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" THE FEES DUE FOR REPRODUCTION OF WORKS OF ART "

Report of J. Bouret and J. Lassaigne:

A large section of the press has been roused by the difficulties confronting art-editors in the matter of publishing books dealing with contemporary period.

These difficulties may be attributed to two categories of facts : 1°) the high price of basis materials . 2°) Reproduction rights .

The first of these categories does not come within the scope of any association . As for the second, it would seem possible for the IAAC to take the situation in hand.

Several years ago, a society was created for the recovery of author's royalties, covering the reproduction of all paintings in books magazines and reviews . This society exacts from publishers, before the publication of any work, reproduction rights which should then normally be paid to the artist . Now, it has been ascertained that while the sums thus collected are enormous, the amounts paid out are practically inexistant . The handicap thus encountered by publishers is not counter-balanced by sufficient sales, the high production costs restricting severely the number of buyers .

In so far as foreign editors are concerned, the same problem is met with, except in the case of a direct agreement with the artist .

The creation of an international organism based on a revision of the Geneva conventions seems the best way of unifying the tariffs of reproduction rights, if not of abolishing them altogether .

The assimilation of reproduction to the status of text quotations which carry no royalties, should be the aim of our organism, as it is clear that the painter has nothing to gain from the present system, and that a wider diffusion of his works would, on the contrary, provide him with a much better propaganda .