

Around town

Aggieland '85 class pictures taken now

Freshmen and sophomores can have their class picture taken now at the Pavilion from 8:30 p.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Junior, seniors and graduate students can avoid long lines by having their pictures taken now at the Yearbook Associates office at 1700 South Kyle, behind Culpepper Plaza. Don't delay getting your picture taken.

Rice game is Switch Off for the Kickoff

The Texas A&M Traditions Council is sponsoring Ladies' Choice Weekend, featuring the **Switch Off for the Kickoff** football game against Rice University. Boutonnieres will be on sale in the MSC all week. Ladies, take your favorite guy out and "Show'em how it should be done!"

Student Athletics Committee is forming

The Texas A&M Athletic Department and Student Government are proud to announce the formation of a student committee on athletics. An **organizational meeting will be held tonight at 7:30 p.m.** in the Letterman's Lounge of G. Rollie White. Student leaders and athletic administrators will be present to explain the committee. For more information, please contact Scott Cummings at the Student Government Office, 845-3051.

Class of '86 picnic tickets on sale now

The Class of '86 is sponsoring a "Buns Bonanza" picnic from 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday at Bee Creek Park.** There will be hotdogs, volleyball and softball. Tickets are on sale in 216 MSC for \$3.50.

Doctors try new heart operation

United Press International

NEW YORK — A heart doctor at the Presbyterian Hospital says that before long, up to one-third of coronary bypass operations may be replaced by a simpler procedure that is easier on patients and the pocket-book.

In the new technique, called angioplasty, a balloon-tipped catheter is threaded into an artery and guided to the spot where the coronary artery is narrowed by a buildup of fatty material. The balloon is then inflated with fluid to widen the passageway.

In coronary bypass surgery, by contrast, the chest is opened and veins taken from the legs are used to bypass clogged arteries leading to the heart. It is major surgery done under general anesthesia and usually a two-week hospitalization and lengthy recuperation at home.

Dr. Dennis Reison, director of the Coronary Angioplasty Program at Presbyterian, said coronary angioplasty patients only require a local anesthesia and generally go home in a day or two to resume a normal life-style.

"As far as patients are concerned, this is a medical miracle," said Dr. Eric Powers, director of the Adult Cardiovascular Laboratory at Presbyterian. "They know what the difference is and they really appreciate it."

Reison said people with solidly clogged heart blood pipelines are

not suitable candidates for the less invasive procedure.

Reison estimates that currently 10 percent to 20 percent of patients whose coronary artery disease persists despite medical treatment can be treated with coronary angioplasty instead of bypass surgery.

Dr. Andreas Greutzig performed the first coronary angioplasties in Zurich, Switzerland, around 1977. Greutzig, still working at even bolder applications for angioplasty, now is a professor at Emory University Medical School in Atlanta.

"Until 1980," Reison said, "very few angioplasties were done anywhere. But in the last several years the practice has become increasingly widespread as the technology involved steadily improved."

Reison said bypass surgery costs from \$20,000 to \$25,000 and angioplasty, \$5,000.

He said the long-term success of angioplasty depends on how the vessel wall heals. Eighty percent of the time, he reported, the procedure is successful. The vessel heals, leaving a nice round opening.

At Presbyterian, Reison said the procedure tends to be restricted to patients having one or two blood narrowed arteries.

To date, in some 150 coronary angioplasties at Presbyterian, the survival rate has been nearly 100 percent. From three to six of the procedures are performed weekly.

you know the story...

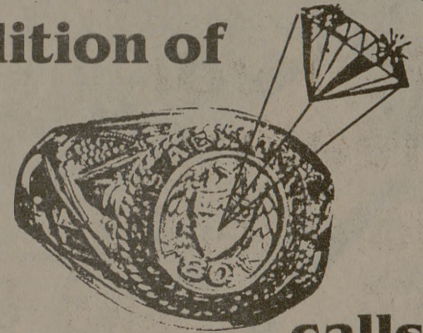
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Vast art holdings cataloged

United Press International

NEW YORK — It's going to take nine bulky volumes to catalog the vast art holdings of Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, the world's greatest living private collector, but by the time they're published there may be need for nine more.

A Swiss international conglomerate with major investments in the United States, Thyssen has been buying paintings on an average of 100 a year, from Old Masters to contemporary Americans, adding to a vast family accumulation of art begun by his grandfather, founder of a pre-World War I German iron and steel empire.

