

Rare Hieronymus Bosch Work Missing From Chrysler Museum

A small, rare painting by Hieronymus Bosch, the Dutch Renaissance master of the grotesque and fantastic is missing from the Chrysler Art Museum in Provincetown, Mass., according to the police there yesterday.

The 15½-by-11-inch oil painting on board, entitled "Landscape With Conflagration" or "Temptation of St. Anthony," was valued at from \$300,000 to \$500,000 by Walter F. Chrysler Jr., the automotive heir and founder of the museum.

The panel was discovered missing from its frame early yesterday by guards in the museum, which is housed in the 120-year-old Old Methodist Church. It hung in one of the second-floor galleries of the museum, established by Mr. Chrysler in 1958. The museum contains extensive collections of baroque European paintings, 19th-century French paintings, American paintings and sculpture and well-known collections of Sandwich and Tiffany glass as well as pre-Columbian art objects and Persian works.

Mr. Chrysler said the Bosch painting was one of the major works in his collections and that it was taken by "someone who knew exactly what they wanted." The museum is open the year round and has an an-

nual attendance of about 30,000 persons.

There are very few examples of Bosch's work in this country—other works are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore.

Mr. Chrysler said he acquired the painting from the Silverman Gallery here in 1948 and that it had been authenticated by the late Dr. W. R. Valentiner, director of the Detroit Institute of Art. He said the work was well-known and would be difficult to dispose of and expressed the wish that it be returned anonymously.

He said it was the first theft "of any significance" from the museum.

In 1962, the Art Dealers Association of America declared that about 90 paintings in Mr. Chrysler's collection, mostly works attributed to 19th-century and 20th-century French artists, were not authentic.

Renew Your Driver License

ALBANY, Feb. 1 (UPI)—Monday is the last day for renewing New York State registration and driver's licenses that expired yesterday. The Motor Vehicles Department extended the deadline to Monday because the expiration date fell on a weekend.