

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE NOT BEFORE
10:00 PM MARCH 17, 1941

Remarks of Chief Justice Hughes, Chairman of the
Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, at the
Dedication Ceremonies on March 17, 1941 at 10:00 P.M.

To be released for publication on delivery, and not
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"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: This treasurehouse, now formally presented to the Nation, is at once a memorial, a symbol, and an opportunity. It is a memorial to an eminent benefactor, whose patriotic ardor and love of art prompted the conception of this plan for public enrichment, now happily brought to fruition. This building, so admirably suited to its purpose in beauty of design and perfection of practical adaptation, does not bear the name of Andrew W. Mellon, as he requested it should not, but it will none the less always be a memorial to his public spirit, as it is a fitting crown of his public services.

"Taking its place as one of the world's great galleries, this palace of art becomes a symbol of the cultural aspirations of the people, increasingly recognized and served at the Nation's capital. With its facilities for research its laboratories of experimentation, its collections of masterpieces of art now crowned by this Gallery, Washington attests the high aim of democracy to afford the people the freest scope for all their abilities and thus to encourage them to rise to those realms of endeavor which give to human life its highest dignity.

"This building presents a distinct opportunity for those who possess art collections of great importance. Nowhere can they be so admirably housed and exhibited. Mr. Mellon's gift has already prompted other great donations. And we may expect this gallery to be enriched by many treasures which can here find their best repository, where donors may feel that what they have collected with such loving and absorbing interest will give enjoyment and cultural advantages to millions of their fellow citizens.

"This building is a memorial, a symbol, and an invitation.

"Mr. Paul Mellon will now make the presentation of the Gallery and Mellon Collection on behalf of the Trustees of the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust."

(The End)