



THE GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE

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Beaumont Newhall, eminent author, historian of photography and museum director, today announced his resignation as Director, George Eastman House.

Newhall joined the George Eastman House as Curator in 1948 under the directorship of Gen. Oscar N. Solbert. Upon the death of Gen. Solbert in 1958, Newhall was named Director of the Eastman House.

Newhall's resignation is effective July 1. In the fall he will assume a new role as Visiting Professor of Art at the University of New Mexico.

Alexander Hargrave, president of the George Eastman House board of trustees, accepted Newhall's resignation "with deep regret. Mr. Newhall has given this community and this institution more than two decades of outstanding service in making the Eastman House a monument to the photographic arts," Hargrave said.

At the same time, Hargrave announced the appointment of Van Deren Coke to the directorship of the Eastman House. Coke has served as Newhall's Deputy Director since July 1970.

Accepting the appointment, Coke said, "When the responsibility for charting the course of the museum is mine, I intend to rely upon proven procedures and policies established by Beaumont Newhall. My hope is that many ways will be found to cooperate with other educational institutions in the region. I look forward with enthusiasm to playing a part in the future development of George Eastman House."

Prior to coming to Rochester, Coke was chairman of the Department of Art and professor of art history and photography at the University of New Mexico. He was also director of the University Art Museum from 1962 to 1966.

Coke received his A.B. from the University of Kentucky in history, his M.F.A. from Indiana University in the history of art and sculpture, and did further graduate study at Harvard University.

He has been director of art galleries at the Universities of Florida, Arizona State and New Mexico, and also taught art history and photography at all three institutions.

In announcing his retirement, Newhall said, "Some time ago, when I felt that Eastman House was established as an institution, I made a personal decision to work toward a way of life which would enable me to devote all my time to teaching and writing.

"This I could not do until we found a successor. With the appointment of Van Deren Coke as Deputy Director last July, it became apparent that we had found our man," Newhall continued.

Concluding, the outgoing director said, "I am pleased to announce that I shall remain on the Board of Trustees of the George Eastman House. I look forward to a continuing relationship."

During his career, Newhall has written more than 400 articles which appeared in European and American magazines and encyclopedias and has written nine books. His books are:

The History of Photography, 4th ed., 1964; On Photography, 1956; Masters of Photography, 1958 (with Nancy Newhall); The Daguerrotype in America, 1961; Fredrick H. Evans, 1964; T. H. O'Sullivan, Photographer, 1966 (with Nancy Newhall); Latent Image, 1967; Airborne Camera, 1969; and Photo-Eye of the 20's (in press).

In addition to his writing and directorship at the George Eastman House, positions Newhall has held include: Lecturer, Philadelphia Art Museum; Assistant, Department of Decorative Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Librarian and Curator of Photography, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Lecturer, University of Rochester; Lecturer, Rochester Institute of Technology; Lecturer, History of Cinematography, Salzburg Seminar in American Studies; and Visiting Professor, Department of Art, State University of New York at Buffalo.