

MUSEUM STARTS FESTIVITIES HERE

Metropolitan Observing Its Centennial Celebrations

The staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art informally started the museum's centennial birthday celebration yesterday afternoon, undeterred by the absence of a malfunctioning 25-foot-tall birthday cake especially constructed for the occasion and for a candle-lighting ceremony on its pinnacle.

Museum officials decided that the cake was structurally unsuited to support its rising tiers. Its absence provided more party room in the Great Hall for the refreshment-sampling staff members, museum officials and trustees and invited guests.

Tomorrow evening, Mrs. Richard N. Nixon will officially open the centennial exhibition, "19th-Century America," at a reception given in the Great Hall. Escorted by museum officials, the First Lady will tour the exhibition and later greet guests at the reception.

Monday has been proclaimed open house for the public, with a special program of lectures and musical performances. Mayor Lindsay is scheduled to greet the first visitors at 10 A. M. and to open the new fountain in the museum's north plaza. At 10 P. M., the Centennial Ball will take place in four specially decorated areas of the museum.

Plans have also been announced for a black-tie demonstration before the ball by the East Side Conservation Committee to protest the possible construction of a new art museum in Central Park.

The New York Times

Published: April 11, 1970

Copyright © The New York Times