 1984

PUBLICATION:

The Work of Atget: The Art of Old Paris, co-authored by John Szarkowski and Maria Morris Hambourg, will be published by The Museum of Modern Art in conjunction with the exhibition. The 192-page book will contain a biography of Atget by Mrs. Hambourg, 117 plates and 95 documentary illustrations. The publication of all four volumes of The Work of Atget is made possible with the generous support of Springs Industries, Inc. The Art of Old Paris will be distributed by New York Graphic Society Books/Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

PUBLIC OPENING:

Thursday, October 14, 1982

PRESS OPENING:

Wednesday, October 13, 1982

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director, or Tamara Real, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9750