

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR RELEASE
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Flemish Paintings Loaned by the Belgian Government
to the National Gallery of Art

The National Gallery of Art announces that ten masterpieces of Flemish painting sent to this country by the Belgian Government for the Worcester-Philadelphia Exhibition in 1939 will be placed on exhibition on Sunday after noon, February 7th, for an indefinite period. These paintings will be shown with a selection from the collection of the National Gallery in galleries 39 and 42 on the Main Floor.

All but one of the pictures to be shown belong to the Royal Museum of Brussels, and thus fortunately represent an important part of this great collection which has been saved from the disasters of the present war. The earliest painting in the group is a representation of the Virgin and Saint Anne-- a youthful work by Hugo Van der Goes, one of the principal masters of the Fifteenth Century Flemish School, who was destined through the famous Portinari Altarpiece now in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence to exert a profound influence on Italian art. Equally important is the Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian by Hans Memling, probably painted for the Guild of Archers in Bruges, where until the war many of his greatest portraits were to be found.

In other pictures loaned by the Belgian Government the story of Flemish art can be traced from the fifteenth century through

the less familiar artists of the sixteenth century to its climax a hundred years later in the work of Rubens. These ten paintings, which have so fortunately found shelter in the United States, are eloquent witnesses to that great surge of creative genius which for three centuries made Flanders a center of European art.