

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art  
Washington, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, October 15: David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announces the opening on October 15th of a special exhibition of etchings and drawings by Alphonse Legros from the well-known collection of works by this nineteenth century master belonging to Mr. George Matthew Adams of New York.

"A belated Old Master" - it was in these words that Legros was characterized many years ago by Frederick Keppel, and the noble seriousness of his draughtsmanship, the depth of feeling, and the imaginative quality which mark his work would seem to justify the title.

Alphonse Legros was born at Dijon, May 8th, 1837. His first master in Paris, Lecoq de Boisbaudran, taught him to draw from memory, a practice which he never forsook. His beautiful visions of French landscape were actually done in England, remembered, or suggested by memories of his youth.

Legros was a member of the Realist group, headed by Courbet, but in France he met with little success. Not that his work was without admirers. There were Baudelaire, Champfleury, Millet and Seymour Haden, among others, who encouraged him.

He came to England in 1863, on the advice and with the assistance of Whistler. He set up as a teacher of drawing and etching,

and rapidly gained friends in the artistic circle of the Rossettis. In 1876 he became Slade Professor at University College, London. He never returned to France to live, but died at his home in Watford, December 8th, 1911.

In his teaching, Legros always insisted on careful drawing and conscientious work, so completed at every point, that, as he once said to Holroyd, "If Death should come unawares and beckon the artist away he could go unashamed."

Mr. Adams' collection of Legros work ranks second in importance in the world, surpassed only by the Frank Bliss Collection, now the property of the Boston Public Library.

The exhibition will continue through November 12th.