**JACQUES-HENRI LARTIGUE**

(1894, Courbevoie – 1986, Nizza)

Jacques Henri Lartigue was born in 1894 in Courbevoie, near Paris. At the beginning of 1900 attracted by motion, he uses ingenious technical procedures to take his first instant photographs of sports, games, etc. Photographs all the attempts and experiences in flight of his brother Zissou and his cousins in Pont-d-l’Arche-Rouzat. Airplanes, automobiles, sporting events and the lovely ladies of Bois de Boulogne become his favourite subjects. In 1915 he attends the Jullian Academy: painting becomes his profession. Lartigue marries Madeleine Messanger, nicknamed “Bibi”, daughter of composer André Messanger in 1919. He meets numerous artists, men of letters, actors, great champions of sports and becomes friend with some of them. Spends time in the world of film, familiarising himself with film sets and people: Jacques Feyder, Abel Gange, and much, much later, Robert Bresson, François Truffaut, Federico Fellini, etc. In 1934 he marries Marcelle Paolucci, nicknamed “Coco”. Works as a fashion magazine illustrator; attends the great parties of French society in Cannes, La Baule and Lausanne as a decorator. In 1942 Jacques-Henri Lartigue marries Florette Orméa, who will be his companion for almost fifty years.

Start from postwar years, his photographs have been spred from the Catholic press. His portrait of Pablo Picasso and Jean Cocteau (1955). In 1963 he obtains his first official recognition as a photographer with an exhibition at the *Museum of Modern Art* in New York and an article in “Life”. Three years later he publishes the “Album de Famille”; the international edition makes his photography popular. In 1985 he exhibits the show *Le Passè Composè de Jacques- Henri Lartigue* in Arles and at the Grand Palais in Paris. Some of his works are now in the *Museum of Modern Art in New York* and the *Art Institute of Chicago*. In 1986 he is appointed Officier de la Légion d’Honneur. Dies in Nice on September 12.