

Art Connoisseur Undecided On Giving Away Collection

By FREDERICK M. WINSHIP

New York—The greatest private collection of European art in the Western Hemisphere, owned by New York investment banker, Robert Lehman, is the current object of the inexorable pressures—both economic and social—which have forced most great American collections to "go public."

But there are few indications that Lehman, a full-time businessman at 70, will follow in the footsteps of Henry Clay Frick, Joseph E. Widener, Andrew Mellon, Henry H. Huntington, and Samuel H. Kress, all of whose collections now are in the public domain. Lord Duveen, the persuasive art dealer, convinced these millionaires that they "ought" to leave their art to the public, at the same time perpetuating their names. High inheritance taxes have resulted in other princely benefactions, and special tax laws have been designed to encourage gifts to museums. Lehman stands firm against them.

Begin in 1911

Lord Duveen also sold to Lehman's father, Philip Lehman, who began the Lehman collections in 1911. Robert Lehman became his father's partner in collecting, and also dealt with Duveen. But their collection did not pass to the public on the elder Lehman's death in 1947, although Robert Lehman has given approximately 100 paintings and old master drawings to various American museums. The core of the collection—500 paintings and drawings and 500 other major works of decorative art—is still in Robert Lehman's possession and until this week had never been seen in its entirety by anyone but art experts and personal friends.

Nearly 1,000 persons have paid \$50 a ticket for the privilege of tramping through Robert Lehman's private museum in Manhattan's West 54th st. on eight evenings beginning Nov. 27. The proceeds go to the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, of which Lehman is a trustee, for graduate scholarships. After the last exhibit evening, Dec. 6, Lehman will again lock the door on his treasures, whose value is conservatively estimated at \$75,000,000.



MASTERPIECES—Guard John Ruane in private museum of New York investment banker Robert Lehman. (UPI photo)

Over the years, Lehman has used only a fraction of his collection for loan exhibits at the Cincinnati museum and the Paris Louvre. From 1954 to 1961 he filled four large galleries at the Metropolitan Museum, of which he is vice president, with 90 selected masterwork paintings representing major European schools from the 12th to the 20th centuries. Gothic tapestries, Italian renaissance furniture and Majolica pottery, German bronzes, renaissance and baroque jewelry, church vestments, Limoges enamels, medieval illuminated manuscripts, and antique Persian carpets. The exhibit gave pleasure to hundreds of thousands of museum visitors and the Metropolitan hoped it

would become a permanent loan. But Lehman was homesick for his paintings. "I miss them," he said simply.

Refurnished House

Two years ago he began to refurnish his father's five-story, whitestone mansion (opposite Manhattan's Museum of Modern Art) as a proper museum. The smallest salons, already treated in the 1920's version of Italian Palazzo style, were sheathed in antique velvets and brocades, all entirely fireproofed. Museum lighting, central air conditioning and humidity control were installed. Every door and window was elaborately reworked with the latest electric protective devices. A private staff of guards was set up and two curatorial assistants were installed along with other staff members.

Lehman quietly withdrew his treasures from the Metropolitan museum 14 months ago. These works were added to those already in the mansion together with others from Lehman's own 18-room Park Avenue apartment, the William street office of Lehman Bros., from his country home, and from warehouses. At long last this fall the collector had "the best of Lehman" in one place where he could enjoy them with his wife, Lee, and their friends (usually after dinner prepared in a modern kitchen off the tapestry-hung dining room).

Korea Government Lifts Martial Law

Seoul, Korea—The Republic of Korea's military regime has taken another step toward the promised return to civilian government and announced the lifting of martial law. The surprise move came less than two weeks before the nation is to vote on a new constitution drafted by the military rulers. The announcement, issued in the name of Gen. Park Chung Hee—head of the military junta and acting president—made it clear the military still remains in firm control. Violators of junta decrees still will be tried by military courts.

by a former marriage, Robert, is deeply interested in art and music and has been studying music with the great Nadia Boulanger in Paris for four years. Lehman is well aware of the difficulties of passing the collection intact to his son due to taxes on so large an estate. Some breaking up of the collection on Lehman's death seems inevitable.

Lehman, a slight, erect man with receding gray hair, was a student at Yale when his banker father and his mother, Carrie, caught the princely fever for collecting then infecting a American empire builders. The father enlisted his son's aid in building the collection, which started cautiously with three portraits—a conventional Rembrandt, a decorative Goya, and a superficial Hoppner.

But soon Robert Lehman, influenced by James Jackson Jarves' collection at the Yale gallery, began buying Italian primitives, starting with two Francesco Cossa portraits. This developed into one of the biggest art buying sprees of the 20th century. By 1920 the Lehmans acquired scores of works tracing the development of Italian art from the Byzantine to the high renaissance in the schools of

Siena, Florence, Venice and Ferrara. The solemn richness of these religious works strikes the visitor with full impact on entering the 54th street mansion.

Twelve Rooms

There are 12 rooms of art on four antique-furnished floors connected by a graceful staircase also hung with masterpieces. One drawing room alone contains the greatest of El Greco's versions of St. Jerome and his "Christ Bearing the Cross"; Velasquez's "Infanta Maria Theresa"; De Hooch's wonderfully atmospheric "Figures in an Interior"; Terborch's faintly satiric portraits of a Burgomaster and Wife; Goya's pearly "Countess Allamira and Daughter"; and two Rembrandts including the renowned portrait of the syphilitic artist, Gerard De Laire, whose face is a death's head symbol of all the world's talented and doomed.

