

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1941.

PRESS RELEASE REGARDING THE DONATION TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART OF A COLLECTION OF PRINTS BY MISS ELLEN T. BULLARD AND THREE ANONYMOUS DONORS.

A very distinguished collection of more than three hundred selected engravings, etchings, woodcuts, and lithographs, dating from the XV Century to the XIX Century, has been given to the National Gallery of Art by Miss Ellen T. Bullard and three anonymous donors. This valuable contribution to the National Gallery will form a nucleus of the highest standard for a print collection which it is hoped will constantly expand.

The present donation includes such famous Renaissance engravings as the "Battle of the Nudes" by Antonio Pollaiuolo, and three masterpieces of engraving by Mantegna, as well as the work of other Italian printmakers of the XV and XVI Centuries, ending with Marcantonio Raimondi.

The German section is particularly rich in engravings by Martin Schongauer. It also contains one of the most brilliant impressions in existence of Durer's famous print of the "Knight Death and the Devil". The German woodcuts are equally remarkable. Beside many of Dürer's most important prints, there are fine examples of the work of his contemporaries: Lucas Cranach, Albrecht Altdorfer, Hans Baldung Grien, and others.

Rembrandt, the greatest printmaker of the XVII Century, is represented by twenty-six of his etchings which show the range of his power as an illustrator, as a portraitist, and as a student of nature. Other XVII Century engravers and etchers are also to be seen: Nanteuil, Claude Lorraine, Hendrik Goudt--to name only a few.

From the XVIII Century there is a set of the very rare first state of the famous etchings of prisons by Piranesi, . . . . . The XVIII Century section of the donation also includes work by Canaletto and Tiepolo, as well as by Goya whose extraordinary genius revolutionized the graphic arts at the turn of the century.

The two greatest English printmakers, William Blake and Turner, are both represented in the donation; Blake by the seven illustrations for Dante's Inferno, which he engraved himself, as well as his 21 illustrations and the title page to the Book of Job; Turner by his Liber Studiorum, the most famous set of landscape prints of the XIX Century.

The prints will be temporarily exhibited in galleries opening off the East Central Hall until they are transferred to the galleries prepared for prints and drawings.