

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art,  
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: AMS  
April 1, 1944

WASHINGTON: April 1 : An exhibition of portraits by the seventeenth century French engraver, Robert Nanteuil, will open at the National Gallery of Art tomorrow, David E. Finley, Director of the Gallery, announced today.

Among the selection of thirty-five of Nanteuil's finest works will be a large portrait of Louis XIV, and another of his minister Colbert. These engravings are from the Rosenwald Collection of the National Gallery, which includes a virtually complete representation of Nanteuil's works.

Robert Nanteuil (c.1623-1678) was the greatest of portrait engravers, and his record of the leading personages of his time is the most complete of any period in history. His sitters included Louis XIV, the King's mother, Anne of Austria, his son the Dauphin, the Duc d'Orleans, the Duc de Beaufort and others. Nanteuil also portrayed some of the great churchmen who were ministers of France, such as Cardinal Richelieu and Cardinal Mazarin, as well as other court figures like Fouquet, Colbert, Turenne and Le Tellier.

Nanteuil differed from other portrait engravers of his time in that most of his work was engraved from his own drawings of the sitters, instead of from paintings by other artists. The collection from which these portraits were selected was formed by Charles Petitjean and Claude Wickert who made the authoritative catalogue of the artist's works.

A lecture on Nanteuil by Frits Lugt, of Oberlin College, will be given Sunday, April 2, in the auditorium of the National Gallery. The exhibit will close May 21.