

March 17, 1943

The National Gallery of Art and the Library of Congress announce the acceptance of the gift of the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection of prints, drawings, manuscripts, and rare books. The prints and drawings are given to the National Gallery where selected exhibitions will be held frequently; while the manuscripts and rare books become the property of the Library of Congress and will be shown in the Rare Book Room at the Library. For the present, the bulk of the Collection, apart from exhibitions to be shown at the National Gallery and the Library of Congress, will remain housed at the Alverthorpen Gallery in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Rosenwald's collection, now given to the Nation, is well known to scholars throughout the world. It contains many unique woodcuts and engravings by the pioneer printmakers of the fifteenth century, as well as superb impressions by all the great masters of the graphic arts. Besides the rare prints by earlier masters, there are in the collections, 91 engravings and 64 woodcuts by Albrecht Durer; all the Van Dyck portrait etchings, many of them in the rare proof state; 230 etchings by Rembrandt; an extraordinary group of engravings and water colors by William Blake; 270 lithographs by Daumier; and 367 prints by Whistler. These artists are also represented in the collection by many great drawings.

Mr. Rosenwald's rare books are of the same high

standard of quality as his prints and drawings, and will be an outstanding addition to the great treasures of the Library of Congress. The Rosenwald Collection contains, among other incunabula, many beautiful illustrated books from famous early presses in Germany, Italy, France and the Lowlands. Also of special interest is one of the finest sets of De Bry's Voyages, which includes engraved copper plates showing maps of Virginia and scenes of Indian daily life executed before the arrival of Captain John Smith. The collection contains, moreover, probably the only copy in America of the first edition of the first French translation of Virgil, which was printed in Lyons in 1482. Mr. Rosenwald's Blake Collection is well known and contains all the illustrated books with only one exception.

A selection from Mr. Rosenwald's collection will be placed on exhibition at the National Gallery and the Library of Congress during April.