

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
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NATIONAL GALLERY HAS ITS MILLIONTH VISITOR

The millionth visitor to the National Gallery of Art was recorded yesterday - slightly more than four months after its opening to the public on March 18th.

An average of over 7,500 people a day have viewed the Mellon and Kress collections of paintings and sculpture; the Gallery's collection of engravings, etchings, woodcuts and lithographs; the water colors by contemporary American painters (exhibited as a loan exhibition in May), which were selected in a national competition conducted by the Section of Fine Arts, Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration; and the paintings - now on exhibition - by British artists serving in the London Auxiliary Fire Service and illustrating the "Great Fire of London, 1940".

As evidenced by these figures, the National Gallery has a popular appeal - not only as a point of interest for sightseers in the National Capital, but also as a source of pleasure, inspiration and cultural knowledge for artists and laymen alike. Copyists have been working in the various galleries since the first permit was issued in May.

During these four and half months since its opening, 13,645 people have entered the Gallery as members of special groups or organizations desiring personal guidance through the building and the collections by members of the docent staff. These groups included secondary school and college students and instructors, as well as women's clubs, convention and youth organizations, and various miscellaneous educational groups. Nearly every State in the Union has been represented. This number also includes the attendance at regular bi-weekly illustrated auditorium lectures which supplement the general tours of the building.