The Thyssen holdings include more than 1,500 paintings and sculptures and thousands of antiques, porcelains, ivories, glass, carpets and jewels. They are housed in the baron's Villa Favorita in Switzerland and at Daylesford, an English country house.

The first volume of the series, "Renaissance Jewels, Gold Boxes and Objets de Vertu", has just been published by Vendome Press, an event accompanied by exhibition of collection for the first time at Sotheby's galleries in New York and Los Angeles. Thyssen is a Sotheby's board member and made the loan to help celebrate the famed auction house's centennial.

World's greatest collector lets public see treasures

"Actually, I don't consider my jewels, boxes and art objects a collection," the vigorous, 63-year-old Thyssen said on his visit for the Sotheby's exhibit and show of his encyclopedic American art collection at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

"These are things that I have for my own enjoyment in the private part of my villa in Lugano, Switzerland. The public, which is free to visit my art collection at the villa, never sees these things. I'm really a collector of pictures, you know."

Among the treasures Thyssen has acquired for private enjoyment are Renaissance jewelry, 18th century gold boxes embellished with brilliant enamels and encrusted with jewels — including one that belonged to Frederick the Great — and objects designed by Faberge for the Russian imperial court.

Most were obtained in recent years at auction from Sotheby's and its rival, Christie's, from the La Vieille Russie shop in New York, and from private collections including the Rothschilds', but Thyssen said the sources are drying up.

"Rare pieces in good condition are difficult to find," Thyssen said. "You

don't want something damaged or badly preserved. There is a lot of Faberge on the market of course, as the families of Czarist refugees gradually sell off to take advantage of the high market prices, but I consider Faberge more craftsmanship than art."

Thyssen does not own one of Faberge's famed Easter Eggs made for Czar Nicholas II and other Romanoffs and he does not intend to acquire one. But he does not consider his collection of jewels and boxes a "frozen" one just because it has been catalogued.

"It doesn't work that way," he said with a chuckle. "I'm not actively buying these things now — but things will come along."

Thyssen said many Renaissance pieces of jewelry were broken up and reset as styles changed, but some have been passed down in families to the present day. Fine silver and gilt objects, often set with jewels, made for cities, guilds and churches also have been preserved.

"You understand that the stones in these pieces have no real value as jewels today," Thyssen said. "They didn't look for purity and color as

they do today. The idea was the overall effect and the symbolic significance of certain stones. The real value is in the workmanship of the metal and the design."

Thyssen said such workmanship has almost disappeared in modern times, except perhaps for Cartier's "mystery" clocks and some settings by Van Cleef & Arpels, the international jewelers, but the precision of 18th century French goldsmiths as evidenced by their snuff boxes has never since been matched.

The collection of art objects will return to Villa Favorita, but Thyssen's other collections are continually traveling the world and have been seen all over Europe, in Russia, New Zealand, Australia, and many parts of the United States. Many paintings are on loan to U.S. embassies.

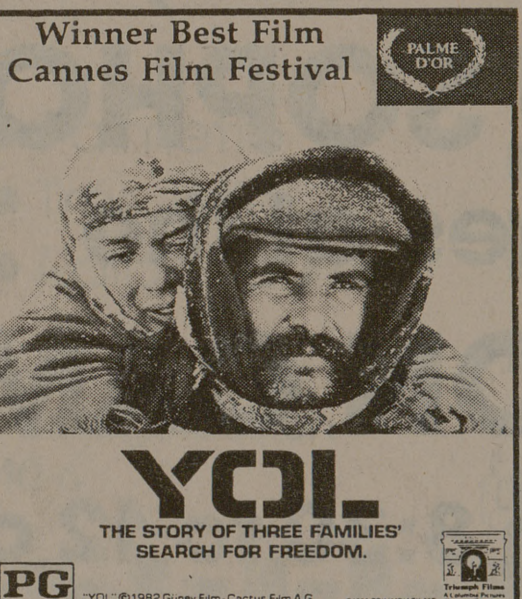
One of the most popular is his American collection, ranging from Colonial portraitist John Singleton Copley to contemporary photorealist Richard Estes, acquired in less than 15 years.

The book, "The Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection: Renaissance Jewels, Gold Boxes and Objets de Vertu," with text by Anna Somers Cocks and Charles Truman of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Vendome Press, sells for \$95.



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