

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.  
March 11, 1944

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today the establishment of an Inter-American Office, created by a grant-in-aid from the Department of State, to act as the Government's official clearing-house for the exchange of information concerning art activities in the American Republics. Porter A. McCray, formerly with the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, has been appointed Chief of the newly established office.

In the present cultural interchange between this country and the other American Republics, it is expected that a co-ordinated program will prevent duplication of effort and assure the maximum realization of art exchange possibilities. Travelling loan exhibitions of art from the Latin American countries will be arranged for showing in museums in the United States, with reciprocal exhibitions prepared by museums here for showing in the other American Republics. The Inter-American Office will also serve in an advisory capacity on the interchange of artists, art students, research workers, and others in the field of Art.

The new program will be based on the policies outlined by the Advisory Committee to the Department of State, appointed by the President to advise on all matters of policy concerning art in Inter-American affairs. The members of this Committee are:

- Wendell C. Bennett, Department of Anthropology, Yale University.
- Robert Woods Bliss, Honorary Chairman, American Federation of Arts.
- Stephen C. Clark, Chairman; Vice-President, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Museum of Modern Art.
- David E. Finley, Director, National Gallery of Art.
- Rene d'Harnoncourt, Vice-President and Director of the Department of Manual Industries, Museum of Modern Art.
- Wallace K. Harrison, architect, Assistant Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs.
- Grace McCann Morley, Director, San Francisco Museum of Art.
- Henry Varnum Poore, 3rd, artist.
- Daniel Catton Rich, Director of Fine Arts, Art Institute of Chicago.
- Francis Henry Taylor, Director, Metropolitan Museum of Art.