

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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BELGIAN ART MASTERPIECE REPORTED GIVEN GOERING AS BIRTHDAY PRESENT
SHOWN IN MOTION PICTURE AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

One of the great art treasures of Western Europe entrusted to the safe-keeping of France at the outbreak of the war and reported two weeks ago to have been given by a Vichy official as a birthday present to Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering, can be seen in a remarkable motion picture at the Museum of Modern Art during the next two weeks. The masterpiece is The Adoration of the Lamb, completed in 1432 by the Flemish painters Hubert and Jan van Eyck.

The painting belongs in the Cathedral of St. Bavon in Ghent, Belgium, from which it was sent to the French Pyrenees in May 1940 for safe-keeping from bombing and looting. The motion picture of it to be shown at the Museum is remarkable in its clarity of detail. The camera moves slowly over the rich composition, bringing the masterpiece close to the eyes of the onlookers. In addition, the film shows something of the background and settings for which the painting was designed, while an accompaniment of 15th century music lends associative value to the whole.

The film, in black and white, has a running time of nine minutes and will be continuously shown for approximately one-half-hour daily at 2:30 and again at 5 P.M. and on Sundays at 1, 3 and 5 P.M. in the Auditorium Gallery of the Museum through March 24.

The Museum comments on the painting and motion picture of it as follows:

"The altarpiece was completed more than 500 years ago, exactly 60 years before Columbus discovered America. It was in its day an extremely revolutionary departure from conventional ideas of painting both in its realism of detail and complexity of conception. In this great composition the van Eycks have combined the faith of the late Middle Ages with the awareness of fact and reality of the Renaissance.

"Traversed by the eye of the moving picture camera, the painting's detail is magnified, dramatized and made vivid, providing a new experience in seeing even for those who have known the altarpiece long and well. The film was telecast from the Museum in 1939 by the National Broadcasting Company."