There are Madonnas by the dozens, most notably Crivelli's pale pearl-hung panel and an earlier Bellini. The Chief d'Oeuvre is Botticelli's small, feather delicate "Annunciation," Robert's birthday gift to his father in 1920.

The extraordinary range of this private collection, paralleled only by that of the reigning Prince Franz Joseph of Liechtenstein, is revealed as one climbs higher in the mansion. Here are Memling's magnificent "Annunciation," several Cranachs, Holbein's "Portrait of Erasmus" and the celebrated portrait of Suzanne De Bourbon by the Frenchman known only as master of Moulins. At the top of the stairs is Lehman's latest acquisition, a shimmering Canaletto view of Venice. But the collector claims he is not really adding to the collection.

"I'm just leaving it as it sits now—good things are very scarce now," he says. He is referring to the fact that almost all great old masters have been acquired by museums, leaving none for the private collector. Forms Roll Call

The top floors are closely hung with sunny oils forming a roll call of French impressionists and post impressionists—Cezanne, Van Gogh, Renoir, Bonnard's exceptional "Tea Time," Gauguin's moonlit "Tahitian Bathers," Vlaminck, Signac, Degas' famed "Modiste," Derain, and Marquet's finest painting, "Portrait of a Sergeant."

One large room on the fourth floor is devoted to what may well be the best private collection of masterwork drawings in America, and perhaps the world, including Durer's self-portrait, Leonardo Da Vinci's studies of a bear and figure and Rembrandt's "Last Supper."

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Cuba Reports Raid By 'Pirate' Craft

Miami—Cuban broadcast reported that a "pirate" landing craft raided Cuba's coast Tuesday night, firing two shells and sweeping a beach with machine-gun fire. There was no report of casualties.

Although the radio reports described the attacking vessel as a landing craft, they made no mention of its putting anti-Castro guerrillas ashore. The scene of the attack was described only as "Juan Francisco Beach," an area tentatively placed in Mantanzas Province, on the north coast east of Havana.

U.S., Russia Announce Agreement on Space

Washington—The United States and Russia have announced an agreement to work together for the peaceful use of space in the fields of weather, geomagnetism, and communications.

BAZAAR

Friday—December 7th

12:00 Noon

Phoenix Presbyterian Church
CHICKEN DINNER 4:30

Court Records

DISTRICT COURT
Gervia Eugene Nichols, overload, \$20.
Raymond Earl Smith, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Claude Pease Speagle, violation of basic rule, \$15.
Curtis Darrell Weaver, failure to stop right of way, \$10.
Edwin Edwin Lewtson, failure to yield right of way, \$10.
Donald Paul Strong, violation of basic rule, \$5.
Walter Fanning Larsen, expired vehicle license, \$5.
Louise Conner Day, no left turn signal, \$5.
Norman Robert Marlow, overload, \$72.
Irene Kathryn Backer, improper turn, \$5.
Eugene Boyd Hoover, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Orval Glenn Fowe, no operator's license, \$5.
Robert Marvin Loper, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Patricia Dorene MacGill, failure to dim lights, \$15.
Gerald Troy Dyson, excessive noise, \$10.
Cecil Vician Seavey, improper changing of lanes, \$15.
Raymond Roy Harris, parking on highway, \$5.
Ronald Ernest Lorer, violation of basic rule, \$25.
Donald Windsor Cox, overweight load, \$15.
William Dale Young, overload, \$71.
George William Nunn, improper clearance lights, \$10.
John Joseph Gintach, failure to yield right of way, \$10.
Lowell Oakley Pogue, no tail lights, \$5.
Louis Eugene Harney, violation of basic rule, \$20.
Theodore Casper Schmidt, hunting in closed season, \$25.
James Robert Soule, one headlight, \$10.

CIRCUIT COURT

Fayden Rikard vs. Harold E. Rikard, divorce complaint.
Alice May Northrup vs. Connie M. Northrup, divorce decree.
Hudson Ray Branson vs. Harriet Arnett Branson, divorce complaint.

Sharon Ann Wilson vs. Charles Edwards Wilson, divorce decree.
Joanne Gloria Allison vs. George L. Allison, divorce decree.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Dennis Lee Straus, 2348 Sandy Terrace and Linda Mae Medford, 121 South Main st., Phoenix.
Noel Wayne Bradshaw, 420 Boardman st., Medford and Junita Faye Linberry Wyatt, 43 North Columbus st., Medford.
Norman William Treel, no address given, Marian Yavonnie Warren, 335 South Orange st., Medford.
Kenneth Major, 608, Havlock, Calif., and Carol Gale Graves, 612 Franquette st., Medford.

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LUTEFISK Fancy Fillet 2 1/2 lb. 1.15	Idaho Spring Rainbow Trout 1.25 lb.	Iceland SALT HERRING Head-less 49¢ lb.	Pickled Herring Old Fashion 69¢ lb.
CATFISH FILLETS Deep Sea—Boneless-Skinless 69¢ lb.	Swedish Fillets of Herring (in Wine Sauce) 89¢ lb.		

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